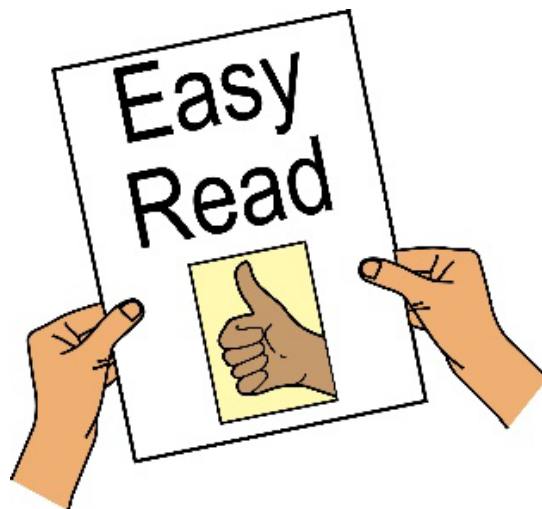




Funding Law for Social Justice

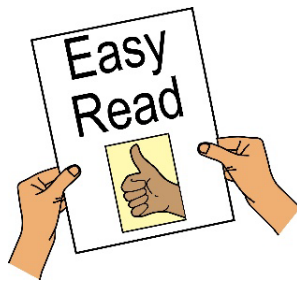
Funding Guide 2026

Part 1



© 2026 LEF

Registered charity 271297 (England/Wales)



This is the Easy Read version of this document.

This is Part 1 of this document.

About Us



We are LEF (the Legal Education Foundation). We want to create a society where:

- everyone gets the help they need
- our rights are respected and grown
- we can all take part in shaping the systems that affect our lives.



We believe that the law is really important in making these social **justice** goals happen.

Justice: being fair and equal.



Our funding helps to connect the law with communities facing **injustice**.

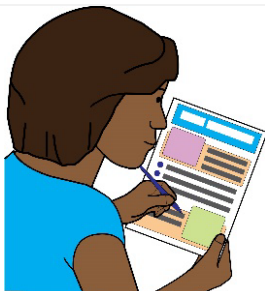
Injustice: the opposite of justice. Not having fair or right treatment.



You can find out more about us here:

www.lef.org.uk/about

About this document



These guidelines explain our new grant programme.

If you are interested in a grant to train a new lawyer through our Justice 1st Fellowship, please visit our website here:

www.lef.org.uk/justice-first-fellowship.

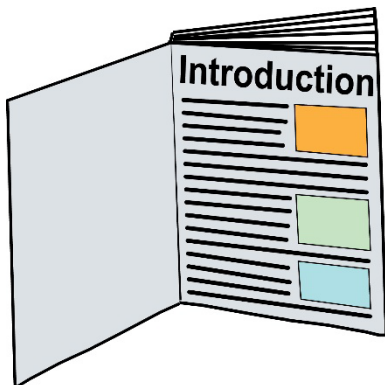
Grant: Funds (money) given to an organisation (or person) to do some agreed work.

Contents

1. Introduction	5
2. Emerging Justice Fund.....	12
3. Strengthening Justice Fund	18

This document is in 3 parts. Each part has its own contents page.

1. Introduction



This section gives a summary of our funding guide:

- Who we fund
- What we fund
- What we offer



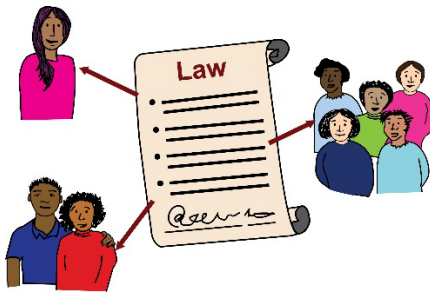
And there is a summary of our 2 main funds:

- 1) Emerging Justice Fund
- 2) Strengthening Justice Fund

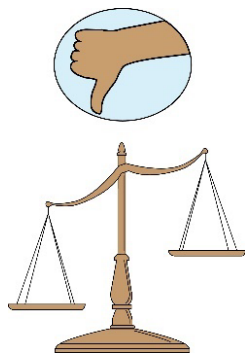


Who we fund

We fund small and medium-sized organisations who are closely connected to their communities.



These are organisations who want to use the law to help them make big changes in society. They want to make society more equal.



What we fund

We believe that human and equal rights are at risk across the UK.

We want to support work that is looking to fight for these rights.

If you want to do this work with others, then we welcome your application.



We want to continue with work we have already funded, including on:

- human rights
- disability justice
- employment rights



- housing rights
- racial justice
- violence against women and girls.



