



Charity

Access to Accommodation Fund Creating Housing Solutions in Local Communities Deadline 5pm, Friday 5th June 2026

St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity is committed to ensuring everyone has a safe place to call home and the support they need.

This new funding programme has been designed in direct response to [evidence](#) and insights from organisations and frontline workers, who continually report that insufficient housing options for people experiencing homelessness is one of the biggest challenges for frontline workers and the people they support.

In response to this need, the purpose of this new fund is to provide funding and support to enable smaller and grassroots organisations to unlock and create housing solutions they have identified within their local communities.

Who we are

St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity exists so that homelessness is prevented. And that if it does occur, people receive the best possible support that enables them to secure and keep a safe place to live.

What we do

We offer funding, for both [individuals](#) and [organisations](#), to help people access suitable accommodation and keep it.

We support frontline workers across the UK who are working to provide the best possible support to people facing homelessness, connecting this community through our frontline networks and training fund.

We share experiences and insights with local and national decision makers – amplifying the voices of frontline workers and the people they support.

How we do it

We invest in emerging and promising solutions to homelessness around the UK, and scale these up where evidence shows they work.

We collaborate with, and invest in, frontline workers in the homelessness sector. And bring frontline workers together creating more opportunities for them to share their insights and expertise about what works best to support people experiencing homelessness.

We share what we learn from our work to encourage greater support for solutions to homelessness.

We engage the public to improve understanding of what homelessness is, how it happens and what we can do to address it. We work with funders, sharing what we know so that they can support effective solutions to homelessness. And we work with decision makers, local and national, to inform the policies and services that address homelessness in the UK.

Our funding strategy

To support our goal that homelessness is prevented, and that if it does occur, people receive the best possible support that enables them to secure and keep a safe place to live, we have three outcome areas that we are looking to support through our funding:

- The identification of emerging practice
- Ensuring promising practice has the opportunity to be tested properly
- Supporting learning-based practice to scale

Background to the Access to Accommodation Funding Programme

Over the past eight years St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity have undertaken an annual Frontline Worker Survey to identify and address gaps in support for people experiencing homelessness and the frontline workers that provide support. We have consistently heard that there is a need to improve access to accommodation for people experiencing homelessness.

In our [2025 Survey](#), 83% of frontline workers said that they found it difficult to access housing that meets their client's needs. Frontline workers also told us that helping people to access accommodation is getting harder with 55% of workers reporting that this has become more difficult in the last year. In response to our call for insights on this issue, three quarters of respondents mentioned the need for more accommodation and the shortage of affordable housing was repeatedly cited. Strong themes were also identified around community, social integration and connection as foundations that are often missing for those experiencing homelessness.

In response to the insights and feedback shared, our core focus will be smaller, locally embedded charities who work with people facing homelessness and have been struggling to access accommodation for those they are working with and so have been seeking to develop new options. The purpose of this new fund is to test projects and approaches that may have the opportunity for wider scale and impact whilst supporting organisations to create longer term options in the current housing crisis.

Alongside funding, we will convene peer networks to promote good practice and effective housing solutions that are rooted within communities across the sector as part of our wider influencing work. We will also ensure learning and evaluation is embedded within this programme, through an external learning partner (that will be funded by ourselves), who will work with grant partners to capture the learning and evaluation from this programme. We are committed to reflecting on the learning that emerges to develop, share learning and shape future funding priorities.

Funding criteria

The St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity has made available up to £300k for smaller frontline organisations located in **Wales, Scotland and/or Northern Ireland** to fund projects that:

- **unlock or create housing solutions for people experiencing homelessness**
- are **locally led solutions**, developed and delivered by an organisation that is embedded within their community and is integrated within local services.
- are **needs focussed**, understanding the experiences of those facing homelessness and developing solutions that meet these needs.
- **involve people with experience of homelessness** in the review, design and/or delivery of the project.

- have the potential to create **longer-term impact** for both the organisation and/or local community.
- may have the scope to be replicated more widely across the sector to **help inform best practice**.

Please note that applications will be assessed against the criteria above and we encourage you to make reference to how your project meets these criteria within your application.

We are particularly interested to hear from projects that are working with communities impacted by exclusion and/or discrimination.

This funding is available for organisations with an annual turnover of less than £2 million per year.

Funding of up to £100k per organisation will be available which can be spent over a maximum of a 3-year period. We are intentionally not including more detailed guidance on timescales or budget expectations as we want to be guided by your individual needs and projects.

The grant can be used flexibly according to the project needs, though it must be clear in the application how the funding will be used to unlock and/or create accommodation and over what length of time.

The types of things we might look to fund

Funding can be used to cover both capital and revenue costs however it must be clear in the application how the grant requested will be used to create or unlock new accommodation through the proposed housing solution.

We are looking for projects that either unlock or create accommodation:

Unlock existing accommodation: for example, making it suitable for a currently excluded demographic (such as adaptations and adjustments for individuals with a disability) or refurbishing an existing space to bring it back into use.

