

Grant policies 2015

Centres of Excellence / MOT grants

1. An aim of 80 – 85% of our grants will be for core funding allocated to centres who have passed or provisionally passed their “M.O.T”.
2. On passing, or provisionally passing, their “M.O.T” a centre will receive an initial grant of up to £10,000.
3. On passing their MOT a centre will become part of the grants pool.
4. Centres in the grants pool will receive a share of the funds allocated to that pool in the November following the date of passing the MOT (proportionate to the number of months since the pass) and each November thereafter on condition that:-

A centre that has passed confirms no major changes have occurred within the organisation including change of manager, loss, without replacement, of substantial income source and change of work areas or catchment area.

N.B. “Very small” agencies with 2 or less F.T.E caseworkers will receive a 50% apportionment of their share as detailed above.

5. The Trust may require a further audit at any time and will, in normal circumstances require a new audit check three years after the awarding of the first grant.

Small grants

In addition to MOT grants the Trust will allocate funds to a small grants fund (currently £50,000 p.a.)

The maximum grant from that fund will be decided annually (currently £5,000)

Grants will normally be awarded at grants rounds which will occur three times a year. The deadline for applications for the next round will be published on the Trust web site.

Priorities for the small grants fund will be decided annually. Currently they are

1. Supporting new pro bono surgeries
2. Keeping the doors open of pro bono surgeries that need time to regain sustainability
3. One off capital costs, particularly associated with capacity building or improving sustainability (i.e. reducing costs, increasing efficiency through new systems, technology or moving/altering premises).

4. Development of legal advice agencies where none currently exist

Agencies that have passed their MOT or are in the process of taking the MOT will have priority over agencies that are not involved in the MOT in applications of a similar nature.

Grants awarded under the small grant scheme will not be taken as being part of the funding awarded for the MOT unless specifically stated.

Urgent grants

Trustees may accept urgent requests for funding between grant rounds or outside the MOT grants procedure.

The criteria for this is that the application requires a decision outside normal procedures , e.g. building works that must be paid for urgently or a capital grant that will save substantial revenue spending from the day it is awarded. The applicant organisation must provide an explanation as to why this was not applied for in the previous grant round.