

## **Funding Organisations to Support Seafarers**

The Seafarers' Charity has supported the safety and welfare of the maritime community for over 105 years. A grant application can be made by any registered charities (or organisations that have charitable aims) who provide help, support or services to seafarers and commercial fishers currently working at sea, or former seafarers and fishers - as well as dependents of these two groups. A "seafarer" is defined as any person who is employed or engaged or works in any capacity on board a ship and whose normal place of work is at sea.

The following five principles should be kept in mind when applying. The Seafarers' Charity's grant making:

- **Supports seafarers:** by providing funding to maintain and develop evidence-based bespoke services that respond to the unique needs and experience of seafarers.
- **Delivers on our Thrive Strategy,** our three pathways (Global, Preventative and Advocacy) and our 5 Strategic Outcomes.
- **Demonstrates innovation and collaboration:** by working in close partnership with others to identify opportunities and develop partnerships where appropriate.
- **Has maximum impact:** for seafarers, their families and/or the wider maritime and charity sector. The funding need should be clearly articulated with baseline data, and be measurable through a formal monitoring & evaluation process.
- **Engages seafarers:** in the development of programme or service design and delivery, and actively encourages their feedback to ensure the organisation learns from seafarers' experience.

Each year we award in excess of £2m in grants across several grant programmes.

## Grants Programmes

Most grant applications will be to the Main Grants Programme. However, you may wish to apply to the Merchant Navy Fund or the International Fund for Fishing Safety.

- 1. The Main Grants Programme** – this is open to applications from not-for-profit organisations that support people currently working, or who have worked as merchant seafarers or fishers and their dependents.
- 2. Merchant Navy Fund Grants**– this funding programme is provided in partnership with the Merchant Navy Welfare Board. It is aimed specifically at not-for-profit organisations that support UK merchant seafarers and their dependents.
- 3. International Fund for Fishing Safety** – this funding programme has been kick-started by a significant grant from the Lloyd's Register Foundation with the aim of growing the funding available over time. Awards will help improve the health, safety, and welfare of fishers and support the work of the FISH Platform which continues to support safety improvements, and represents the safety and welfare of 36 million global fishers at the IMO.

## Programme Priorities – Focusing on Improving Outcomes for Seafarers

Since 2020 our main grant funding programme is focused on achieving five long-term strategic outcomes for those who work at sea. By funding services, initiatives and interventions which support these outcomes we aspire to deliver our vision to improve seafarers' lives and achieve a world where seafarers and their families are valued and are free of need and disadvantage. These are:

### Better Working Lives at Sea

People working at sea are valued as key workers. They work within sustainable and ethical supply chains and are the backbone of the global economy. Wherever they are in the world they can access virtual and port-based welfare services through an international chain of seafarer centres, and ship visitors which meet their welfare needs. The promotion and support of maritime careers and education is also included within this outcome.

## **Enhanced Financial Resilience**

Seafarers, fishers, and their families, at work and in retirement, have access to confidential and independent advice, information and financial help during difficult times which can support their economic resilience and build independence. Services and interventions funded under this outcome may include the provision of information and advice and hardship and welfare grants.

## **Improved Health & Wellbeing**

Seafarers, fishers and their families are able to obtain access to health and welfare services to enable them to continue, or return to work, as well as initiatives to support their physical and mental health and wellbeing at the time and location that they are needed; on board and on shore, while at sea and during retirement. This includes appropriate retirement accommodation in the community of their choice as well as initiatives to tackle loneliness, support relationships and respond to suicide ideation.

## **Increased Social Justice**

Seafarers, fishers and their families have access to welfare services and programmes that are responsive to the unique needs arising from working at sea and provide support during retirement. This includes initiatives which promote diversity and inclusivity, support human rights, as well as reduce or prevent bullying, harassment or social stigma and provides advocacy for the rights of seafarers.

## **Safer Working Lives at Sea**

Seafarers and fishers are kept safe and return from their seafaring voyages without experiencing accident or harm. This includes supporting better safety management practices, encouraging reporting of unsafe practices, risk reduction and promoting an enhanced safety culture.

## **Funding Criteria**

An organisation may apply for a grant if the following funding criteria is met:

- Addresses at least one of our 5 long-term strategic outcomes for seafarers
- Is a registered charity or a not for profit organisation with charitable aims

- Delivers welfare services to support or help current or former merchant seafarers and/or commercial fishers operating in the UK and/or the dependents of people who have worked at sea
- Has submitted most recent Annual Accounts within the 10-month period required by the Charity Commission, or within the requirements of another relevant authority if not a registered charity
- Meet the due diligence requirements of The Seafarers' Charity

## **Types of Funding**

Grant applications will be considered for the following types of expenditure:

