



The Ragdoll Foundation Open Grants Scheme

Guidance for Applicants: Small Grants Programme

These guidance notes are for the **Small Grants Programme**: applications up to £1,500 for small one-off projects, pilots, or research and development to inform a new project or programme of work.

For grants over £1,500 please read the separate notes for our Main Grants Programme.

1. The purpose of the Ragdoll Foundation

The Ragdoll Foundation is dedicated to supporting the creation, appreciation and awareness of imaginative and innovative work that reflects the world from a child's point of view. Our primary purpose is to make grants for charitable purposes that:

- Demonstrate how the concerns of children can be heard
- Evidence the power of arts and creativity and their transformative power for children and young people
- Promote children's development through their imaginative thinking
- Encourage innovative thinking and influence good practice elsewhere
- Ensure effective evaluation of projects to promote sharing and learning

We direct our resources and funding through three programme strands:

- **Advocacy** – initiatives that support the voice and rights of children and young people
- **Legacy** – supporting projects that continue the work and vision of Anne Wood, founder of the Foundation
- **Open Grants Scheme** – Supporting organisations working with children and young people through the arts and creative media. We accept applications for funding through the Open Grants Scheme only. There are two programmes in the Scheme:
 - **Open Grants – Small Grants Programme:** Small, one-off projects, pilot projects, or research and development to inform a new project or programme
 - **Open Grants – Main Grants Programme:** New, larger or longer-term projects, or a significant development in the scope or scale of an existing programme, project or pilot

2. Open Grants Scheme – General notes

The Ragdoll Foundation's Open Grants Scheme supports the UK cultural sector's work with children and young people. Our vision is to support projects where the concerns of childhood can be heard. All applications are expected to contribute to the Ragdoll Foundation's primary purpose. Proposals are invited from organisations developing creative and innovative approaches to engage children and young people using the arts and creative media. In most cases applicants will be an arts organisation, however we also accept applications from other organisations working with art and artists within the project.

This new fund exists to support practitioners – artists, arts organisations, creative practitioners to take risks, push boundaries, invent, develop new methodologies and explorations. The project may extend existing practices or aim to try something entirely new. The focus being the voices of children and young people.

Your application will need to demonstrate briefly how you will:

- Capture and develop the imagination of children and young people up to 18 years of age (up to 25 years, if SEND), through interaction with the arts
- Allow the voices of children and young people to be heard
- Apply creative and innovative approaches to benefit children young people directly
- Strive to improve equality of opportunity for children and young people
- Deliver a high quality experience for project participants
- Evaluate your project and share your learning from it

The Ragdoll Foundation gives priority to innovative, arts-based projects that:

- Share the same values of imagination and creativity as the Ragdoll Foundation, in particular, projects which have a deep commitment to listening to children and young people and allow their perceptions and feelings to be better understood
- Take place outside of London
- Are of strategic value for the organisation
- Have the potential to share learning within the sector

3. Who can apply for funding?

The Ragdoll Foundation accepts applications from **not-for-profit organisations based in the UK**. We will only fund work that is legally charitable. Organisations that are not registered charities will need to provide a copy of their constitution showing charitable or social purpose.

As our focus is on funding work that actively involves children and young people, all applicants must have a Safeguarding / Child Protection policy that is regularly reviewed, and be able to demonstrate that adequate processes are in place to ensure the safeguarding of children and young people.