Create new accommodation: this might include things like converting existing property, working with a church, landlord or other partners to make new property available to them or developing a community lodgings approach.

We are particularly interested to hear from projects that may offer an effective scalable solution and/or have a strong learning focus. This could be an opportunity to test or pilot a solution in response to an identified local need or scale up an existing project that shows promise and is working well.

Exclusions

This funding is only available for organisations across Wales, Scotland and/or Northern Ireland.

We are open to funding access to housing across the homelessness pathway, but please note we will not be looking to fund access through rent and deposit schemes – please see our [VRF fund](#) for more information about the support we provide in this area.

This funding cannot be used to cover core costs. Funding for salary costs will only be considered where unlocking and creating accommodation is the primary focus and it is clear how these roles will support the proposed housing solution.

Please contact us if you are unsure whether your project meets the eligibility criteria.

Learning and Influence

We want this fund to be learning-led. That means we will provide support and resources to ensure:

Learning takes place within projects: Providing each grantee with the resources and support to gather evidence, reflect and make adaptations as it develops.

Learning is shared between projects: Creating opportunities for grantees to regularly connect so they can share the approaches they have used along with insights, challenges and successes that can benefit each other's work.

Learning is evidenced from projects: Capturing evidence about what has worked and what hasn't in relation to the fund's overall purpose, so this can be shared across the wider sector and influence practice, policy and future funding decisions.

What you will do

- Collect monitoring data throughout your project, using tools agreed with the evaluator.
- Complete a short report every six months to update on progress and learning.
- Meet with the funder every six months (a short check-in following your report).
- Join learning meetings with the other grantees to share how things are going, what you're learning, and what might need to change.
- Contribute to the end of project evaluation by working with the evaluator to evidence outcomes and reflect on key learning.

What the evaluator will do

- Work with you at the start to agree what monitoring to collect and help shape simple tools for doing so.
- Facilitate learning meetings across all grantees.
- Pull together evidence and insights across the projects into a final evaluation.

What we will do as a funder

- Review your six-monthly reports and hold short check-ins with you.
- Support the learning process and ensure what's learned informs future funding practice.
- Reflect on learning and consider how best to share learning, amplify your work, influence and socialise ideas more broadly.

Who we will fund

We recognise that there are many charities who would benefit from our support but, like any funder, we have a limit to the resources we have available. We want to be open and transparent and make best use of time by being clear in advance which charities and areas we will fund.

Please note this fund is specifically focussed on supporting smaller, frontline organisations who work with people facing homelessness with an annual income of less than £2 million per year.

This funding is only available to organisations in Wales, Scotland and/or Northern Ireland.

We welcome applications from all parts of the UK. All applicants will need to:

- Be a registered charity (this can be as a CIO)
- Have a Board of at least three unrelated Trustees
- Have its own bank account
- Have free reserves of less than 12 months' operating costs
- Have at least one set of annual accounts published on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, Charity Commission for England and Wales, Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator websites, having been delivering services for more than a year in the UK
- Have a track record of working with people experiencing homelessness
- Have a safeguarding policy in place – see below.

Please note that we will not fund:

- Rent in advance and tenancy deposit schemes. Please see our [VRF fund](#) for the work we do in this area.
- Work that has already taken place.
- Organisations that have an annual income in excess of £2 million per year.

Our approach to safeguarding

St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity is committed to promoting the safety of everyone that uses the services of the charities we fund and so will review your safeguarding arrangements and practice as part of our assessment. We recognise and take seriously our responsibility to promote the welfare of adults at risk and children, where we become aware of any safeguarding concerns. St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity has in place a safeguarding policy and internal processes of our own, to ensure that reported incidents are effectively managed, and our staff are kept safe.



Next steps

Please complete the accompanying application form, ensuring to include all relevant detail. If your project includes the purchase or refurbishment of a property, please complete the additional details in Appendix A.

We are working to the following timeframe. Please note that this may be subject to minor changes.

Programme Timeline

Wednesday 29th April 2026 - programme opens for applications

Applicants are invited to contact us to arrange a one-to-one call to discuss any aspect of the Fund and application process during this period.

Friday 5th June 2026 at 5pm - Closing date for applicants. Unfortunately, late applications will not be considered.

29th June – 3rd July 2026 - Interviews will take place for shortlisted applicants

w/c 20th July 2026 - Final decisions made by St Martins-in-the-Fields Grants Committee

w/c 27th July 2026 - Successful and unsuccessful applicants notified.

If you have any questions on this opportunity, please do not hesitate to contact Heather Sandover at heather.sandover@smartinscharity.org.uk

Support during this process

Please contact us to discuss any support you may need with completing this application form including any accessibility requirements or alternative formats.

We will be providing one information session on **Wednesday 6th May at 2pm** please email Heather Sandover – heather.sandover@smartinscharity.org.uk to book your place or if you are unable to attend, to arrange an alternative call.