

# The Spotlight Fund

The Oglesby Charitable Trust is launching a new £275,000 fund focused on supporting people who are refugees or seeking asylum in the North West of England.

Spotlight is our first fund that is open to proposals, rather than invitation-only. We hope that by taking this approach we will hear more broadly about great work and new ideas from within this, our first area of special focus.

By talking to colleagues from within the refugee and asylum seeker communities, we have concluded that there is an abundance of passion, expertise and experience here, but also that the issues being dealt with are extremely complex. In order to invest our finite resources most meaningfully, we have chosen to create an opportunity for the learning, ideas and contributions of those working at the grass roots to be heard – enabling even the smallest organisations to tell us where our support would be most effective.

We have set up a simple application process, consisting initially of a two-page outline proposal. The deadline for applications is **5pm on the 4th February**: more information can be found at [www.thespotlightfund.org.uk](http://www.thespotlightfund.org.uk)

## What we're looking for

We are looking for organisations' best ideas to create meaningful change for refugees and asylum-seeking people: we want to be led by the needs and priorities of this group.

We are open to applications for multi-year or one-off projects, up to a maximum yearly value of £20,000, but we are equally happy to consider proposals for £5,000. We will consider funding all or part of a project (where the project currently has a shortfall) – though all projects should be ready to start by April/May 2019.

## Guidance

**Beneficiary Group:** Refugees and asylum-seeking people, including those with No Recourse to Public Funds, living in the North West.

**Location:** Projects must focus on people in the North West of England. For the purposes of Spotlight we consider the North West to comprise the five counties of Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside. Applicant organisations must also be based in this region.

**Impact:** Proposals should outline the change you want to bring about, as well as what you are going to do. Impact may mean reaching large numbers of people, or bringing about meaningful transformation in the lives of very specific communities in pressing need.

**Project Type:** We will consider applications to try out new ideas as well as applications which would extend the life, or scale, of an intervention that has already proven effective.

**Project Duration:** We will consider short- and long-term projects; the maximum grant period will be three years.

**Expected Grant Value:** We invite applications for £5,000 to £20,000 per year, for up to three years. All proposals should demonstrate value for money. A contribution towards your overheads or running costs may be considered, up to 10% of the total project costs.



**Organisation Type:** We are particularly interested in hearing from smaller organisations. Those already receiving OCT support are welcome to apply for a different project to that already supported. Applicants should have registered charity status, or be willing to conform to charity law requirements regarding governance.

**Funding Type:** We do not expect to support capital projects, nor work that focuses exclusively on campaigning, awareness raising or research.

## Exclusions

We will not consider organisations that:

1. Have more than £1m turnover;
2. Exist primarily to promote religion of any kind;
3. Propose work that would duplicate activity already underway or established;
4. Work exclusively with organisations (i.e. second tier);
5. Work exclusively on campaigning or research, rather than direct work with the target group.

## How to apply

We want the application process to be as simple as possible: we request a brief outline proposal for your idea and will then meet with shortlisted organisations. We are more interested in the impact of your proposed work than “professional” applications.

To submit your proposal, please answer the following question on no more than 2 sides of A4:

**“How could Spotlight funding make the most positive impact on the lives of the people your organisation represents?”**

To answer this question, tell us briefly: what do you want to do? What difference will it make? How many people will you help, and who are they? How much will it cost? Why is this your best idea?

Please include a brief indication of how the grant would be spent and information on when and how you would be able to start the work.

Email your proposal to [spotlight@oglesbycharitabletrust.org.uk](mailto:spotlight@oglesbycharitabletrust.org.uk) including information on where you heard about the fund. As a small team, unfortunately we will be unable to respond to individual enquiries about the fund or process.

## Next Steps

Spotlight will be open from 7th January to 4th February 2019. All applicants will be contacted with the outcome of their Expression of Interest by the 8th March.

Shortlisted organisations will be invited to meet the Spotlight team for a further conversation about their application. These meetings will take place on the 20th and 28th March.

We expect that all successfully funded projects will commence in April/May 2019.

