



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 innovative, arts-based small projects, pilots, or research and development to inform a new project or programme of work with children and young people.

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 through high quality arts engagement projects that put the child's or young person's voice at the centre
- Evidence the power of arts and creativity and their transformative power for children and young people
- Promote children's development through their imaginative thinking
- Promote equality of access to the arts and creative experiences
- Encourage innovative thinking and influence good practice
- 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:** Innovative, arts-based small projects, pilots, or research and development to inform a new project or programme of work.
 - **Open Grants – Main Grants Programme:** Larger or longer-term new projects, or proposals that represent a significant development in the scope or scale of an existing programme, project or pilot.

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

Small Grants Programme	Main Grants Programme
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative, small, arts-based projects, pilots, or research and development to inform a new project or programme of 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, or that have an annual turnover in excess of £300k • 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 £3,000 • No match funding required • Up to 30 Small Grants to be awarded each year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larger or longer-term new arts-based projects, or proposals that represent a significant development in the scope or scale of an existing programme, project or pilot • For established organisations that can demonstrate a sound track-record of project delivery and financial management, including those that receive core support from one of the UK arts councils • 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 projects); most grants are £5-20k for 1 or 2 year proposals • Minimum 20% match-funding required • 15-20 Open Grants awarded per year

3. 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, sole traders, 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
- Organisations that have been operating for less than one year, or that cannot provide one full year of accounts
- Proposals from organisations based outside of the UK
- Local authorities, other statutory bodies, or organisations delivering statutory services

...continued overleaf

3. What we do not fund (continued)

- Schools or other formal education institutions (state, private, mainstream or special) 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 projects
- Core organisational, operational or staff costs (other than a small percentage related to the project)
- 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
- Top up or emergency support where an existing funder has pulled out for any reason
- Projects which effectively replace school provision
- Projects which include competitions or prizes
- Projects which have largely therapeutic aims, including art therapy projects
- Projects that seek to promote religious or political views
- Animal welfare or medical research
- Resubmissions of projects that have previously been unsuccessful in securing Ragdoll Foundation funding, unless we advise you to apply to a different Open Grants strand

4. Open Grants Scheme – Notes applicable to small and main grants applications

The Ragdoll Foundation’s Open Grants Scheme supports the UK arts and 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.***

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

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. Organisations must be able to provide a full year of accounts.

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. If your project will be delivered remotely, your safeguarding policy must reference online safety.

5. Small Grants Programme

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

The Small Grants Programme supports arts, cultural sector and young-people focused organisations working with professional artists / creative practitioners to try something new: to take risks, push boundaries, invent, develop new methodologies and explore practice. The project may extend existing work or aim to try something entirely new focusing on the voices of children and young people interacting with art and artists.

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 £1,500. Projects should have a maximum budget of £3,000.

b.) When should I apply to the Small Grants Programme?

The Small Grants Programme operates a one stage application process with fixed deadlines. In 2020-21 and 2021-22 the deadlines, decision dates and earliest project start dates are:

Application Deadline	Decision to Applicant	Earliest Project Start Date
30 October 2020	27 November 2020	1 January 2021
8 January 2021	5 February 2021	1 March 2021
7 May 2021	4 June 2021	1 July 2021
2 July 2021	30 July 2021	1 September 2021
27 August 2021	24 September 2021	1 November 2021
29 October 2021	26 November 2021	1 January 2022
7 January 2022	4 February 2022	1 March 2022

c.) 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 / laptop (not phone or tablet).*** Please send the completed PDF (the writable form, not a scan or screenshot) along with your supporting documents by email to: applications@ragdollfoundation.org.uk.

Please include in your email:

- The completed, saved PDF application form (not a scan – you'll know it's the right version if you can toggle between the tick boxes on the first page)
- Project budget showing total income and expenditure, up to a maximum of £3k
- Safeguarding / Child Protection Policy, including online safeguarding if your project will be delivered remotely
- Organisational accounts for the most recent financial year
- A copy of your constitution if you are not a charity or CIC; constituted community groups / associations also need to confirm that they have a management committee of at least three people not related to each other and not living at the same address
- A statement of charitable purpose if you are a CIC

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 you may ask for brief written feedback.

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