

Matrix Causes Fund (MCF) – Criteria for Funding

Applicants seeking funding from the MCF will need to show how they meet all of the following criteria:

1. The MCF will only provide support to organisations which promote access to justice (particularly for people trying to get support to meet their basic personal needs), or promote equality of opportunity, or promote a sustainable environment.
2. Applications are particularly welcome from organisations whose focus is on supporting the needs of vulnerable persons such as prisoners, asylum seekers, people with mental health difficulties, people (particularly children) with disabilities, or women in refuges.
3. Matrix Causes Fund is a restricted fund under the auspices of Prism the Gift Fund, UK charity no. 1099682. Consequently MCF are only able to provide funding for organisations with charitable status. In exceptional circumstances MCF may be able to consider applications from organisations that are established for “charitable purposes” and are recognised by HMRC as an exempt charity.
4. Other than in exceptional circumstances, the MCF will only provide an organisation with one-off funds of up to £5,000, or funds of up to £3,000 a year for 3 years. Where funding is over more than one year, the funds will be released a year at a time when satisfactory use of the previous money has been shown. With a view to benefiting as wide as possible range of organisations, the MCF will not provide further funding to an organisation within less than a year of any previous MCF funding.
5. The MCF will only provide funds for identifiable items or activities (potentially including the staff costs of the activity). Where the amount to be provided by the MCF is not the whole cost of the item or activity, the MCF money will only be released when the rest of the cost has been secured by the organisation. The MCF will not provide funds for an organisation’s general or core expenditure.

6. The MCF will fund the costs associated with things like publications, staff/volunteer training, publicity, events and equipment which can benefit many people and be long-lasting. Only in exceptional circumstances, will the MCF provide funds to cover costs (such as salary costs) for an organisation's direct service delivery to individual clients or members of the public. The MCF does not provide funds to support or replace statutory or other services generally provided by public bodies such as schools.

7. Organisations which receive funds from the MCF will be expected to report back on the outcome of the use of the funds and to acknowledge in their publicity material that they received money from the MCF. They will allow Matrix to refer in its publicity material to the funding in question.