But we also welcome applications for issues like LGBTQ+ rights and women's rights, which are underfunded.



This means they are not funded as much as other issues.



We can't fund work only on **criminal law**. But we do fund work on **discrimination** in the criminal law system.

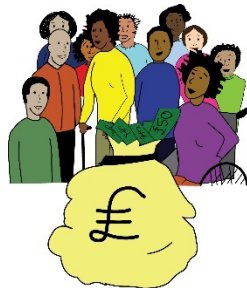
Criminal law: The rules for how to punish people for breaking the law, like if they will have to go to prison and for how long.

Discrimination: Treating people unfairly because of things like their race, where they come from, or their sexuality.



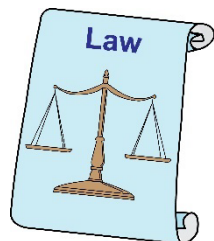
We fund work on **migrants'** rights to things like employment and housing.

Migrants/immigrants: People who move to live in another country.



But to help **immigrants** with their right to live in the UK, we mainly use another fund called [Justice Together](#).

We run this fund and with other funders we all put money into it.



What we offer

Our funding aims to help organisations make a big long-term impact.

These organisations use the law to help drive big change in equal rights. Or they want to use the law to do this.



We want to work with this community of organisations to improve justice.



We know different organisations are at different stages of this work, so we want to fund where you are at now.



We have 2 funds for this work. Here is a summary of them:

1) **Emerging Justice fund**



This fund is for you if:

- you are a **'by and for' organisation**, and

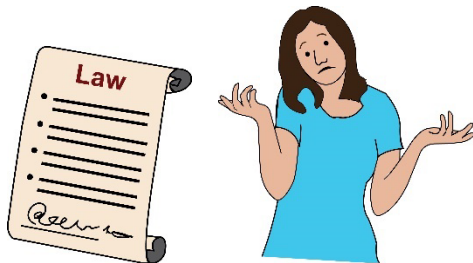


- you want to see if using the law can help with your campaigns and to help make change in your communities, and



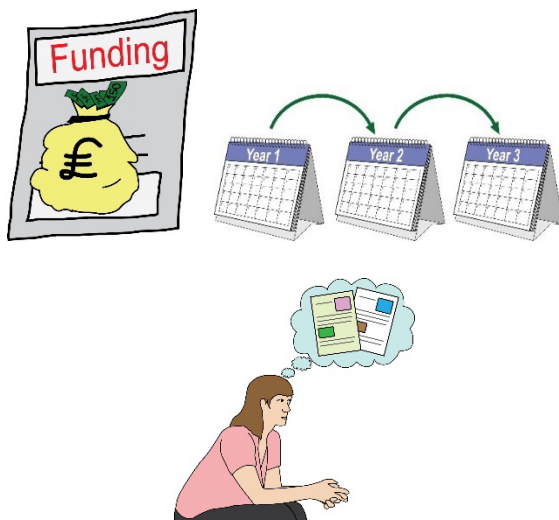
- you want to learn and work together with legal (law) partners.

‘By and for’ organisation: an organisation which is led **by** and works **for** the same kind of people that it serves. For example, a disability charity led and run **by** people with disabilities, working **for** people with disabilities.



We expect:

- You to be accountable to (answer to) your communities
- You to have little or no experience of using the law in your work.



What we offer: Project funding for up to 3 years to find ways to use the law to help with your work.

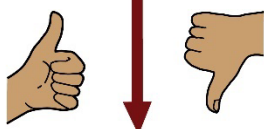
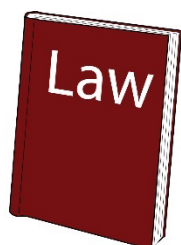
Read the main [Emerging Justice fund section](#) below for more detail.



2) Strengthening Justice fund

This fund is for you if:

- you are an organisation that already uses the law to improve equality and justice
- and
- you work with your communities and partners together.



We expect:

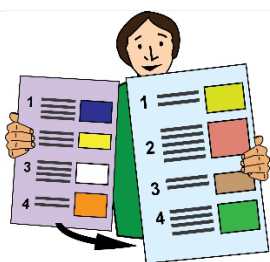
- You can show us that you are accountable (answer to) your communities, at least partly
- You can show us how your organisation is already using the law to help your work in changing society.

**3-5
years**



What we offer:

Funding for 3 to 5 years to help your organisation use the law to help with the issues that harm your communities.



Read the main [Strengthening Justice fund section](#) below for more detail.

