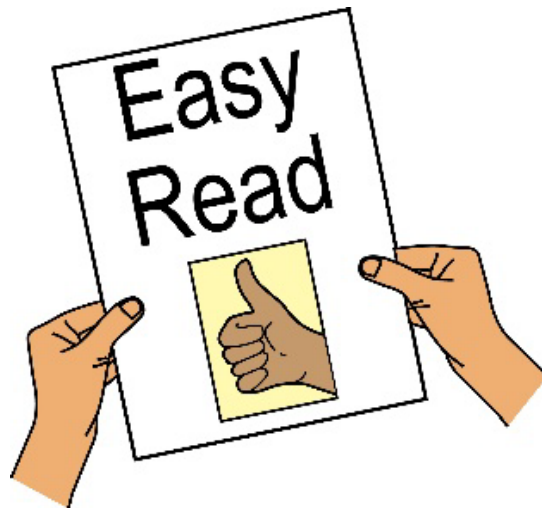




Funding Law for Social Justice

Funding Guide 2026

Part 2



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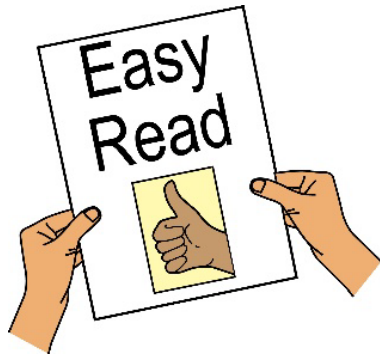
Registered charity 271297 (England/Wales)

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

4. Funding criteria



This is the Easy Read version of this document.

This is Part 2 of this document.

Criteria: the standards and principles that lead the decisions we will make.



We want to connect communities facing injustice with the law. To do this well, we want to fund organisations that:



- have accountability (answer) to their communities, and that
- want to use the law to make bigger change in society.



We can only fund organisations that are doing **charitable work** in the UK, but you do not have to be a charity.

charitable work: Here, this means work that is for the good of society. This does not include work for profit or work to do with a political party, for example.



Please see our full list of [what we won't fund](#) on page 14.

a) Accountability



Accountability means being responsible for your decisions and actions. It means answering to other people for what you do.

We want to see how accountable you are to your communities:



- How much do you report back to your communities on your work?



- Do people from your communities lead and work in your organisation?
- How much is your work guided by your communities?



- **Emerging Justice fund**

This fund is for organisations that:

- are 'by and for' the communities they serve



- have trustees or committees and senior staff with lived experience of the issues you work on
- build power in your communities



• Strengthening Justice fund

This fund is for organisations that:

- already have good accountability to their communities



- regularly discuss their work with their communities



- share their power to help their communities



- might be a 'by-and-for' organisation, with trustees and staff having some lived experience, or

- are a membership organisation where work planning is done with members.



Learning is also an important part of accountability. So, we want to work with organisations who:



- build power in their communities by:



- finding people whose voices are not usually heard, and
- changing their work to make these voices louder.

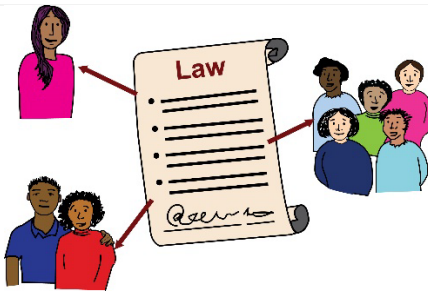


- share their law knowledge with other partners and similar organisations.



For organisations moving towards accountability, we are more likely to fund you if we have funded you before.

b) Use of the law



We want to see how much your organisation is using and trying to change the law to make bigger change in society.



We are focused on using the law to:

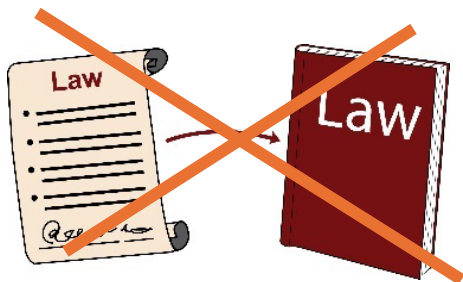
- promote human rights and
- fight against inequality in the UK.

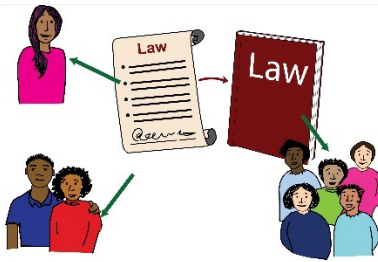


• Emerging Justice fund

This fund supports organisations that are campaigning for change on:

- human rights or equality rights, but
- are **not yet** using the law to do this, and





- may already be giving advice to individuals and/or sharing legal (law) information.



