



## **Economic Justice Brum Act to Change Fund: grants to support Economic Justice campaigns in Birmingham**

Are you acting with other campaigners, activists and community organisers in Birmingham to change and transform systems that harm people, cause injustice and worsen economic inequalities? Would a grant of up to £50,000 over two years help you take action to make lasting change a reality? If so, our Act to Change fund might be for you!

### **What is the Act to Change Fund?**

A £200,000 grant programme, part of Barrow Cadbury's Economic Justice programme. Through this fund we will support community-led activism, community organising, or campaigning in Birmingham to create more equitable and just access to the things we all need to thrive like public services, clean air, green space, decent jobs and opportunities, and good health.

We plan to make up to 10 grants and expect to support a range of Birmingham-based organisations and groups ranging from small grassroots campaigns to more established organisations with a track record of supporting local people to campaign for change.

The fund is part of Barrow Cadbury Trust's wider Economic Justice programme, [Economic Justice Brum](#) which is helping to build a movement for economic systems change,

### **Who can apply for funding?**

We are looking for groups and organisations that are already campaigning or organising for change. You might be a small informal network, an established campaigning organisation, or a group of community organisers. We expect to support a variety of causes, but they will all be aiming to achieve fairer access to publicly funded services (like transport, housing, health services or education), community assets (like clean air, green spaces, community buildings) or financial wellbeing (good jobs, decent pay or better local welfare schemes). At least some of the solutions to your issue must lie within Birmingham – we cannot support activism directed at the national level. We

encourage you to talk to us before you apply to make sure your work is eligible. Contact details can be found below.

We can only give grants to organisations or established groups, not individuals. Your organisation or group must:

- Be based in Birmingham aiming for long-term change on Birmingham-specific issues
- Be formally constituted, or, if you are an informal group, already be campaigning together on an issue, even if it's only been for a few months.
- Either:
  - o be led by people with direct personal experience of the issue on which you are campaigning, or
  - o be able to show that your activism is influenced by, and includes people with, direct personal experience of the issue, and that that the way you work increases their personal power and ability to bring about change;
- Be engaged in non-party political work (that means you cannot advocate for or against a particular party or elected representative, though you can campaign for a change of policy by the Local Authority or other elected body)
- Have a bank account in your organisation's name, or work with an organisation that can manage your grant for you (sometimes called a fiscal host)
- Have at least three people who you are not related to on your Board or management committee. If you are an unconstituted group, you must be able to demonstrate to us that decisions are made in an inclusive way.

**Examples of campaigns or activities that would fit this fund (these are just a few - there will be many others)**

- Organising to achieve better conditions for low-paid staff
- A grassroots campaign for better housing or creation of more allotment space
- Parents advocating for a change to school uniform policy to make it more affordable
- Co-designing systems to make local job centres more supportive
- Campaigning for better transport links to poorly served areas of the city
- Advocating for change in how pension funds are managed so the local economy benefits

We are especially interested in campaigning and organising that is targeted at changing the lives of those most likely to be economically disadvantaged and affected by economic injustice – women and children, racialised people, low income people and people with disabilities.

**We cannot fund**

- National campaigns or work outside Birmingham
- Political activity (or organisations that are politically affiliated)
- Non-charitable activities
- Direct services to individuals, for example employment support, food banks or advice work
- Academic research
- Work that does not involve and forefront people with lived experience.

### **What can grants pay for?**

Organisations and groups must be campaigning for change to make Birmingham's economy more inclusive and fairer. This grant can be used on whatever will help you achieve this – for example, salaries, volunteer costs, overheads and project costs.

### **How much can you apply for?**

We expect grants to run for at least two years. The maximum you can apply for is £50,000 (i.e. £25,000 per year for two years). For groups and organisations that have not previously managed a grant, the limit is £10,000 (£5,000 per year for two years) and you must have systems in place that will enable you to manage this amount of money - this could be through partnering with a larger organisation that can hold the grant for you.

### **Do you need to have experience in managing a grant?**

No! We welcome applications from organisations and groups that have not applied for or held a grant from us or another funder before. You must meet the criteria for the Fund and, if you do not have your own bank account and formal financial procedures, partner with an organisation that is willing to manage the grant on your behalf.

If you think your organisation or group might be eligible for funding, or you need support to apply and want to have a chat first, please get in touch. We can see if your work is a good fit for this fund and if so, help you prepare and submit an application. Support from us will not affect how we assess your application or the likelihood of you securing funding – the person who assesses your application will not be the same as the one who provides support.

### **Application and assessment process**

If you would like to apply for funding, please fill in our [Expression of Interest form](#) (with our help if you need it). We will assess it to see if your work is likely to be eligible. We will aim to do this within one week.

If we think your work is likely to be eligible, we will invite you to complete a full application form. If you are not confident about filling in the form we can talk to you

about your work instead. **You will have four weeks from the date we notify you to complete your application/talk to us in more detail about your work.**

There are two deadlines for submission of Expression of Interest forms:

**30 September** for organisations with an income of over £250,000 per year. **We will not accept applications from organisations of this size after that date.**

**15 November** for organisations with an income of £250,000 or less. Please note that you can apply at any time if you are a smaller organisation, you do not need to wait until after 30 September.

Applications will be assessed by Barrow Cadbury staff. Decisions about funding will be made by our local grant making panel, which is made up of people with lived experience of economic injustice and campaigning. This process may take up to three months, depending on the number of applications we receive.

#### **Barrow Cadbury Trust contact details**

Email: [general@barrowcadbury.org.uk](mailto:general@barrowcadbury.org.uk)

Phone: 020 7632 9060