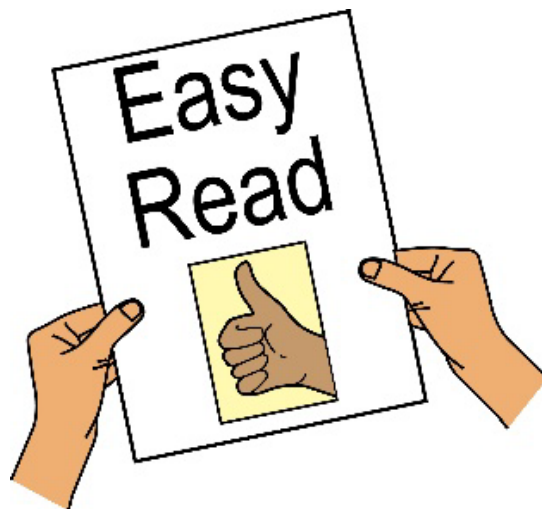




Funding Law for Social Justice

Funding Guide 2026

Part 3

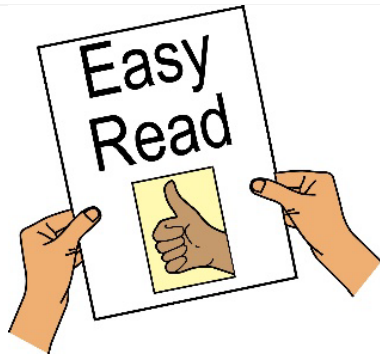


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Registered charity 271297 (England/Wales)

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7. 2026 funding timetable	9
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This is the Easy Read version of this document.

This is Part 3 of this document.

6. What happens after I apply?

a) Shortlisting

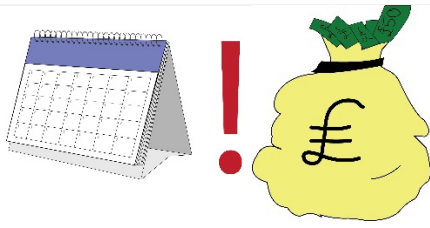


Our grants team will read all the applications and information given to us.

We will also look at public information about your organisation on websites like:



- your website
- the Charity Commission
- Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator or
- Companies House



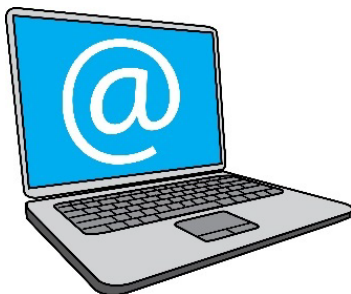
If you have applied for a short-term or urgent grant from our Emerging Justice Fund, the grants team will then make a final decision about your application.



For all other applications, the next steps are:

b) 1st stage decision

The grants team discuss and agree which are the best applicants for our funds out of everyone who has applied.



- If we have shortlisted you, we will email you to let you know in 5 weeks from the deadline.



- If your application has been turned down at this 1st stage, we will give you the main reason why and you can ask for more information about why you were not successful.

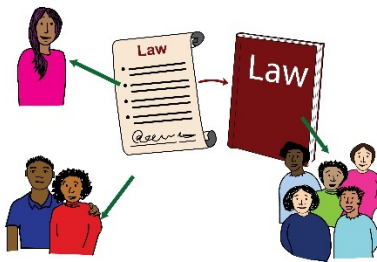


If you are successful, then we will have a meeting with you at the 2nd stage.



c) 2nd stage meeting

We will arrange to meet with the main people in your organisation, either online or in-person.



We will want to find out more about:

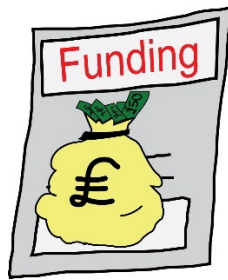
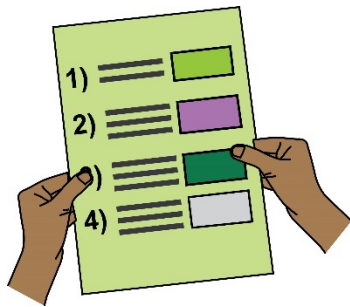
- How you use (or want to use) the law to make change for social justice
- How you are accountable (answerable) to the communities you serve



- How you fit what we are looking for in other areas and match with our values, which you can see on this web page: lef.org.uk/about



- How much funds would be right for the work you want to do, and how long the work will go on for.



d) 2nd stage application

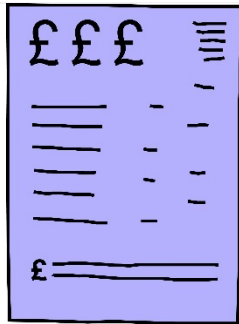
There are 4 application questions at 1st stage. These are on our website application and also on the Easy Read application forms.

