



Fresh Start Grant Guidance Form

What is Fresh Start?

“Fresh Start” is a new initiative pioneered by Together for Change, seeking to mobilise churches in the Coventry Diocese to both befriend and provide practical support to people from different cultural backgrounds. The Diocese is rich in cultural diversity, with 20% of the population born outside Britain, and the city of Coventry taking a lead in resettling refugees from Syria. Fresh Start will seek to enable people from all cultures to begin anew here, and work collaboratively with churches and other organisations – including YWAM, Carriers of Hope, and the Refugee and Migrant Centre – to facilitate their integration into society.

Although refugees, asylum seekers and migrants receive excellent professional support here, the thing which they often lack is companionship. This initiative will seek to meet this need, and both help to reduce isolation and provide newly-arrived individuals with a warm welcome. To this end, we are going to establish a befriending project, inviting volunteers to sign-up and meet with newly-arrived individuals/families at least once-a-fortnight and get to know them, support them with their English, and generally be a friendly face in a new city. We are also going to seek to map existing related projects around the Diocese, such as English as a Second Overseas Language (ESOL) classes and community development initiatives.

How do we do this?

To encourage the growth of small groups for people from different cultures, refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, we are offering grants of up to £500.

Grant Criteria

1. The activity must be directly related to working with people from different cultures.
2. The lead applicant should be a church or organisation with a Christian foundation or in partnership with a faith based community.
3. The activity needs to be based in the local community (within Coventry and Warwickshire) and to have local community involvement in identifying needs, initiating community responses and running the project.
4. The activity must be open to all regardless of faith, ethnic origin, disability, gender or sexual orientation.
5. The lead applicant must have charitable purposes.
6. The activity must be a new initiative or a proposal to expand the work you are doing.
7. Any unspent grant must be returned.
8. A 6 month and 12 month monitoring report must be completed.
9. Fresh Start money can't be disposed without approval and any funds that are stolen must be replaced. The money can only be used for the project and nothing else.

Funding will be given to

1. Projects that commit to befriending those from other cultures, including refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.

What we do not fund

1. Organisations outside of Coventry and Warwickshire.
2. Activities not directly working with people from other cultures.
3. Activities without church or other faith links.
4. Organisations with significant reserves greater than unrestricted reserves.
5. Campaigning and fundraising activity.
6. Activities only open to church or other faith members, or evangelistic activity which is not part of a response to working with people from other cultures.
7. Renovations and building work, including general repairs, refurbishment and general maintenance to a place of worship.

How to apply

In order to apply for the Fresh Start Grant, you will need to go through the following process:

1. Email your ideas for a small group to Matt Robinson who will discuss your proposal with you and if applicable will direct you to Ryan Lapworth, who will support you with your Fresh Start grant application form.
2. Once the application form is complete, you will need to send it back to matt.robinson@covcofe.org
3. The application will then be taken to the Together For Change board for a final approval.

We aim to let you know the outcome of your application within 4-6 weeks.

Who to contact

To start the process, all enquires must be sent to matt.robinson@covcofe.org. Matt will get back to you as soon as he can.