

B&Q Foundation – FAQs and Guidance

How do I apply for a grant?

The application process is managed by [Neighbourly](#) and split into two steps:

1. Please firstly complete the **Expression of Interest** form found [here](#). This is intended to be a quick measure of whether your organisation is eligible for a grant.
2. If you are eligible, you will receive an email from Neighbourly inviting you to the full application via the Neighbourly platform. The window for full application opens every quarter, you will be notified by Neighbourly when it's time to apply and will have two weeks to do so. You will need to have a profile for your organisation on the Neighbourly platform to complete the full application. Instructions on how to set this up will be shared by Neighbourly in the application invite, you can also create a profile on Neighbourly at any time [here](#).
 - If you do not meet the qualification criteria Neighbourly will be in touch to let you know

What types of charities and projects does the B&Q Foundation fund?

We help charities who are supporting people in need in the UK – those experiencing homelessness, in financial hardship, impacted by health, disability, or other disadvantage or distress.

We believe that everyone needs a place to feel at home. So, we are looking to fund projects to decorate, renovate, or create spaces where people can feel at home and have a sense of belonging. This can be both indoor and outdoor.

To see some of the projects that we've supported previously, please see our case studies.

What the B&Q Foundation does not support?

- Contributions to general appeals or circulars
- Religious activity which is not for wider public benefit
- Public bodies to carry out their statutory obligations
- Activities that solely support animal welfare
- Activities that have already taken place
- Privately owned and profit-distributing companies or limited partnerships
- Projects to improve office facilities unless they are for dual purpose where beneficiaries make use of the space

I have applied and been successful before, can I apply again?

We're keen for charities who have been successful to apply to us again. However, we do ask that the project that you previously received funding for has been completed and you have provided feedback.

I was unsuccessful last time, can I apply again?

Yes, however you will need to apply with a new project proposal.

What timeframe do I need to deliver my funded project in?

We want to make sure that our funds are making a difference as quickly as possible, so we do ask for projects to be delivered within 6 months of receiving the grant.

How do I know if my application has been successful or unsuccessful?

You will receive an email from Neighbourly to let you know. This is usually within 8 weeks of having made your application.

How are applications reviewed and awarded?

Applications are reviewed and awarded based on the strength of application. We look specifically at the below three areas:

- How much the charity and this project is reaching and helping those most in need
- How much the project is improving a space where people can feel at home – somewhere that is comfortable, safe, and welcoming
- The difference that the project will make – e.g. no. of people reached, longevity, impact

How do I get a copy of my application?

You can email Neighbourly at any time to receive a copy bandq@neighbourly.com.

How much money can I apply for?

We typically awards grants of up to £5,000, however we do occasionally award grants of larger values depending on the strength of the application and project.

We want to provide funding that covers the full cost for the completion of the project, so please include an estimated value of staff time required.

What do I do if I want to apply for more than £5,000?

Please complete the application process as usual and enter the amount you are seeking when prompted. If you are seeking more than £5,000, the B&Q Foundation will be looking for additional detail on why this is the case. Please provide as much information as possible in your application on how the funds will be spent and what the expected impacts and benefits will be of receiving these funds. If you are looking for much larger grant, over £10,000, please get in touch with the B&Q Foundation Manager at b&qfoundation@b-and-q.co.uk to discuss your application before applying.

Can I apply for a grant to cover a project alongside funding from other sources?

Yes, you will be asked to provide details about where the other funds will come from as part of the application process.

Do I need to be a registered charity to apply?

Yes, the B&Q Foundation is only able to support registered charities, you will be asked for your charity number as part of the application process.

Where do I need to be based to apply for a grant?

You can apply for a grant if you are based in the UK and Northern Ireland, we are not able to support projects in the Republic of Ireland or The Channel Islands.

Who is Neighbourly and what is their role?

Neighbourly is the platform and delivery partner working with the B&Q Foundation to help manage the end to end grant application, awarding and measurement process. Neighbourly is a multi-award winning giving platform used by thousands of local Good Causes across the UK and Ireland to seek help from businesses in the form of funding, volunteer time and surplus products. The profile you create on the Neighbourly platform as part of the B&Q Foundation application process can also be used to access other types of support.

Other hints and tips on how to write a strong application for a grant from the B&Q Foundation

- Provide as much information as possible about why your organisation is looking for this funding and how this will benefit both your beneficiaries and the Charity. Using specific examples of who will be helped can really bring

applications to life and help the B&Q Foundation to understand the need in your community.

- Demonstrate how your project to be funded is a standalone project which reaches beyond the core running costs of your organisation. You'll be required to feedback on the impact and outcomes of the project separately to those of your Charity as a whole.
- Refer back to the core aims of the Foundation when writing your application and demonstrate the strong link to how your project will help to create better, safer places for the people in your communities who need them most.