But as we mentioned above, you could also apply in other ways.



If you did not complete the 4 application questions at the 1st stage, we will ask you to answer them at this 2nd stage.

Our grants team can help you to complete them in the assessment meeting.



At this stage, we will also ask for some more information about your current financial year, for example:



- how much you expect to spend this year (expenditure)
- and how much money you have raised so far (income).

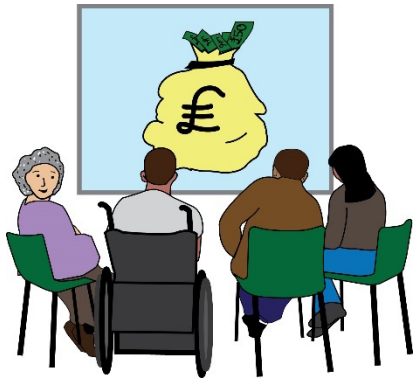


e) Review

The grants team will read and check all the 2nd stage applications to make sure that the information is clear.



We may ask you for more information after this meeting.



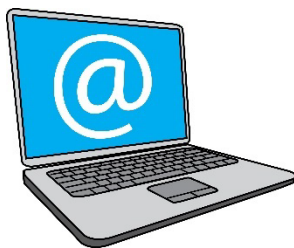
f) Grants and Learning Committee

We will give all of the applications to our Grants Committee who will make the final decisions on who to fund.



Our Grants Committee is made up of:

- 3 LEF trustees, and
- 3 external members of LEF who have lived and learned experience of the issues we work on.



g) 2nd stage notifications

We will email you with the Committee's decision. If your application is not successful, we will give you reasons why not.



Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

We know that some people may use AI in their applications, but we will not consider this when reviewing applications.



Here at LEF, we do not use AI at all in the funding assessment (review) process.

7. 2026 funding timetable



14 weeks

a) Emerging Justice fund

(applications under £50,000)

- You can apply for short-term or urgent funds for under £50,000 at any time.
- We will usually review application 4 times a year.
- You will receive a decision from us on these applications within 14 weeks.



b) Emerging Justice fund

(applications over £50,000), and

Strengthening Justice fund:



- You can apply any time and we will make decisions 2 times a year.



1. If we receive your application by **3 February 2026** we will decide on your application in early June.

If you are on the shortlist, we will tell you by the middle of March.



2. If we receive your application by **17 September 2026** we will decide on your application at the end of December.

If you are on the shortlist, we will tell you by the end of October.

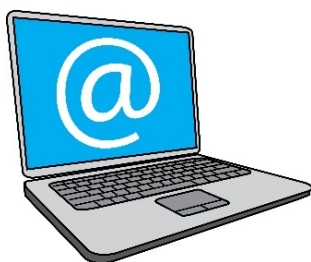
8. Help with your application



- **Webinar:** If you are thinking of applying to one of our funds, then you can watch a recording of a webinar we did on our website [here](#).



- **Questions:** If you have any questions after watching the webinar recording, you can speak with us on a call.

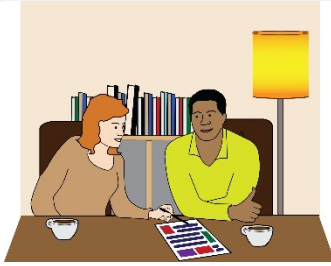


Or send us an email to: enquiries@lef.org.uk and we will answer your questions there.



- **Support for Deaf, Disabled and neurodivergent people:**

We can help you to apply for the funds with, for example, help from:



- a Personal Assistant to help you complete the form, or

- a Sign Language Interpreter to join the application call.

- You can request an Access Payment of up to £500 to cover these costs. Visit our website at lef.org.uk/contact to tell us what support you need.

9. Managing your grant (funds)



If we agree to give you funding, you will need to sign a grant agreement. In it will be the planned start and end date for our funding.

