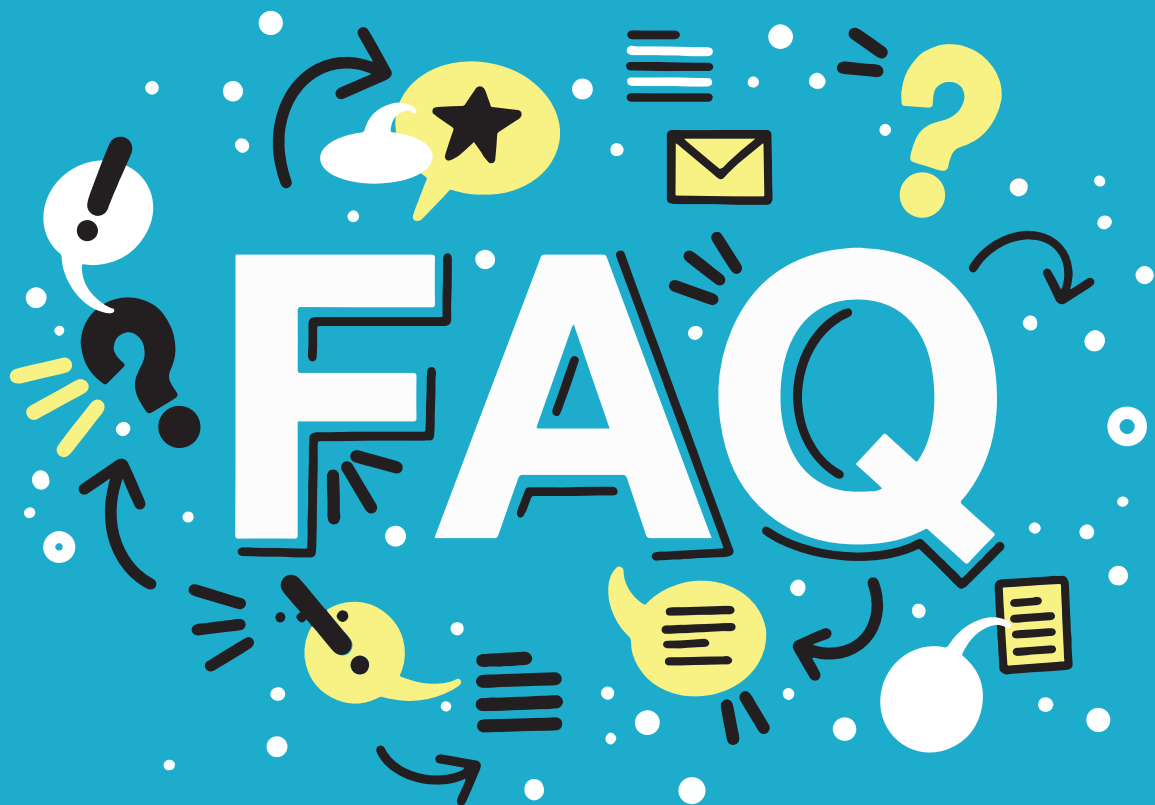


April 2023

Prevent Child Sexual Abuse Programme

# Frequently asked questions



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## Application process

### **Q: What is the process of grant approval?**

Once an application has been submitted, it goes through several layers of approval. Your Programme Officer will write a recommendation based on your application and your conversations. This will be reviewed by the Programme Head and Director, who may provide additional comments / questions.

If the proposal is for USD 100,000 or less, it must be approved by the Programme Director. Proposals for USD 250,000 must additionally be approved by the President, and for anything over USD 250,000, approval must also be received from the Trustees.

If the proposal is under USD 500,000, an external review can be requested or waived. However, if the proposal is over USD 500,000, it will receive an external review from an expert identified by Oak. After this review is completed, it will be shared with you for your feedback and response comments.

An application can be denied at any point throughout this process.

[For more information, please review this timeline document on our website.](#)

### **Q: Do you put out calls for proposals or do you fund on a rolling basis?**

We fund on a rolling basis. Please speak to your Programme Officer about the next grant proposal.

That said, we do sometimes release specific calls for funding to respond to fill particular needs brought to our attention by our partners. These calls for proposals can be found on our website and are shared through social media.

Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) or [Twitter](#) to be alerted to these calls for proposals.

### **Q: Can you give examples of what Oak considers good proposals?**

We are not able to share proposals from other organisations. Our grant instructions offer examples and explanations on how to draft strong objectives. Your Programme Officer may be willing to review drafts of your application before you submit and provide support along the way.

[Reading our partner impact stories on our website may also be of help.](#)

### **Q: What is the criteria for small grants?**

The Prevent Child Sexual Abuse Programme has funding that can be mobilised rapidly and be responsive to time-sensitive and time-bound, often unforeseen, challenges and opportunities. We award: experimental grants to new and/or non-traditional projects and partners that present opportunities to advance the mission of preventing child sexual abuse; emergency support grants to partners that find themselves in difficult circumstances; and one-off, not intended for renewal bridge and exit grants to ensure smooth transitions for existing Prevent Child Sexual Abuse Programme partners.

These grants are by invitation only. You can discuss with your Programme Officer. Occasionally, we will put a call for proposals for these mechanisms.

### **Q: On what grounds/criteria does the Prevent Child Sexual Abuse Programme decide to support strategic opportunities?**

Strategic opportunities are driven by the interests of our Trustees, in discussion and collaboration with the team. Most of these initiatives are funded outside of our programme budget.

