



Bid Guidance

Applications for funding from the TDS Charitable Foundation

The TDS Charitable Foundation will accept bids for funding in accordance with its bidding timetable (see below). It is anticipated that the Charity will operate three bidding rounds in 2016/17. In order to make a bid, it is important the applications are submitted to the Foundation by the published deadline date displayed on the website.

Criteria for funding

All bids must meet the requirements of the Foundation and in particular must:

- Further the objects of the TDS Charitable Foundation
- Clearly meet the designated themes for funding as agreed annually by the Trustees

Applications must set out specifically how these two requirements are met.

Objects

1. "To advance education about housing rights and obligations in general, and in particular about (a) best practice in the management of private rented housing, (b) legal rights and obligations which are of particular relevance to those who are involved in the provision or management of private rented housing or who hold tenancies within the private rented housing sector and (c) use of alternative dispute resolution processes for the more efficient and effective resolution of disputes between landlords and tenants".

Or/and

2. To advance conflict resolution through promoting the use of alternative dispute resolution processes for the more efficient resolution of disputes between landlords and tenants within the private rented housing sector

Themes for funding 2016-17

Theme 1 Promoting knowledge of landlord's obligations when renting homes.
It is clear that the growth of the private rented sector has been fuelled in recent years in part by the rise of the "accidental landlord". This is often a person who owns property but who is required by circumstances to let the property. These landlords tend to be inexperienced and not fully understand the obligations that they have to meet as a landlord.

*The Foundation will invite proposals that will help to educate such landlords about the obligations of being a private landlord. However in the first two bidding rounds we have received a large number of proposals which involve producing materials and running workshops/seminars for landlords. As a result we will be commissioning the production of workshop materials directly to supply free of charge to groups. **As such we will not be funding these general workshop sessions for the time being.** However other innovative approaches to educating landlords will be considered.*

Theme 2 Promoting knowledge of tenants' rights and responsibilities
The Foundation is aware that many tenants are not fully aware of their rights and responsibilities and the Foundation will invite proposals which will help educate tenants about their rights and responsibilities. A particular focus of this will be the student market.

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Theme 3 **Commissioning a feasibility study on establishing a dedicated research centre for the private rented sector in England and Wales**

The TDS Charitable Foundation would be interested in receiving proposals for funding a feasibility study as to whether such a dedicated PRS research centre could be established for England and Wales. The study would look at the provision for, and dissemination of, information in the private rented sector for landlords and tenants.

Bidding themes and objects

Each year the Foundation's Trustees agree themes for funding against which grant applications can be made three times a year. The website sets out the themes and the objects of the Foundation.

Maximum size of grant

The Trustees have agreed that in each bidding round they will award grants to the sum of £35,000 in each of the three bidding rounds. The maximum grant payable in respect of any one bid is £20,000.

Restrictions on grants

The Trustees have agreed a number of restrictions as to what bids can be funded by grant aid. Specifically the TDS Charitable Foundation will not meet:

- *Non project-specific salaries;*
- *Day to day overheads/running costs (although bids can include a contribution to general overheads where these can legitimately be allocated to the bid);*
- *Continuation funding (although bids for a repeat of the project may be considered afresh during a subsequent bid round).*

Requirements

If an organisation or an individual receives grant funding from the TDS Foundation it will be expected that they will report periodically to TDS Charitable Foundation on how the grant has been used. The specific reporting requirements will be set out in the grant approval letter and will need to be agreed by the recipient before the grant is paid.

Any organisation receiving funding from the TDS Charitable Foundation will agree that the Foundation can publicise that funding through its website or other media.