

The Hunchman Trust – Grant Partner Funding Guidelines



These guidelines outline how our 12–24-month grant partnerships work and what we look for when partnering with organisations. Please read this page in full before starting an application.

Our aim is to work collaboratively with organisations to create meaningful, long-term impact for people affected by bereavement, while ensuring transparency, accountability and strong alignment with our mission and values.

We partner with organisations whose work supports people grieving the loss of a loved one, with a particular focus on those affected by suicide. Where an organisation's work does not align with this purpose, we regret that we would be unable to progress an application.

1. Partnership Length

Our current partnership grants run for a **12-month period**.

At the end of the year, partnerships may be renewed or concluded depending on:

- the impact achieved,
- ongoing alignment with our mission and values,
- available funds, and
- whether Trustees feel that other initiatives should be supported at that time.

This allows us to remain responsive while focusing our support where it can have the greatest impact.

2. What We Fund

The Hunchman Trust provides partnership funding for defined initiatives, programmes or projects that directly support people affected by bereavement.

Funding is provided on a restricted, initiative-based basis and is intended to support clearly defined, impact-driven work.

A. Types of Services and Activities We May Fund

Examples of the *types of services or initiatives* we may support include:

- Counselling or therapeutic support,
- Digital bereavement tools or services,
- Community-based bereavement programmes,

- Peer support initiatives,
- Innovative pilot projects or new service development.

This list is not exhaustive. We are particularly interested in initiatives that are impactful, innovative, well-defined and aligned with our mission and values.

B. Types of Costs We May Fund (Within an Approved Service or Programme)

Within an approved initiative or programme, partnership funding may be used towards:

- Programme delivery costs,
- Project-specific staff or facilitator time,
- Materials and resources required for delivery,
- Reasonable project-related operational costs directly attributable to the funded work.

C. Types of Costs We Do Not Fund

Unless agreed otherwise, partnership funding should not be used for:

- General organisational running costs,
- Unrestricted overheads,
- Non-programme or core staff salaries,
- Rent, utilities or office costs,
- Fundraising or marketing costs unrelated to the funded initiative,
- Debt repayment or reserve building,
- Political activity or lobbying.

This list is not exhaustive. We work with partners to ensure proposed costs align with the purpose of the funding and reserve discretion where costs fall outside the scope of eligible funding.

3. Funding Amount & Release

Partnership funding is agreed as an indicative annual funding range, rather than a single fixed guaranteed sum. This reflects the fact that The Hunchman Trust raises funds throughout the year and must allocate funds responsibly.

Where a partnership is agreed, we will also confirm a minimum funding expectation for the 12-month period, giving partners confidence to plan and deliver agreed initiatives. Following selection, priority initiatives and an indicative spend plan will be agreed in principle before funding begins.

Funding is released in stages, based on progress against agreed outcomes and reporting requirements. This approach allows partners to plan with confidence while ensuring funds are used responsibly and in line with the Trust's charitable purpose.

4. Trustee Approval Spend

Once a partnership is awarded, funding is managed collaboratively, with Trustee oversight in place to support shared accountability.

At the start of the partnership, Trustees and the partner organisation will agree a clear funding plan and indicative spend schedule, setting out how funding is expected to be allocated across the year.

Where spend falls within this agreed plan, funds can be released efficiently without the need for additional Trustee approval meetings. Any material changes to the agreed plan are discussed and approved together.

This approach allows:

- partners to deliver work efficiently and with confidence,
 - The Hunchman Trust to act as a partner rather than solely a funder,
 - funding to remain aligned with mission, values and agreed outcomes.
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5. Bi-Annual Reporting Requirements

Partners are asked to provide updates **at least twice per year**, unless agreed otherwise. These updates help us understand progress and share impact with our community.

Updates should cover:

- **Spend summaries** – how funds have been used,
 - **Outcome reporting** – what has been delivered and who has benefited,
 - **Impact stories or case studies** – real examples of the difference being made.
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6. Safeguarding, Inclusion & Conduct

All applicants must have appropriate safeguarding policies and governance in place to protect the people they support.

We also expect partner organisations to:

- Provide services in a way that is inclusive, respectful and accessible,
- Demonstrate fair and non-discriminatory practices,
- Be mindful of the diverse backgrounds, identities and experiences of the people they work with.

We recognise that organisations operate at different scales, and we do not require a formal Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policy. However, partners must be able to demonstrate that inclusion and fairness are considered in how their services are delivered.

In rare cases, the Trust may pause or end a partnership where serious concerns cannot be resolved.

7. Collaboration & Visibility

We see partnerships as an opportunity for shared learning and connection. Where appropriate, we may invite partners to take part in:

- storytelling or case study sharing,
- Interviews or content creation,
- Involvement in community events or challenges
- Opportunities to connect with our supporters.

Partners may also be asked whether they are able to provide volunteers for specific Hunchman events.

8. Capacity Expectations

Applicants should ensure they have the operational capacity to:

- Deliver the proposed work,
 - Meet reporting deadlines,
 - Respond to spend approval requests,
 - Engage with partnership activities.
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9. Early Conclusion of a Partnership

Our intention is always to build positive, long-term partnerships. In rare circumstances, it may be necessary to pause or conclude a partnership to protect beneficiaries, donors and the integrity of the Trust.

This may occur where:

- Reporting obligations are not met,
 - Funds are not used as agreed,
 - Safeguarding or legal concerns arise,
 - Values alignment breaks down,
 - The proposed work cannot be delivered.
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10. Selection Priorities

When selecting partners, we prioritise organisations that demonstrate:

- Strong alignment with our mission and values,
 - Commitment to supporting bereaved individuals, especially those affected by suicide
 - Credible delivery capability, demonstrated through a clear and realistic delivery plan,
 - Creativity or innovative approaches,
 - Openness to collaboration and community connection.
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11. Application Process

Our application process is designed to be clear, fair and accessible to organisations of all sizes.

A. Stage 1: Website Application

Stage 1 applications are accepted on a rolling basis. This helps us understand:

- Your mission and the people you support,
- How your work aligns with The Hunchman Trust's values,
- The scale and nature of your organisation,
- Your approach to impact and innovation.

Applications are reviewed by the Trustee team. Organisations that meet our mission, values and governance requirements will be shortlisted for Stage 2.

B. Stage 2: Trustee Pitch

Shortlisted organisations are invited to pitch directly to our Trustees. Invitations are typically issued in February and March, ahead of the new financial year.

The Pitch includes:

- 10-minute presentation,
- Followed by a Q&A with Trustees.

We ask that a one-page pitch summary is shared at least 48 hours in advance.

12. Partnership Selection

Final partnership decisions are made at the **start of the financial year (April)**.

Successful applicants will be notified shortly after, and partnership funding will begin once agreements are in place.



Thank You for Your Interest. We value organisations working to support people affected by bereavement, and we appreciate your time in reviewing these guidelines.

If you feel aligned with our mission and are interested in applying, we look forward to hearing from you.

Best,
The Hunchman Team