

# Big Yellow Foundation Grant Criteria and Eligibility



**HELPING  
VULNERABLE  
PEOPLE  
LEAD  
BRIGHTER  
LIVES**

## Grant-making approach

The Big Yellow Foundation seeks to take a commissioned approach to grant-making by proactively identifying the charities and projects that it wishes to fund, whilst not accepting open applications.

Grants are strategically made to ensure that there is a geographical spread that aligns with the geographical footprint of the Big Yellow Stores.

## Key strategic themes:

The following core themes will form the primary strategic focus of Big Yellow Foundation and Big Yellow Group plc:

1. Supporting offenders and ex-offenders to rehabilitate and or supporting the prevention of offending, including through the provision of employment opportunities within Big Yellow Stores and the Big Yellow Construction company
2. Supporting refugees to rebuild their lives, including through the provision of employment opportunities within Big Yellow Stores
3. Supporting those with a long-term physical or learning disability, including through the provision of employment opportunities within Big Yellow stores
4. Supporting ex-service personnel, including through the provision of employment opportunities within Big Yellow stores

## The Commissioned approach applied following grant eligibility criteria.

### Organisational criteria:

The Big Yellow Foundation will:

- Accept applications from UK registered charities (registered with either The Charity Commission and/or The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator) whom it has invited to apply

- Consider applications from social enterprises and other charitable bodies (e.g. other charitable trusts), if the Trustees deem that their proposed project offers an approach which does not exist within the traditional charity sector.
- Require that organisations understand the importance of outcome and impact measurement through the capture and recording of accurate data.
- Seek to fund organisations that are recognised in their field as experts and leaders.

The Big Yellow Foundation will not support:

- Organisations directly affiliated to any political party, associated political bodies or to causes with a strong wider political association.
- Single faith religious organisations - it is understood that many charities have religious affiliations, foundations and history (e.g. St Giles's Trust). The restrictions on single faith religious organisations only applies to charities or organisations where the promotion of any one faith is the primary purpose of that organisation or that observance to a specific faith is a prerequisite of support from the charity or organisation (e.g. Alpha for Prisons).
- Organisations that have been/currently are the subject of a Charity Commission investigation
- Organisations that do not hold an appropriate level of unrestricted financial reserves or are overly dependent on a single funding source (e.g. Ministry of Justice contracts).

### **Project criteria:**

It is proposed that all funded projects must:

- Focus on one of The Big Yellow Foundation key strategic themes (outlined above)
- Allows financial support from The Big Yellow Foundation to make a unique contribution that adds significant value to the project
- Present opportunities to leverage the relationship with Big Yellow Group plc – in particular employment opportunities within its stores or volunteering opportunities for its staff
- Create long-term and sustainable change in the life chances of those supported, measurable by clear outcomes
- Benefit the communities in which the Big Yellow Group plc operates across the UK
- Evidence a clear timeframe for delivery and evidence of tangible impact.

Projects must not;

- Directly conflict with the broader aims and objectives of Big Yellow Group plc
- Risk bringing the name of the Big Yellow Group plc (including its subsidiaries) or that of The Big Yellow Foundation into disrepute
- Relate to the purchase of land or existing buildings (including a building's freehold) or the repayment of loans
- Represent a disproportionate percentage of the overall turnover of the organisation.

## Appendices 1: Offending and Re-offending - Context

The prison system costs British taxpayers approximately £11bn each year. At any time, there are around 65,000 people serving time for crimes that range from theft to murder.

Research has shown that being in full time employment, as well as other factors like living with immediate family, mean less chance of re-offending after an inmate's release. In a Ministry of Justice 2013 study, 59% of re-offenders surveyed were not in employment after their release – compared to the 39% of re-offenders who had had jobs<sup>1</sup>.

## Appendices 2: Refugees – Headline context

In 2015, there were 32,414 applications for asylum in the UK (not including dependants). This represents an increase from 2013 and is the highest figure since 2004.

The Refugee Council notes that “countries which have regularly featured in the top ten countries of origin of asylum seekers over recent years are Afghanistan, Iran, Bangladesh, Eritrea, and Pakistan. In 2015 there were significant increases in the number of applications from Iran, Sudan, Afghanistan and Iraq. Applications from Syria, Bangladesh and India also increased.”

You must apply for asylum if you want to stay in the UK as a refugee. To be eligible you must have left your country and be unable to go back because you fear persecution.

### **UK Policy context**

Prior to August 2005, refugees and those who were awarded humanitarian protection were granted indefinite leave to remain. From 2005 onwards, they were granted five years limited leave to remain. At the end of their five years limited leave - subject to the outcome of any review and to the policies in place at the time - refugees would be eligible to seek indefinite leave to remain (ILR). Refugee Action has noted that ‘in almost all cases Indefinite Leave to Remain is granted at this point’.

The asylum process: There are three statuses for those seeking to remain in the UK, each is outlined in further detail below.

1. Seeking asylum
2. Limited leave to remain
3. Indefinite leave to remain or settlement

### **1. Seeking asylum**

To legally seek asylum, individuals must:

be unable to go back to their own country because they fear persecution

- be unable to live safely in any part of their own country
- have failed to get protection from authorities in their own country
- This persecution must also be because of one of the following:

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/491119/re-offending-release-waves-1-3-spcr-findings.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/491119/re-offending-release-waves-1-3-spcr-findings.pdf)

- race
- religion
- nationality
- political opinion
- membership of a particular social group that puts you at risk because of the social, cultural, religious or political situation in your country

Individuals won't usually be allowed to work while their asylum claim is being considered. They may be detained at an immigration removal centre whilst awaiting a decision on their application. If they are destitute and have no other means of supporting themselves, they can apply to receive asylum support. This is set at £5.28 per day.

Applicants will either be:

- released if they get permission to stay in the UK (initially as Limited Leave to Remain – see below)
- held until they're removed from the UK if you don't get permission to stay

## **2. Limited leave to remain**

As the first step in being given permanent leave to remain, asylum seekers are awarded limited leave to remain. This can be granted for one of two reasons:

1. Permission to stay as a refugee: individuals may be given permission to stay in the UK for 5 years if you qualify for asylum as a refugee. This is known as 'leave to remain'.
2. Permission to stay for humanitarian reasons: individuals may get permission to stay for humanitarian reasons if they don't qualify for asylum. This means that the individual in questions need to stay in the UK for their protection. This is known as 'leave to enter' or 'leave to remain'.

Those granted 'limited leave to remain or leave to enter' are free to work and are eligible for mainstream benefits. If they have a spouse and children outside the UK, they can apply to join the refugee in the UK. After 5 years they can apply for indefinite leave to remain, which will normally be granted. The exceptions are usually people who have had serious criminal convictions.

## **3. Settlement (Indefinite Leave to Remain)**

Individuals can apply to settle in the UK (known as 'indefinite leave to remain') if they have got a residence card as a:

- refugee
- person with humanitarian protection

You can apply after 5 years in the UK as either:

- a refugee
- someone with humanitarian protection

Ends.