

ABOUT THE RAF BENEVOLENT FUND

The RAF Benevolent Fund is the RAF's leading welfare charity. We provide financial, emotional, and practical support to serving and former RAF serving personnel and their families in the UK and overseas. As part of our charitable activities, our External Grants programme supports other charities and Community Interest Companies (CICs) that support former serving members of the RAF Family. To be eligible to make an application for an external grant, you must be able to demonstrate that your activities deliver benefit to the RAF Family and that you are able to deliver impact in line with the Fund's Framework.

WELCOME TO OUR EXTERNAL GRANTS PROGRAMME

The External Grants is **not** a rolling programme of funding. Applicants are limited to one application per year and may request up to £10K for a small grant and above £10K for partnership scheme grants. Please take time to read these Guidelines carefully. Applications submitted without the required supporting information may be returned. All successful applicants will be subject to Terms and Conditions and Outcomes Reporting. If you have any queries, please contact us at:

externalgrants@rafbf.org.uk

The RAF Benevolent Fund operates the following funding streams in 2025/2026:

- **Small Grants stream** – for grants of up to £5,000
Limited to one application. Applicants for a small grant may apply at any time during the year. Retrospective applications will not be considered. The Small Grants funding stream is **not** a rolling programme but is an open application process determined by funds available at that time. We aim to release decisions within four weeks of submission.
- **Partnership Grants scheme** – for grants above £10,000 and on an invitation basis only (through Expression of Interest). The scheme is designed for the Fund to work with up to three organisations per year which can demonstrate that they either deliver activities not already provided by the Fund - or where activities enhance our own provision. Expressions of Interest forms, when the scheme is open and advertised on our website, can be obtained via the External Grants pages: www.rafbf.org or through an enquiry process at: externalgrants@rafbf.org.uk **Please note that an invitation to submit a Full application for this scheme is not a guarantee of funding.**

If you have had a previous grant from us any future award will be conditional upon the completion of a satisfactory Post Grant Outcomes Report. The template will have been attached to the Grant Award letter for your project but you can download a further copy of the blank template from our website: www.rafbf.org **The Fund may choose to visit applicants/grantees as part of the application or grant monitoring process.**

ELIGIBILITY AND CRITERIA

In order to ensure that the Fund's benevolence is being distributed appropriately, there are some criteria which you need to meet in order to be able to apply:

1. You are a registered charity or not for profit organisation
2. Your proposal will not replicate an activity or programme that the Fund already provides.
3. You can demonstrate a **direct measurable link** between the proposed activity and one of the RAF Benevolent Fund's Welfare Outcomes that make up our Impact Framework as outlined below
4. You are financially sustainable, with a level of reserves which supports at least three months of your operational running costs

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The RAF Benevolent Fund is a registered charity in England and Wales (1081009) and Scotland (SC038109)

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OUR VISION AND OUR KEY WELFARE GOALS

Vision: Our vision is that everyone in our RAF Family – veterans, serving personnel and their families – gets support in their hour of need.

Key Welfare Goals for the RAF Family: Our key welfare goals include: improved access to personalised support; improved quality of living; increased independence and enhanced wellbeing.

EXAMPLES OF WHAT WE DO NOT FUND

While the RAF Benevolent Fund supports a wide range of activities that support our Welfare Outcomes, the list below indicates areas which are not normally funded under the External Grants funding stream:

1. Charity start-up costs and/or endowments.
2. Memorials or monuments.
3. Direct support for individuals – individual support; including training or course costs (these can be made through the Fund's Individual Grants Programme at: www.rafbf.org for details).
4. Debts or Loans – we are unable to assist with organisational debts or liabilities or provide loans.
5. Activities that the State has a legal obligation to provide.
6. Activities which we already provide ourselves, including Listening & Counselling. Our website: www.rafbf.org provides more information.

WHAT OUR GRANTS COMMITTEE LOOK FOR IN AN APPLICATION

Applications are considered individually by our Grants Committee. In assessing applications, the following issues are taken into consideration:

- The **NEED** for the activities/projects - Is there clear evidence of the need for the proposed activities, what is this evidence, how strong is it and where has it come from? Is there evidence that your organisation needs financial support and what will happen if it is not given?
- What will be the **IMPACT** of the proposed activities? - Do the proposed activities have a direct link to one of the Fund's nine Welfare Outcomes and is it easy to understand the positive change that these activities will bring about? Is it clear how this impact of the activities can be measured? Successful applicants will be required to provide the results of the measurements they have carried out during the grant period.
- **ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY** - Does the applicant organisation have any experience in delivering the proposed activities and does it have a history of delivering positive outcomes that align with the Fund's desired welfare outcomes? Is the applicant organisation financially sustainable?
- Does the requested grant represent **VALUE** for money? - Do the potential outcomes of the proposed activities outweigh the cost of the requested funds?
- **GOVERNANCE** - Does the applicant organisation have satisfactory safeguarding and GDPR policies in place?

TERMINOLOGY

You may notice some terminology in our application, guidelines and outcome report that you are unfamiliar with. You may find the below definitions useful. Remember, **we seek Outcomes** under this scheme not Outputs. Please also refer to the Charity Evaluation Service guide on Impact and evaluation: <https://knowhownonprofit.org/organisation/impact>

- **Outcomes** – The changes, benefits or other effects that happen as a result of the activities provided – such as a *measurable improvements in clients' physical or emotional health*.
- **Impact** - The broader or longer-term effects of a project's or organisation's outcomes and activities. The overall desired impact of the External Grants programme is to assist in enabling the RAF Family to live with dignity, a sense of belonging and peace of mind.
- **Outputs** – The number of activities being delivered or the number of people participating.

