

Applying for Open Funding

Our mission

Our mission is to deliver grant programmes that are instrumental in driving outstanding clinical care and outcomes for patients accessing hospital and community services.

Our funding principle

Our main guiding principle is that all funding should have patients as the ultimate beneficiaries and be at the core of all projects. It is this principle that enables us to deliver on our charitable purposes and ensures we comply with the duties of all charities to make sure their activities deliver public benefit.

When considering applications for funding, we will look for applications that:

- Are over and above NHS funding responsibilities
- Improve the care and experience of patients and their families
- Go beyond the minimum standards required for safe and effective care
- Outline how the proposed project or purchase is value for money
- Consult with service users in the design of a project

When can I apply?

The Charity offers a range of grant funding programmes, which will be open at different points in the year:



Micro Grants

£50-£500. Open from 30th June 2025 until 31st March 2026. However as there is limited funding to distribute, the grants may close early.



Patient Benefit

£501-£25k opening 30th June - 8th August 2025. The programme will then be open for two more periods this year.



Large Patient Benefit

£25k+. More details will be released later in the year on applying for larger projects or equipment.



Research and Innovation

Opening 1st September 2025. More details will be announced in August.

We recommend applying for funding a minimum of two months in advance (depending on the size of the application). Please note that no retrospective funding can be applied for.

How we decide what to fund

Southampton Hospital Charity is an independent organisation governed by a Board of Trustees, who are responsible for what the charity funds.

- For grants smaller than £25,000, a grants panel will review the application
- For grants over £25,000, the board of Trustees will review the application on a quarterly basis.

The charity is unlikely to fund applications over £500,000.

Who can apply?

Applications are open to all UHS staff, including those who are on an honorary contract. The Charity aims to fund across the hospital departments, so we welcome applications from all wards and divisions. There may be some grant programmes which are open to partner organisations.

Where does the money come from?

Southampton Hospitals Charity has an active fundraising team who work tirelessly to bring in funds to support UHS. The money may come from individual donors, gifts in wills, companies, community groups, fundraising events, sponsorship, or from Trusts and Foundations. This money is then distributed to different areas within the hospital, using an application process to decide where funding is best used to support patients.

Can I fundraise for my ward or department?

Any staff from UHS can apply for funding for a project, equipment, research etc within your department within our grant programmes.

If you would like to support with fundraising for the project, please include details of this within your application. If the project is approved for funding, then the team will pick up conversations with you about joint funding the work.

Contributing fundraised income will not impact the likelihood of securing funding.

All projects you wish to fundraise for must be approved by the charity in advance.

The charity is accountable for all expenditure and grant-making. If you fundraise for something specific (equipment, refurbishment etc), without having approval from the charity in advance, the money might not be able to go to that particular project. To be fully accountable for our funds, we must ensure that the work is charitable, aligns with charity values and missions, and supports our aims to fund equitably across the hospital.

Can I fundraise for my ward or department? cont.

For example, you may like to secure a new wheelchair for your ward. You may also like to run the Great South Run to raise funds for Southampton Hospitals Charity and would prefer to see it benefitting the ward that you work on. You are not able to automatically allocate the money that you raise through your running challenge / Justgiving income, to the new wheelchair. However, if this has been approved in advance via the application process, then we can direct that funding. You are able to apply for funding for the wheelchair without fundraising yourself.

How do I apply?

For our open funding programmes, grant applications are submitted via an online form. You can prepare your answers in advance; templates are provided on the website. If you have issues with the website or accessing online resources, please speak to a member of our grants team for alternative means to apply.

**For more information, please email the Grants Team at:
grants@southamptonhospitalscharity.org**

We also have a number of programmes and projects that we fund, and you may see advertised, which are not available to apply for, such as the Arts programme. You can see the impact of these larger pieces of work on our website and social media.

Micro Grants - Guidance

Guidance for applicants

We encourage applications from all staff groups, departments, and services. This funding is for any small (up to £500), one-off costs, to improve patient experience or outcomes. This may be kit and equipment, an event, or technology.

This round of funding is open throughout the year, from 30th June 2025. There is an online application form available on our website. However, be aware that there is limited budget to spend so we may need to close the funding early.

The grants team aim to assess your application within 3 weeks.

Grant criteria

We welcome applications that will do one or more of the following:



Improve the experience of patients and their families or carers



Enhance service delivery beyond the scope of NHS funding



Deliver better clinical outcomes

We will not subsidise what falls under core NHS funding or fund items required for the minimum standards for safe and effective care. The table below gives examples of what we would look to fund and what would fall out of scope.

What we might fund

- Rehab and gym equipment above and beyond NHS provision
- Minor refurbishment and improvement of areas
- Televisions, furniture, art for patient and family spaces
- Medical kit and equipment
- Innovations for patient care / transport etc
- Innovative new software and technology
- One-off events or small projects
- **Examples include:**
 - Wheelchairs, vein finders, specialist chairs for patients or family members, exercise bike, social groups for long-term patients, one-off wellbeing events for patients / families.

What is unlikely to be funded

- Staff salaries
- Travel and transport for patients or staff
- Clothing or items for an individual patient
- Replacement of essential medical equipment / equipment which has failed safety inspections
- Ongoing maintenance costs of equipment
- Stationery, core NHS supplies or equipment, any items that NHS as an employer or service provider should provide
- **Examples include:**
 - Resources for staff, ongoing costs.

What to prepare before applying for funding

Before submitting your application, you will need to ensure that you have:

- Accurate costings of your items / equipment
- Cost Centre
- Clear description of your project, the impact of the work and permission to deliver it
- Who you have consulted with and how they helped design the project

What happens if I am awarded funding?

You will be sent a Grant Award letter to the email address provided in the application form, which will detail the amount awarded and any payment information.

This will be a direct transfer to the Trust via the cost centre which you provided on the application.

You will then liaise with your budget holder to arrange purchase of items, usually using internal procurement systems.

We no longer reimburse individuals for their own expenditure. All payments should be made via the cost centre.

What happens if my application is unsuccessful?

Our team will provide feedback on why your project wasn't awarded funding. You may wish to apply in the next funding round or look at our other grant funding programmes.