After you sign the agreement, a grant manager will contact you.

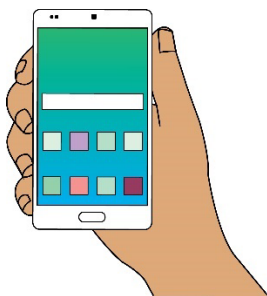


They will be your main contact here at Legal Education Foundation (LEF).



Keeping in touch with LEF

We will be in contact with you in 2 main ways during the year:



1. Calls

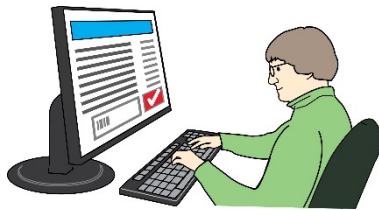
On these calls, we aim to find out:

- how your grant is going
- if there is any more help you need, and
- what you are learning, especially about these priorities we have:





- How is the law helping you push for social justice?
- How are legal (law) organisations working with communities to build social justice?



You can find more information about these priority learning topics on the learning page of our website here:

www.lef.org.uk/learning-and-insight



These calls will often be online, but we will also aim to visit you in person once or twice, depending on how long your grant is for.



2. Annual report

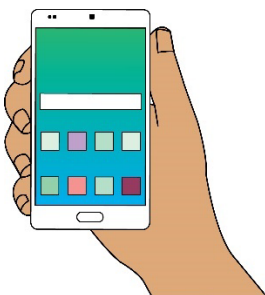
We will ask you to give us a short report once a year answering questions about:



- how your work is going
- the environment you are working in



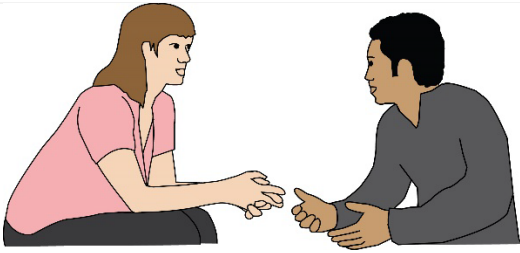
- if there have been any important changes to:
 - your budget, or
 - the work that we agreed on



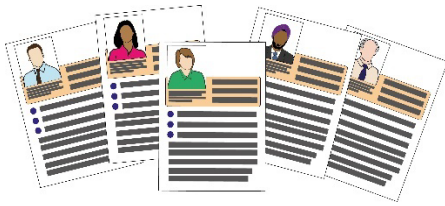
You could also:

- give us an existing report that includes the information we need, or
- discuss your work with us in a phone call.

We also may call you to talk about the learning from your grant in more detail.

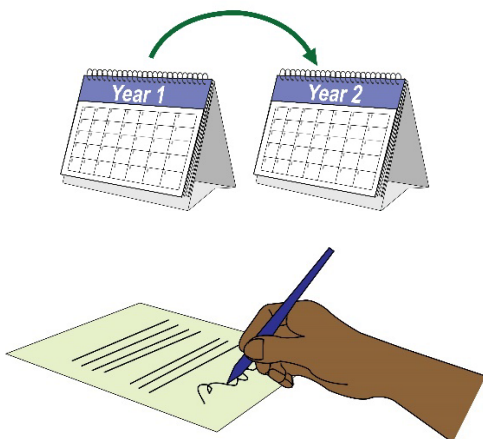


We also ask that you let your grant manager know about any big changes to the work or your organisation.



For example:

- changes of staff members which might affect this work
- financial difficulties
- any serious incidents (things that happened) reported to the Charity Commission.



Grant payments

- We usually pay grants once a year before the work starts.
- The 1st payment is usually made after you have signed the grant agreement.



- After that, the payment is made once a year after we have received your annual report (and/or had an update meeting).

Support for funded organisations



We know that your work can be difficult and so we try to support our **grant partners** as much as possible.

Grant partners: An organisation that receives a grant (funds). Also known as a grantee.



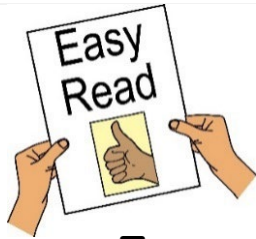
We can:

- give support for wellbeing and legal (law) plans
- help improve your organisation
- help you manage change
- help you with learning or promoting your cause

Appendix A

Emerging Justice Fund

Application questions



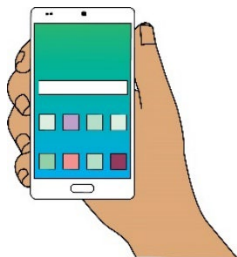
This is the Easy Read version of this document.