4. Which strand of the Open Grants Scheme is right for my organisation?

Small Grants Programme	Main Grants Programme
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small, one-off projects, pilot projects, or research & development to inform a new project or programme or work • For newer or smaller organisations – this programme is not aimed at arts organisations that receive core support from one of the UK arts councils • Short duration – up to 6 months • One-stage application process with decisions up to 5 times a year • Application to decision takes 6 weeks from round deadline • Maximum grant available £1,500 for projects costing up to £2,000 • No match funding required • Up to 20 Small Grants awarded per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New, larger projects, or a significant development in the scope or scale of an existing programme, project or pilot • For organisations that can demonstrate a sound track-record of project delivery and financial management, including those that receive core support • Project duration up to 3 years • Two-stage application process with decisions 3 times a year • Application to decision takes up to 7 months from application receipt • Maximum grant £50k (for 3-year project); most grants are £5-20k • Minimum 20% match-funding required • 15-20 Open Grants awarded per year

5. What we do not fund

Please read carefully as we don't want organisations to spend time applying for projects that are not eligible for Ragdoll Foundation support.

The Ragdoll Foundation does not fund:

- Individuals, or proposals that only benefit one individual
- Organisations that do not have a formal constitution or governing document
- Organisations or activities that are for profit
- Proposals from organisations based outside of the UK
- Local authorities and other statutory bodies

...continued overleaf

5. What we do not fund (continued)

- Formal education institutions (both state and private) as applicants, including 'friends of' school groups
- Activity that is not legally charitable
- General circulars or fundraising appeals
- Capital costs (including property, building renovations and equipment costs)
- Websites, apps, resources, publications or seminars, unless part of a wider proposal
- Academic research, scholarships, bursaries, or any kind of student fees
- Training courses or qualifications (including informal qualifications such as Arts Award or Duke of Edinburgh's Award)
- Overseas travel or residential courses
- Organisational operational or staff costs (other than a small percentage – see section 6 below)
- Regular, ongoing, continuing or core projects and programmes
- Retrospective funding: any costs incurred before we make our funding decision
- Retrospective funding: funding for projects that have already started or are fully committed to at the time of making the application, OR projects that will begin or must be fully committed to before we make our funding decision
- Projects which effectively replace school provision
- Projects which include competitions or prizes
- Projects which have largely therapeutic aims
- Projects that seek to promote religious views
- Animal welfare or medical research
- Resubmissions of projects that have previously been unsuccessful in securing Ragdoll Foundation funding

6. Small Grants Programme

How much can I apply for & what elements will the Ragdoll Foundation Support?

The Small Grants programme is being piloted in 2020-21. Its aim is to support smaller or newer organisations to develop one-off projects, pilot projects, or research and development to inform a new project or programme. Organisations can apply for up to £1,500 for a project lasting up to 6 months. Match funding is not required, but if you do have funding from another source this should be no more than £500.

Application Process & Timing

The Small Grants Programme operates a one stage application process with fixed deadlines. In 2020 the deadlines, decision dates and earliest project start dates are:

Application Deadline	Decision to Applicant	Earliest Project Start Date
8 May 2020	5 June 2020	1 July 2020
3 July 2020	31 July 2020	1 Sept 2020
28 August 2020	25 September 2020	1 Nov 2020
30 October 2020	27 November 2020	1 January 2021
8 January 2021	5 February 2021	1 March 2021

How to Apply

If you have read these guidance notes and feel that both your organisation and proposed project fit the Ragdoll Foundation's criteria, please download, save, and complete the **Small Grant Application Form** from our website. Please note, this is NOT an online form – you must download and save it to your desktop (not phone or tablet). Please send the actual PDF that you completed (and not a scan or screenshot of the form) along with your supporting documents by email to: applications@ragdollfoundation.org.uk.

Please include with your application:

- The completed, original PDF application form
- Project budget
- Safeguarding / Child Protection Policy
- Organisational accounts for the most recent financial year
- A copy of your constitution if you are not a charity or CIC
- A statement of charitable purpose if you are a CIC

We will contact applicants within 10 working days of the decision date. Successful applicants will receive an offer letter, which will need to be signed and returned before the project can begin. If your application is not successful we will offer short written feedback.

Thank you for your interest in the Ragdoll Foundation & good luck with your application.

If you would like to give any feedback on these notes or any aspect of the application process, please email info@ragdollfoundation.org.uk – thank you.