This fund can help you find out how the law could help you to make bigger change.



• Strengthening Justice fund

This fund supports organisations that already use the law to:

- fight against injustice in society, and
- make public bodies (organisations like local councils) become more accountable (answerable).





This could include:

- **judicial review**
- influencing legislation (getting involved with shaping the law)

Judicial review: When a court checks if the government has made decisions legally.



- **strategic litigation**, and
- helping with **legal (law) inquiries**.

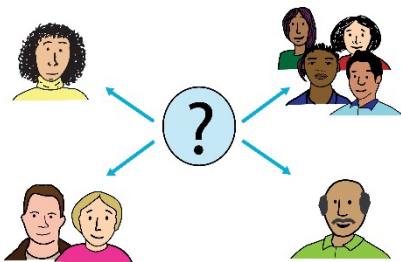
Strategic litigation: A law case that tries to change a law, a policy or make a change in society.

Legal inquiry: An investigation to get facts about an event. For example, asking questions about a big accident that happened.



We are especially interested in working with organisations that:

- help to shape the law with government at any level
- have a long-term work plan



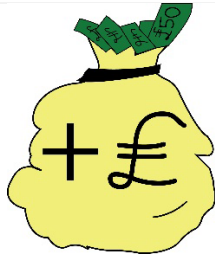
- work with communities, networks and policymakers.

Other things that will affect our decision on who to fund:



- **We make funding small and medium-sized organisations a priority.**

Less
than £2
million

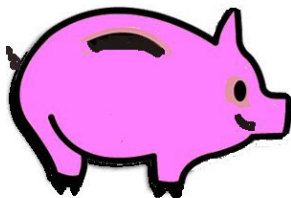


These organisations:

- usually have under £2 million yearly income



- may struggle to find funding elsewhere
- have some structure, such as a constitution that sets out how decisions are made
- have access to a bank account with 2 signatories (this may be through a partner organisation)



- have another main funder
- do not need a minimum level of **reserves**, but we are unlikely to fund organisations that are in financial difficulty.

Reserves: In finance, this means money that your organisation has set aside to cover unexpected costs,

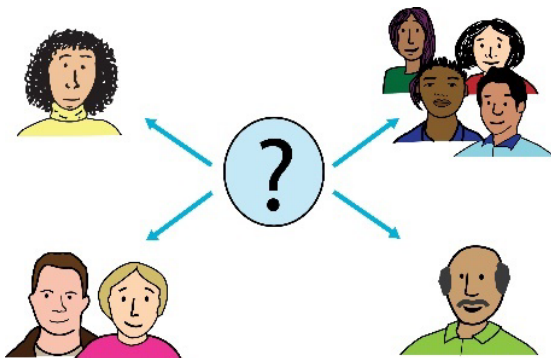
or costs for if the organisation has to close like staff redundancy payments.



- **We will think about your environment.**

This will include things like:

- opportunities for promoting your cause
- how many people are affected by your cause and where they are
- who else may be already working or leading on this issue.



It is more important to us to fund issues that are not already being worked on very much or that are underfunded.



- We prefer ways of working that encourage solidarity between different community groups.



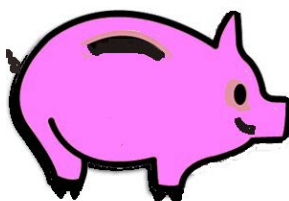
We do not want to push for the rights of one group of people over another group, or fund work which may divide or harm different groups.

What we are unlikely to fund



We are not likely to fund organisations that:

- are based outside the UK
- have less than 3 trustees, company directors or partners



- have more general **reserves** (more money saved) than set out in their **reserves policy**



- are in serious financial difficulties.

Reserves: In finance, this means money that your organisation has set aside to cover unexpected costs, or costs for if the organisation has to close like staff redundancy payments.

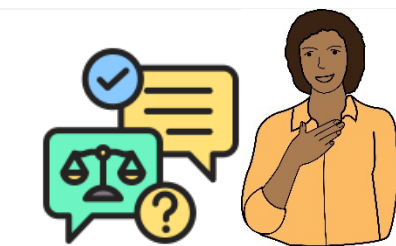
Reserves policy: A document which sets out the rules for your organisation's reserves. That means how much money you will set aside and what you will use it for.



If any of these apply to your organisation but you believe you meet our other funding criteria, please contact us here:

lef.org.uk/contact

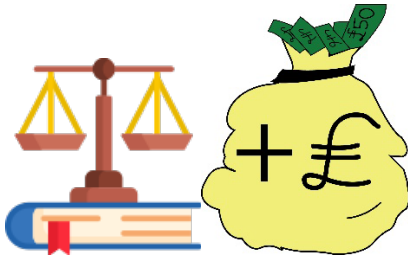
What we won't fund



- Projects to do with free legal advice by volunteer solicitors.
- Individuals or groups of individuals.