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POST GRANT OUTCOMES REPORT

As a condition of any grant funding we ask that all organisations complete our standardised Post Grant Outcomes Report form. The application asks how you will measure the **Outcomes** we require against any grant funding, as opposed to **Outputs**, and this should be submitted within two months of the end of the grant period. Please note that this must be received before any further applications can be considered. A copy of the post grant outcomes report form template will usually be provided with any grant funding Award letter and so should be kept safely. Mislaidd Outcomes forms can be downloaded from our website: <https://www.rafbf.org/how-we-help/grants-other-charities-and-organisations>

HOW TO APPLY

There are two funding streams available under the External Grants Programme. Visit our website for information on how to do this:

<https://www.rafbf.org/how-we-help/grants-other-charities-and-organisations>

- Small Grant Stream (up to £5K)
- Partnership Grant Stream – invitation only

If you are unsure which stream to apply under, please do contact the Fund before applying:

externalgrants@rafbf.org.uk

If you have previously received a grant from the Fund, please ensure that you have returned the completed Post Grant Outcomes Report - either before applying or enclose a copy with your application. This should include photos and case studies, where appropriate, and evidence of branding/recognition of the Fund.

Please include a copy of your most recent **annual report and audited accounts** (charities required to submit their report and accounts or an Annual Information Return to the Charity Commission should also provide confirmation that this has been done).

Please also include any **supporting documentation** you feel will contribute to our understanding as appropriate, e.g. beneficiary anecdotes and case studies.

Applications are generally considered with decisions notified within 4 weeks from the receipt of the application.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

If you are successful in securing grant funding, you will receive a copy of terms and conditions specific to your grant which should be signed and returned before the grant funding is released.

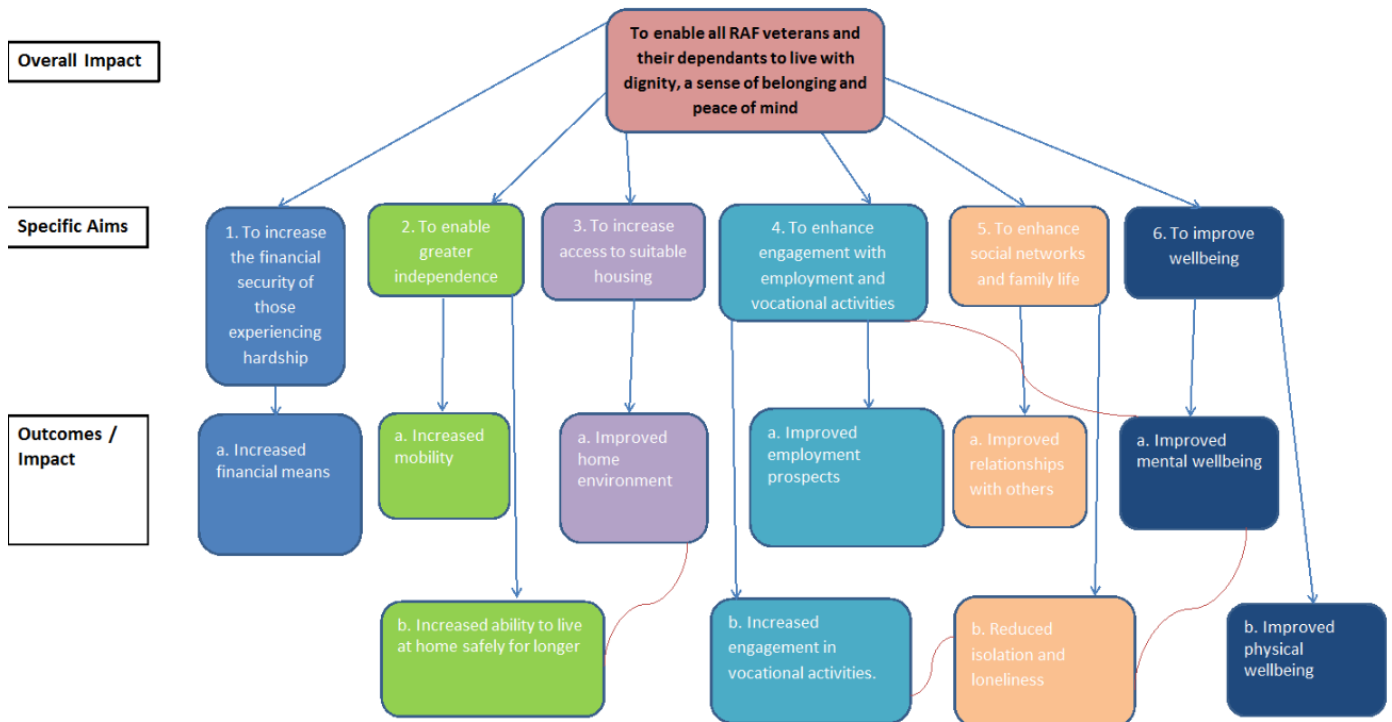
The RAF Benevolent Fund relies upon the awareness and strength of its brand to ensure that no member of the RAF Family (whether serving, veteran or dependant family member) will ever face adversity alone. As such, you should promote the wider work of the Fund to members of the RAF Family who use the activities, projects or facilities funded by the Fund.



Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund

RAF Veterans Impact Framework (January 2019)

NB, yellow boxes within the framework denote potential areas for further development



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