* this asterisk means you must complete this answer



Your name*:

(person writing this application)



Phone number:

Mobile phone number:



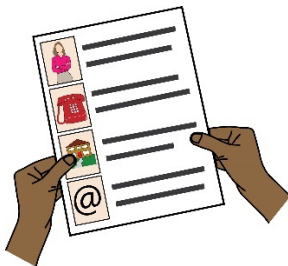
Email address*:



Organisation name*:

Other names used for the organisation (if any):

Names of partner organisations:



Organisation address:

Organisation email:



Organisation phone number:

Organisation website:

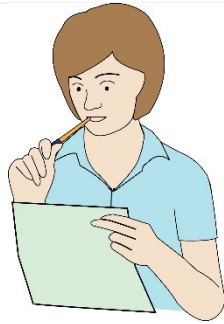


Organisation legal status*:



Charity Number (if you have one):

Company Number (if you have one):



Please answer each of these 4 questions in up to 1000 words.

You can see the number of words you have written by highlighting your answer then looking in the bottom left of the screen (next to the page number of the document).



Question number: 1

Please tell us briefly why your organisation exists and what it does.



Question number: 2

How do you think using the law could help make your campaign work stronger?



Question number: 3

How is your organisation run by and shaped by the communities it serves?
This fund is for 'by and for' organisations.



Question number: 4

Tell us about the environment you work in.
For example:

- How can you affect your issues?
- What other work is going on with your cause(s)?
- What special needs does your community have?



Total funds amount you would like: £

Fund amounts each year:

Year 1:

Year 2:

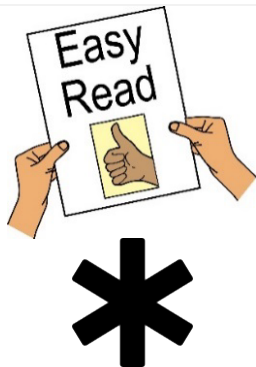
Year 3:



How long do you want the funds for? (How long will the work take using these funds?):

Strengthening Justice Fund

Application questions



This is the Easy Read version of this document.

* this asterisk means you must complete this answer



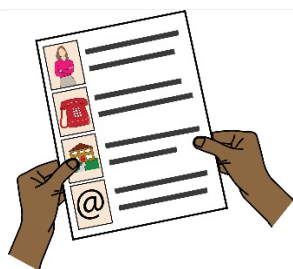
Organisation name*:

Other names used for the organisation (if any):

Names of partner organisations:

Organisation address:

Organisation email:



Organisation phone number:



Organisation website:

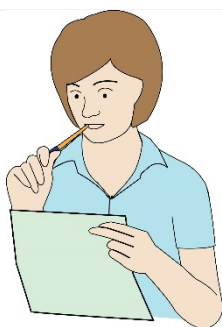


Organisation legal status*:



Charity Number (if you have one):

Company Number (if you have one):



Please answer each of these 4 questions in up to 1000 words.



You can see the number of words you have written by highlighting your answer then looking in the bottom left of the screen (next to the page number of the document).



Question number: 1

Please tell us briefly why your organisation exists and what it does.



Question number: 2

How does your organisation use the law to improve social justice?

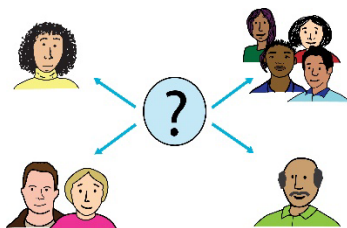
What exactly do you use in the law to help your work?



Question number: 3

How do you answer to the communities you serve?

How does your community lead and shape your work?



(This might be through your staff, trustees or committee, organising or other ways).



Question number: 4

Tell us about the environment you work in.

For example:

- How can you affect your issues?
- What other work is going on with your causes(s)?
- What special needs does your community have?



As this is not project funding, you do not need to ask for a specific amount of funds or give us a timescale for your grant at this 1st stage of the application.

If we shortlist your application, we will discuss this with you later.



This is the end of the
funding guide.
Thanks for reading.

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!

