Matrix Causes Fund

Funding Information & Eligibility Criteria

The Matrix Causes Fund (MCF) is a restricted fund operating under the auspices of Prism the Gift Fund UK
Charity No. 1099682

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Updated July 2026

The Matrix Causes Fund (MCF) provides support to organisations which promote access to justice, equality of opportunity, or a sustainable environment.

A maximum of 60 applications (including a up to four international applications per year) will be successful in securing a MCF grant. With a view to funding as wide a range of organisations as possible, priority will be given to those projects where the benefit can be most widely felt.

Please ensure that you read the following information carefully as applications which do not meet the minimum thresholds detailed below will be rejected.

Application information

The Matrix Causes Fund will accept applications in one of the following windows:

- *Cycle 1: 10am 01 January – midday on 31 March (UK time)*
- *Cycle 2: 10am 01 July – midday on 30 September (UK time)*

Any applications submitted outside of the cycle windows will not be processed and should be resubmitted when the next cycle opens; they cannot be held on file.

All applications should be submitted in English and should use the most up to date application form which can be found on the website.

Each cycle will have a maximum of 30 applications accepted for funding, including up to two applicants to organisations based outside of the UK i.e. a maximum of 60 applications per year including a maximum of four international grants.

Please note, that on account of increased due diligence costs, of the maximum two international grants per cycle, only one may be made to an organisation operating in what is deemed by the UK government to be a 'high risk' country (see here).

The MCF *cannot* send any funds to any organisation or countries listed on the UK Government financial sanctions list.

With a view to benefiting as wide a range of organisations as possible:

- MCF will only accept one application per organisation per cycle
- The application must clearly demonstrate the number of people who would benefit from the project. While there is no exact threshold, priority will be given to those projects where the benefit can be most widely felt

- There should be at least *three* years from the completion of a project funded by the MCF before another application is submitted by the same organisation for consideration. For example, if the MCF funded a project in February 2026 and the project lasted for one year, an organisation will not be eligible to reapply to the MCF until February 2030.

Eligibility

The MCF is only able to provide funding to organisations which meet the following criteria:

- Have charitable or non-profit status, is a Community Interest Company (CIC), or is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), *and*
- Has an income (from all sources, including grant income and trading income) of less than £500,000 (GBP) per financial year, *and*
- Has available financial resources of less than £500,000 (GBP), e.g. money in the bank
- UK organisations must be registered with HMRC as an exempt charity, or registered with Companies House as a CIC, or with the Charities Commission.

About the grant

The MCF focuses its funding on projects that contribute to one or more of the following objectives:

- Access to justice
- Equality of opportunity
- Sustainable environment

While all applications which meet the criteria are welcome, priority will be given to those from organisations based in London, and / or those organisations who focus is on supporting the needs of vulnerable persons such as people (particularly children) with disabilities, women in refuges, refugees and asylum seekers, people with mental health difficulties, prisoners etc.

UK charity applicants can apply for one of the following MCF grants:

- A one-off grant of up to £8,000 (GBP), *or*
- A multi-year grant of up to £5,000 (GBP) a year, for up to three years (funds for years 2 and 3 will be released upon receipt of a grant report at the end of the previous year's cycle)

International applicants and those based in the UK but are not a registered charity can apply for a one-off MCF grant of up to £8,000 (GBP).

What type of funding does the MCF provide?

The MCF will provide funding for the following:

- Specified items and services which fall outside an organisation's core activities, i.e. related to a specific project that would not otherwise be pursued
- Project costs which can benefit many people and be long-lasting
- IT costs related specifically to a project i.e. not general IT costs or upgrades

- Printing costs are only covered where there is a justifiable need for the materials to be printed rather than provided electronically, for example where the information is to be distributed in prisons
- The cost of the training where there are a large number of beneficiaries for whom the benefit is significant and long-term, and:
  - People are being trained to become trainers, or
  - The training is for a new sort of training not previously undertaken, or
  - The training is related to a specific project.

If the costs of a project for which MCF funding is sought are not covered in their entirety by the funding from the MCF, the organisation must confirm that they have secured funding for the whole project from other sources before the MCF grant is released.

What is not covered by MCF?

The MCF will not fund the following:

- Any amount for an organisation's general or core expenditure, including but not limited to overheads, CRM software, marketing materials and general administrative costs associated with the day-to-day running of an organisation including insurances, membership fees etc.
- Travel and accommodation costs, including international travel and any costs associated with meetings
- Room hire, rent or utilities
- Legal fees including Court fees
- Items that *only* benefit the end user including basic items such as food, toiletries, sanitary items, counselling, mobile phones, mobile phone credit, uniforms, clothing, training, gifts, parties, entertainment, days out / holidays, routine training and routine IT equipment or upgrades for personal use
- Out of pocket expenses / incidentals for volunteers or participants
- Organisational set up costs, research and development costs, costs of developing guidelines etc
- The cost of construction works, building materials or non-specialist furniture
- Items, services or support that would generally be provided by public bodies such as schools, the NHS, Legal Aid, local councils, governments etc
- Retrospective funding

Application process

To apply, the following documents should be email to *MatrixCausesFund@matrixlaw.co.uk* in the relevant window:

1. Completed application form as a Microsoft Word (.doc) document
2. Completed application form that has been signed in .PDF format
3. A copy of your latest filed accounts or financial statements
4. Proof of your charitable or non-profit status

What happens after an application is submitted?

When the cycle window closes, applications will be sifted and those that meet the criteria above will be reviewed by the committee. The committee's decision is final.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application, which will normally be within three months of the cycle closing.

Applicants who are not successful are free to reapply in the next / a subsequent cycle; however, organisations should check any subsequent application against the most up to date criteria to ensure that it meets the thresholds.

What happens if my application is successful?

Successful applicants will receive a *conditional* grant offer, and details will be passed to Prism to conduct the necessary due diligence to ensure compliance with UK charity law.

Prism will contact each successful applicant normally within three months of the conditional offer.

Successful applicants should reply to Prism within six weeks of any request for information, or within one month if further information is needed. Should either of these deadlines be missed, the conditional grant offer will be withdrawn.

Only when the due diligence has been completed will Prism issue the formal grant letter and official Terms & Conditions. When these documents have been signed and returned, the funds can be released.

Organisations which receive funds from the MCF will be expected to:

- provide a report (annually in the case of a funding provided on a multi-year basis) on the outcome of the use of the funds using MCF reporting template
- acknowledge in their publicity material that they have received money from the MCF
- allow MCF to refer to the funding in its publicity material, such as on the MCF website

Please email any queries to *MatrixCausesFund@matrixlaw.co.uk*

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