

GSK Community Health Programme

supporting small charities tackling health inequalities

in partnership with The King's Fund

Guidelines

Funding

Up to 10 organisations will receive **up to £10,000**

The leadership programme

Up to 10 places are available on an online leadership programme, valued at **£5,000** a place.

Who can apply?

To be eligible, organisations must be:

- within the income band for the programme – **the charity must have a total annual income between £20,000 and £150,000, as shown in its most recent accounts.** If your organisation's income is above £150,000 you may be eligible to apply for the [GSK IMPACT Awards](#).
- able to demonstrate how they are tackling health inequalities in their community (this can be defined as a geographical community or a community of interest).
- a registered charity by the deadline for applications 5.00pm on Monday 10 August 2026 – the organisation must also have existed for a minimum of one year by this date
- working, located and registered in the UK
- independently constituted from any national umbrella organisation.

About the Programme

Health inequalities are avoidable and systematic differences that include access to care, quality and experience of care, life expectancy, and wider factors such as environment and housing. There are stark gaps in health between the least and most deprived areas in the UK, with the cost-of-living squeeze and rising poverty impacting many people's health.

We know that a huge amount of work tackling health inequalities is carried out by very small charities working closely with their communities. We also know it can be hard for these organisations to access unrestricted funding as well as support for their leaders to do this essential work. Organisations led by and supporting the most disadvantaged communities such as those supporting ethnic minority communities, people with disabilities, people from the LGBTQ+ community and others – are particularly encouraged to apply for this programme.

The GSK Community Health programme will support aspirational leaders who want to develop their organisations to tackle health inequalities. It is designed to run alongside the GSK IMPACT Awards and support the next generation of award winners. We know from our long history with the GSK IMPACT Awards that the combination of funding and leadership support can make a real difference and help a charity realise its ambitions.

The leadership programme

The charities offered funding will be invited to attend an online leadership programme. Up to 10 places are available, valued at **£5,000** a place. The programme will be delivered by The King's Fund and provide participants with the opportunity to develop their capability and confidence to lead both operationally and strategically. Taking part in the programme will require time and commitment, and it may not be right for everyone.

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The leadership programme is designed to help leaders of small charities build the confidence, skills and relationships needed to lead effectively in challenging contexts. It will support participants to strengthen their leadership practice, build resilience, lead people and partnerships well, and take a more strategic and sustainable approach to increasing their organisation's impact. Participants will be expected to bring openness, curiosity and a willingness to challenge their thinking, reflect on and develop their leadership practice, and collaborate with others to build a supportive learning community. In return, they will gain practical tools, fresh perspectives and the support of a trusted peer learning community.

This is what small charities said about a recent leadership programme and funding from GSK/The King's Fund:

'This programme has been life-changing for me. I was worried about taking the time out of my working day to participate. However, in reality this has been the best "time out" that I've taken and the programme has had a positive impact on me personally and professionally!'

'I feel more confident, more focused, and better equipped to lead both my team and my charity.'

'The programme has helped me recognise the importance of stepping back and not always being in the detail. I now feel more comfortable taking time to think more strategically without feeling guilty.'

'Letting go of the need to get everything right has made it easier to take action, try things, and adapt as we go. That shift has made growth feel more realistic and achievable.'

How to apply

Answer four questions to check your organisation is eligible.

Complete a short online application form. This will ask about:

1. the need your organisation is working to address
2. your organisation's track record
3. how your organisation ensures it is supporting people experiencing the greatest health disadvantage and how they help shape your work
4. how your organisation collaborates with other organisations
5. how you know if your organisation's work has been successful
6. how much your organisation is applying for and how you plan to use the funding? (this can include core funding)
7. your organisation's aspirations
8. how you could benefit from the leadership offer

You will also be asked about the management and governance of your organisation; and to confirm that your most recent accounts are available online or to send us this document.

We are interested in your whole charity, so please tell us about the work you do across your organisation. Applications that only focus on a particular project will not be shortlisted.

GSK and The King's Fund encourage organisations to apply that are led by and support people from under-represented backgrounds, people from ethnic minority communities, people with disabilities, and people from the LGBTQ+ community. We want people to bring their unique blend of experiences, backgrounds, perspectives and knowledge as we recognise that diversity makes us stronger.

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The selection process

A panel from GSK and The King's Fund will select the successful charities. We anticipate more eligible organisations applying than we can fund and will use the application form questions and an analysis of your Trustees' report and accounts to make decisions. On occasion we may ask for further information or want to speak to someone from your organisation to find out more about your work and how we could help. Successful charities may be asked to complete a short questionnaire at the end of the programme.

Timetable

- Deadline for online applications: Monday 10 August 2026 at 5.00pm
- Decisions by mid-October 2026
- Leadership programme: individual conversations with programme facilitators (November/December 2026)
- Leadership programme: January to Spring 2027 (programme dates TBC)

The panel's decisions are final. Unfortunately, we will not be able to give feedback on individual applications.

The King's Fund will manage your personal data in accordance with its [privacy notice](#).

June 2026