1. Core funding costs – This is the general running costs (sometimes referred to as 'revenue' costs) that exist for any organisation. Examples are staff and management costs, development costs (e.g.: staff training, professional memberships etc.) and support costs such as IT, finance, HR and premises costs. Please ensure your application describes how our funding will enable you to impact seafarers' welfare and safety.
2. Project costs – This is the specific cost incurred in delivering a project or service and should include all the direct costs incurred and a proportionate share of the organisation's overheads which should not exceed more than 5% of the total amount requested.
3. Some capital costs – This is the cost of purchasing new equipment or refurbishing or building premises. Priority will be given to initiatives that directly support the ongoing work of charities in delivering direct welfare services and benefits to current and ex-seafarers and their families. Please be aware, that substantial capital grants are very rare and capital grants themselves are rare.
4. Capacity-building – this can be any of the above but directly builds the capacity of a charity to carry out its day-to-day work with an increased ability and efficiency to deliver on its mission.

## **Timelines**

We operate a continuous grant making process and assess applications on a rolling basis. This means you can apply to us at any time.

Grant applications of £10,000 and under can take a minimum of six weeks before you hear of a decision.

Grant applications in excess of £10,000 can take a minimum of three to four months to assess and be considered by Trustees.

You may apply any number of times in any one calendar year. The only restriction (beyond our remit of supporting seafarers and their families) is that each application must be for a separate activity, project or service.

## **Submitting a Grant Application**

The first step is to follow the link to the online application form and to register as a user on the Benefactor system that manages our grants.

Next you need to pass a short eligibility test to ensure that you meet our funding criteria. If the form just refreshes and you cannot proceed past this point please contact the Impact Team on the email below for advice.

The application form has guidance available throughout via Help icons but if you require more detailed step-by-step instructions, please download the Step-by-Step Guidance document on the website or email us on [impact@theseafarerscharity.org](mailto:impact@theseafarerscharity.org) for a copy.

When your online grant application is completed and you have pressed 'submit' your application will generate an automatic acknowledgment email. If you do not receive an email acknowledging submission contact us on 0207 932 5967 as we may not have received your application.

Once we have received the application form, we will get in touch using the contact details given in your application form about the extra information we need to carry out our due diligence process.

This includes information about your governance, financials, policies and banking information, not otherwise available through the Charities Commission or other statutory authority.

Email: [impact@theseafarerscharity.org](mailto:impact@theseafarerscharity.org) or phone: 0207 932 5967.

## **Successful Grant Applications**

A successful grant application:

- will demonstrate how it contributes to achieving impact within one of our five long-term strategic outcomes and will evidence a clear and direct benefit for seafarers and/or their dependents.
- will be backed up with a description of a robust monitoring system able to record, measure and evidence the outcome achieved as a consequence of receiving grant funding. This includes a baseline measurement at the start of the grant.
- will be submitted by an organisation that is able to meet our due diligence requirements.

## **Notification of Outcome of Grant Application**

If your request for grant funding is successful you will be called by a member of the Impact Team and followed up by an e-mail which will notify you how much your organisation has been awarded.

Included with the e-mail will be our Terms and Conditions of the Grant Award which must be read and the Form 1 Acceptance Form should be signed, or digitally signed, by two Trustees/Directors/ members of your governing body/management committee (e.g. the Chair and Treasurer) who are authorised signatories and authorised to confirm acceptance of the grant terms and conditions. Once the signed Form 1 Acceptance Form has been returned, we will arrange to pay your grant award via BACs into the organisation's bank account.

If your organisation is new to us, you will also need to complete and return Form 2 which will provide details of the organisation's bank details. As part of our security processes,

we will ask your organisation to complete a new Form 2 every 3 years to ensure our information is always up-to-date.

Unfortunately, it is not always possible to meet every request for a grant. To ensure that our funding achieves the greatest impact, we will prioritise grant applications that most strongly align with our Strategic Outcomes.

If your grant application is unsuccessful, your organisation will receive a phone call, followed by an email, advising you of this outcome. We are happy to give feedback on unsuccessful applications, if required. Please call the Impact Team on 0207 932 5967.

## Sharing Information

We aim to be a transparent grant-maker. We share information regarding applications we have received, and funding decisions we make, with relevant partners and stakeholders who include a number of other maritime and veterans grant making organisations. Along with many other funders we also publish our grant awards on our own website as well as the publicly searchable website of [360Giving](#).

If you have a good reason why we should not share the contents of your application with other funders and partner organisations, you **MUST** clearly state this in the application and this may influence the decision of the Grants Committee to award a grant. Otherwise we will assume your consent to sharing the contents of the application as part of this application process.

The Seafarers' Charity is GDPR compliant. Information on the use of personal data by The Seafarers' Charity is available from our Head Office or on our website.

## Stay Informed

Stay up-to-date with changes to The Seafarers' Charity's grants programme via:



You can also sign up to our newsletter Seapost [here](#).