

# DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

The eligibility criteria for applications to our Open Grants Programmes has expanded to include digital projects beyond hardware. We will now consider funding one-off costs for some types of digital software and products. Our support aims to enable organisations to be more sustainable, engage more people more effectively, and support their staff and volunteers to do their work more efficiently.

In December 2023, we hosted a webinar to explain this change and provide more information about our funding in this area. Watch the recorded webinar [here](#).

We will consider one-off costs towards:

- Moving your paper based processes online so you can make better use of digital technology. This is sometimes described as ‘digitising processes’ and can include the tech infrastructure and devices needed e.g. cloud storage and tablets for data collection
- Support for developing or updating the digital tools you use to communicate, such as your website, apps or messaging platforms
- Adding new digital features to services you already have to make them easier for people to use and access

Examples of **eligible** projects (this list is not exhaustive):

- Development of a new, or upgrade of an existing, website
- Initial database/CRM set-up costs e.g. consultancy costs for customisation, initial training and support costs
- Costs to upgrade or refresh an existing database
- Database integration / integration across databases and other digital software used
- Making a service you already offer accessible online (for example, via a specialised app or website function)

Examples of **ineligible** projects:

- The cost of a software license for a period of time (beyond the initial set up or upgrade period, which includes up to 12 months for a first time subscription)
- Ongoing website hosting costs (beyond the initial set up or upgrade period, as above)
- The design of a new service (e.g. something that differs to what you offer already, rather than adding digital features to an existing service)
- Costs relating specifically to rebranding
- A project that is still in the initial “brainstorming” stage – we will need a clear idea of what the project involves and how much it costs

What we will need from you:

- A completed application form which will include:
  - A description of your organisation’s work
  - A description of the project, it’s intended impact and at what stage you are with it
  - A fundraising plan
- A project budget – showing total project costs and where you have got the figures from e.g. a quote from a contractor
- Your most recent annual accounts

This new eligibility comes as part of the implementation of The Foundation's new strategy. As we begin receiving applications for funding in this area, we will learn about how best we can support organisations with digital infrastructure projects. This may require us to ask additional questions to gain an understanding of your project and how it meets our criteria – please bear with us! During this time, we will ensure that we maintain turnaround times for our Open Grants Programmes and work in line with our values to be an enabling and adaptive funder.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss making a digital application further, please email [Foundation@Clothworkers.co.uk](mailto:Foundation@Clothworkers.co.uk) or call 020 7623 7041

### **Useful sources of information / resources**

Charity Digital – discounted software for registered charities

<https://www.CharityDigitalExchange.org/>

Café analogy

<https://www.TheCatalyst.org.uk/What-We-Mean-By-Digital>

Catalyst Service Recipes

<https://www.SharedDigitalGuides.org.uk/>

7 steps database blog

<https://Datawise.London/Resources/Choosing-a-Database/>

NCVO digital and technology guides

<https://www.NCVO.org.uk/Help-And-Guidance/Digital-Technology/#!/>

Design hops training from CAST

<https://www.WeAreCast.org.uk/Programmes/Design-Hops>