2. Emerging Justice Fund



Our Emerging Justice Fund helps ‘by and for’ organisations look at ways that the law could help them make the social changes they want to see.



Is your community organisation...

- a ‘by and for’ organisation - led **by** and working **for** the same kind of communities that you serve?



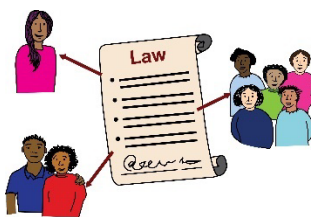
- working to protect and push for rights and equality?
- campaigning for wider change, and wanting to see how the law could help your campaign work?



You might know some law on your issues, but you might not have used it in your work.



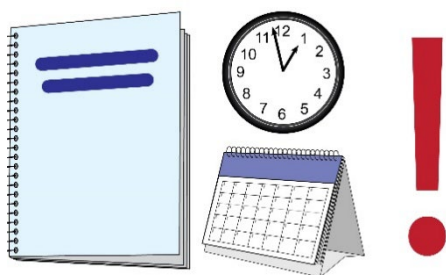
If this sounds like your organisation, then this might be the right fund for you.



If you're a 'by and for' organisation and you already use the law in your campaigning work, then the [Strengthening Justice fund](#) may be a better option for you.

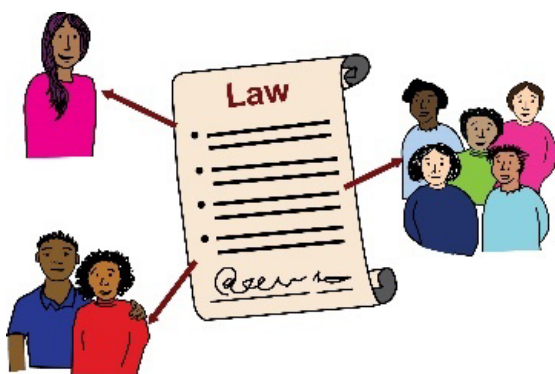


Please note that we cannot fund actual legal cases.



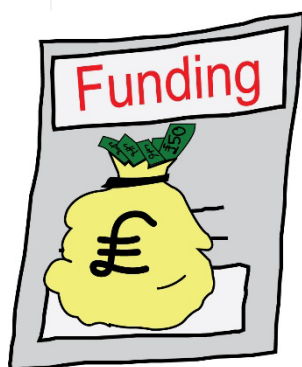
What we offer

1) Funding for urgent or short-term work, or for finding out the amount of work you need to do on a project.



If you are a “by and for” organisation and want to find out how the law can help with the campaign work you already do, this grant is for you.

You can apply at any time for a grant (funds) of:



- **up to £50,000**
- **for up to 12 months** (1 year)



These grants are for small pieces of work. After that, you might get a grant for more long-term work. Some examples of this work might be to:



- find a legal partner (a law company or organisation who might be able to help you)



- work with a partner to make a legal strategy (a long-term plan for using the law).



- understand the law about your campaign
- find ways to change and find opportunities to make a bigger impact.



14 weeks

We will give you a decision on your application in 14 weeks.



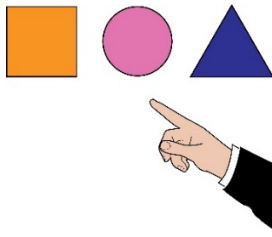
2) Funding to test out a new way of working using the law or a law partner



You can apply at any time for a grant (funds) of:

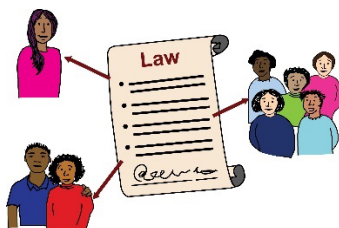
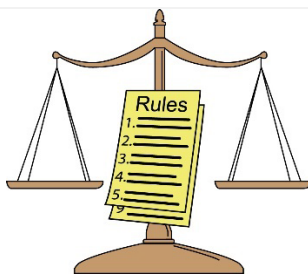
- **£50,000 - £75,000 each year**
- **for up to 3 years**

50%



We will not normally fund more than 50% of your organisation's yearly income.

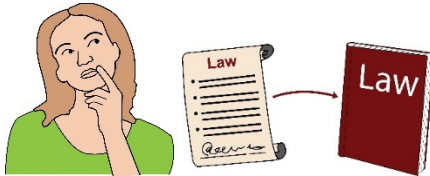
We make decisions on this funding twice a year. This kind of work might include things like:



- Using the law to make sure institutions work fairly. This includes making complaints or using equality rules.
- Trying to improve the law about your campaign.