- Organisations who do not have access to a bank account with 2 signatories.



- Projects to do with commercial (business) law.
- Law work to do with crime or the environment unless this is work with other areas of civil law. For example, work on discrimination in criminal law.



- Work only on immigration law. We work on this through Justice Together. Please visit justice-together.org.uk for more details.



- Awards, prizes or one-off events that are not part of a support programme.

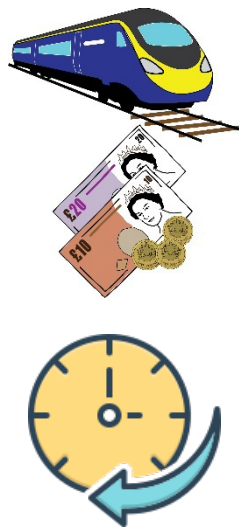


- Projects that would be funded by government, legal profession or university funding.

This includes the costs of law clinics.

- **Statutory organisations.**

Statutory organisation: An organisation set up by the law to do things needed by society, for example, local councils or the National Health Service (NHS).



- Spending on buildings and vehicles.
- Work that does not have a direct benefit in the UK.
- Work that has already happened.

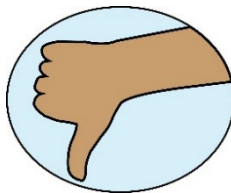


- Work that is not in the Charity Commission rules about campaigning and political activity.



Please click this link for more details:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/speaking-out-guidance-on-campaigning-and-political-activity-by-charities-cc9/speaking-out-guidance-on-campaigning-and-political-activity-by-charities



- Organisations or ways of working which do not match with our values.
- Promotion of religion

5. How to apply to the fund



1. Find out if you can apply

Read the information about:

- our grants programme
- who we can fund

Then do the short quiz on our application portal.





2. Register

Then, if you think this funding is right for you, register on our application portal.

You will need to give:

- your name
- your organisation's name
- your contact details

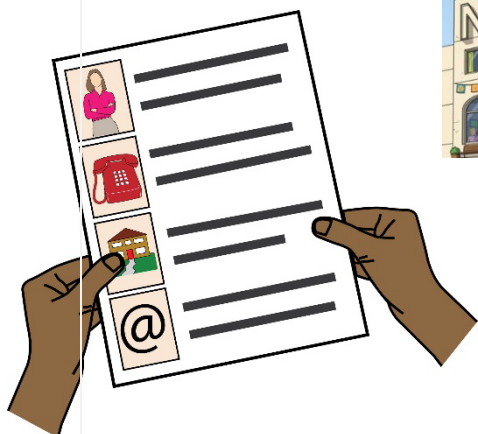
We can help you make an account if you find this hard.

Speak to us

You can book a call with our grants team if:

- you are not sure whether to apply
- you have questions about applying

You can book this call on our application portal after you do the short quiz.



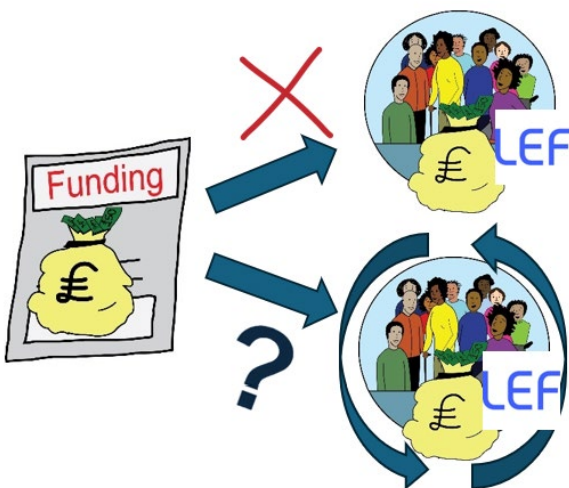
OPTIONAL



You do not have to book a call. The call is not part of how we decide who gets funding.



If you have a current or recent grant, please contact your grant manager before you apply again.



We do not usually give new grants to organisations that already have current grants from Stronger Sector or Fairer Systems. But we may do this if the funding continues work we already fund.

Choose how you would like to apply:



You can give us your answers to our 4 questions in 1 of 4 ways:



1. Online application



2. Video



3. Sharing existing documents



4. Typing into this Word document

Please scroll down to see the questions, then type your answers underneath each question.



You can then email us this document to:

grants@lef.org.uk

1. Online application



You can type your answers into our application portal (an area on our website specially designed for this application process).