- Helping with big law cases which could help other people like you in the future.



We are also open to your own ideas about how you could use the law for change.



We know that this type of campaign and partnership work can take a lot of time to get right. This work must start with the views and experiences of your communities.



These funds can be used to cover any costs including:

- staff time (for new or existing staff members)
- volunteer expenses
- legal (law)/ consultants fees (costs)





- event costs including taking part expenses, venue hire and catering (food and drink) costs.

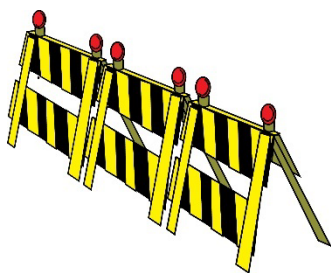


We will also offer a free legal (law) advisor if you do not already have one.

3. Strengthening Justice Fund



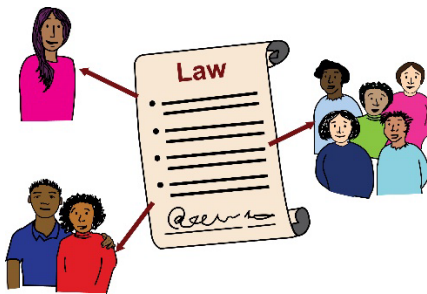
This fund helps organisations already working with the law to work more closely with communities affected by injustice.



It also helps these organisations with challenges they face and to look for new opportunities to make change in society.



When we make decisions on who to fund, we think carefully about these 2 questions:



1) How much does your organisation answer to the communities you work for?

2) How does your organisation already use the law to push for bigger change in society?



More information on these 2 questions:

1) How much does your organisation answer to the communities you work for?



➤ Do you work closely with the communities you serve? And do you try to report back to them more on your work?



- Do you listen to the people in your communities with the least power, and make sure you change your work for their needs?



- Are you already working well together with your communities?

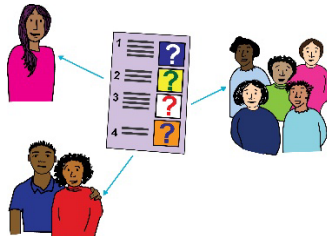


We are happy to help and learn from organisations who are at different stages on this journey.



2) How does your organisation use the law to push for bigger change in society?

- Are you already using the law to build power in your communities?



- Are you working to change the law and policies to make society fairer?
- Are you working with partner organisations in your campaigning work?



We want to work with organisations that are using the law in new ways to push for justice.



This could include things like:

- using answers from a **Freedom of Information request** to help your policy, research or campaign work,
- or
- using the law to fight against discrimination.

Freedom of Information request: Everyone has the legal right to ask public organisations for information like notes from meetings or information from documents. Asking for this information is called a Freedom of Information request.



3-5 years

What we offer

- Grants of **£50,000-£100,000 per year over 3-5 years** to help your work using the law.

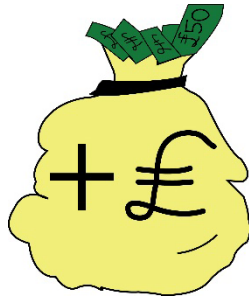


- As this is not project funding, you do not need to ask for a certain amount of funds.
- You do not need to say the time you will need for spending the money in your 1st stage application.

If we **shortlist** your application, we will discuss this with you in the 2nd stage.

Shortlist: Here we mean, looking at all applications and choosing the best ones. These applications are then on the shortlist. We will review them all in more detail before making final decisions.

35%



We will not normally fund more than 35% of your organisation's yearly income.



These funds can be used to cover any costs including:

- staff time (for new or existing staff members)
- volunteer expenses
- legal (law) fees or consultants' fees (costs)
- court expenses



- event costs including taking part expenses, venue hire and catering (food and drink) costs



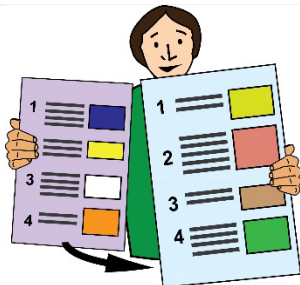
- governance costs (e.g. trustees expenses)
- overheads (ongoing costs of running your organisation)



After beginning to give out grants, we will share case studies (stories/ examples) of organisations' work that we support with this fund.



You can speak to us about this funding and apply at any time, but we will make decisions on applications twice a year.



This is the end of Part 1. Please go to Part 2 now.

This document was put into Easy Read by the Empower Team at People First.

You can visit their website here:

www.peoplefirstltd.com

Information is Power!