You will need to register to apply on our online portal here:

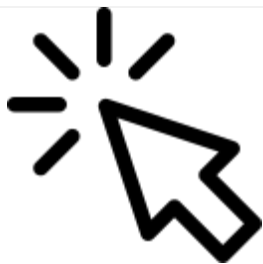
<https://tlef.my.site.com/LEFApplications/>



Please first fill in the short questions.

If you need help with this, please tell us and we can create an account for you.

2. Word application form

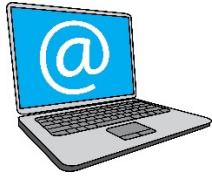


Application forms for each fund are available by clicking on these links here:

- [Emerging Justice fund Easy Read application form](#)
- [Strengthening Justice fund Easy Read application form](#)



You can type your answers into the Word document, then you can either:



a) email the completed document to us at: grants@lef.org.uk, or

b) upload the document to the online portal (see 1. above)

3. Video



You can record a video of yourself answering the questions.



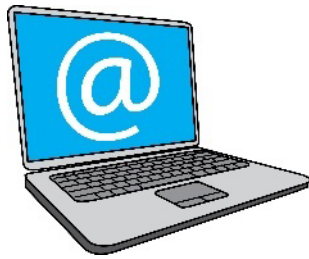
As the file will be quite large, you will then need to upload it to a file sharing site such as:



- YouTube (or other video sharing sites)
- your website, or
- Dropbox (or similar file sharing sites)



You will still need to give us all of your organisation details etc. which you can find in the Word application form or in the Appendix below.



Then, you can either:

a) Send your video link and contact details etc. to us at: grants@lef.org.uk, or



b) put the link into option 2 in the online application website (see 1. above).



If you have 1 video that answers all of the questions please put its link in Question number 1 online then leave the other questions blank.

4. Sharing existing documents



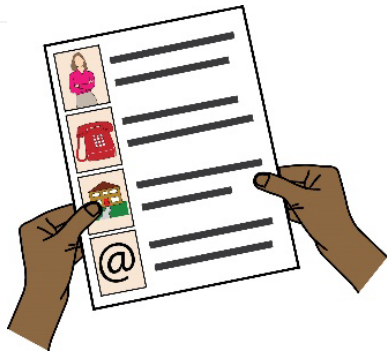
If you already have documents giving this information, such as an application to another funder, either:



a) email them to us at: grants@lef.org.uk, or



b)choose the 'Upload documents' option in the online application and upload them there. We would prefer you to give us the documents this way if you are able to.



You will still need to give us all of your organisation details etc. which you can find in the Word application form or in the Appendix below.

For all applications:



Please also upload to the online application or email us:

- your **governing document**, and
- most recent **annual accounts**



If they are already available online, for example on your website or on the Charity Commission or Companies House websites, then you do not need to do this.



Please upload any supporting documents in one of these formats: docx, xls, xlsx, csv or pdf.



Speak to us if you need help

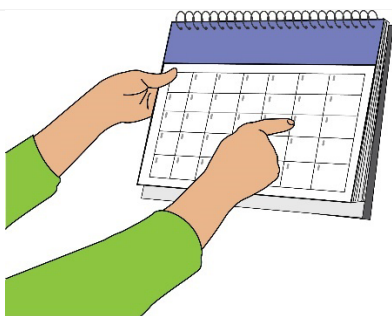
If you need help with applying to the fund, please contact us to book a short call with one of our grants team.



This call is not essential and it is not part of our assessment (judging) process.

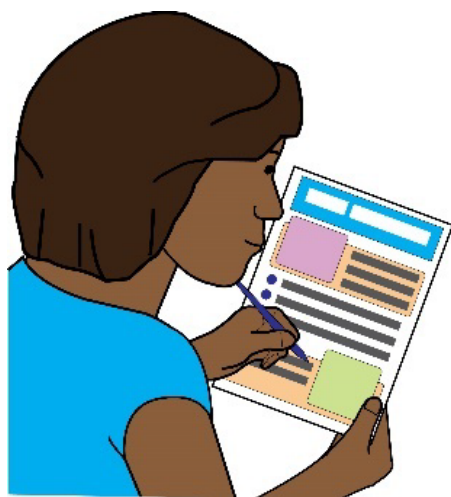


If you have a current or recent grant, please contact your grant manager about a further application.



You can apply to the funds at any time, but we make decisions:

- on grants under £50,000 4 times a year
- larger grants twice a year



The application forms for both funds are available separately here:

- [Emerging Justice fund Easy Read application form](#)
- [Strengthening Justice fund Easy Read application form](#)



If you need any help with your application, see Part 3, page 10 to find out more.



**This is the end of Part 2.
Please go to Part 3 now.**