**Q: For organisations that work across many of the funding areas, how would funding calls and applications work?**

We accept new concepts on a rolling basis. The team reviews all concepts we receive. If a concept works across several of our areas of focus, we share it with the other members of the team and discuss together.

If we are able to consider a concept, we will reach out to the organisation for further conversation and invite them to submit an application.

We only occasionally have funding calls and those relate to a theme or an advocacy opportunity. These calls would be shared in our website and social media channels and will have their own timelines and proposal requirements.

**Q: Do you accept unsolicited requests for support?**

We do accept unsolicited letter of enquiries. They can be submitted by filling in our [online letter of enquiry form](#). Unfortunately, most of these are not funded.

Please feel free to use the letter of enquiry form when sharing new circulation of research as well.

**Q: How can I secure co-funding?**

We are conscious about creating high reliance of any organisation on Oak's funds and believe that organisations are more sustainable when they have a diverse funding base. Our partners co-fund their work through grants and core support from other funding organisations, governments and bilateral organisations. We also consider in-kind support for co-funding. You can explore building fundraising support and other strategies to diversify your organisational funding base in your grant with your Programme Officer.

**Q: How long does it take to get to decision/money?**

We do not have a set timeline for a grant to go through the system and it can depend on multiple factors. Smaller grants (under USD 250K) can go through the system quicker as they require less layers of approval. Larger grants may take a longer time. In addition, the complexity of a grant, capacity at Oak, and the number of questions raised as it goes through the system may also delay the process. For these reasons, we estimate grants take between three and six months for approval. Once you have been invited to submit an application, your Programme Officer will work with you to develop a tentative timeline that can be revised as the proposal advances through the process.

You can find more detailed information about the grant process in our response to the question "What is the process of grant approval?" above.

**Q: How can current partners put forward ideas for grants that may fall outside the thematic areas they are currently working on?**

While we consider some ideas outside of our six priority funding areas, most of our funding is dedicated to advancing our thematic areas. We do, however, accept concepts through our enquires inbox. For existing partners, please discuss any new ideas or concepts with your Programme Officer and they can refer you to other colleagues in the programme.

**Q: Is child participation a requirement in proposals, and if so, how will you assess the expertise and capacity of organisations to be able to do this in a meaningful and child-rights based way?**

Child participation is not a requirement in proposals. Because of the sensitivity of our issue, child sexual abuse, we are careful about how children and adolescents are included in proposals and want to make sure there are strong safeguards in place

to do no harm.

**Q: Are there particularly vulnerable groups of children that you are prioritising and that projects should ensure to include?**

Child sexual abuse affects children from all backgrounds, but we know that there are aggravating factors that make some children more vulnerable to sexual abuse. While we do not focus on particular groups of vulnerable children, we are looking to ensure that the advocacy, research, and programmes we fund are inclusive and take into account and respond to children who are often left out of prevention efforts, including boys and groups facing systemic discrimination.

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## Grant management

**Q: Do you have a mechanism to provide cost extensions?**

We do not have a mechanism to top up grants to provide cost extensions. Costed extensions must become new grants. Exceptionally, we can consider small/bridge grants through our regular systems and through our small grants mechanism. To request a no-cost extension, you must email your Programme Officer with your request with a brief explanation.

**Q: Are some core support grants not renewable? Under what circumstances would it be renewable? Will the grantee be notified of eligibility for renewal well in advance of the original grant end date?**

Oak's grants do not automatically renew. All renewals are competitive. We want to be responsible funders and when possible, we aim to notify organisations at least six months in advance about whether a renewal invitation will be issued.

If a grant will not be renewed, we can work with partners to explore ways to ease their transition off Oak support, including revising existing

grants and, in some cases, providing short term exit grants.

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## Strategy and programme aspirations

**Q: Is there a timeframe for this strategy?**

The strategy was launched in 2019. It was initially meant to be a five-year strategy. We also considered the strategy to be a living document. Therefore, it has evolved and changed over time. We had several areas of the strategy that were new to us, and we took time to learn and experiment. In agreement with our Trustee, we have extended the timeline to continue this work for the foreseeable future.

**Q: Do you have/what is your Theory of Change (ToC)?**

While we do not have an overarching ToC for the programme, our investments are informed by the belief that evidence and advocacy go hand and hand and we cannot end child sexual abuse without building more political pressure to hold decision makers to account, while at the same time providing evidence-based solutions to inform prevention strategies and investments.

Also, under several of our priority funding areas, the team has developed specific ToC to inform their decisions and track impact. Two of our funding areas (sports and justice) are considered learning areas and have not yet identified specific pathways of change.

**Q: How do the programme's six funding areas overlap?**

Our six funding priority areas are interconnected. We articulate this in our strategy.

For example, our first funding priority on innovative research and solutions cuts across all other areas as we focus on building the evidence on solutions to keep children safe

online and in sports and to increase access to justice and services for survivors. The same is true for our focus on supporting survivors.

Many of the projects we fund inform several areas of our strategy and while partners have one Programme Officer assigned to the grant, we collaborate as a team to learn from each other's portfolios and make sure the learning is not siloed.

**Q: Are there partners who are foundational to the strategy? Or who/what's a trusted partner?**

We strive to build trusting relationships with all our partners, and to fund the most impactful and bold organisations in the field.

Given the number of requests we receive each year and our budget, we are only able to make grants that are in full alignment with an area of our strategy.

Therefore, we do not rank partnerships, but rather assess their contributions and impact at the end of each grant period to determine if support will continue.

**Q: Can you give more information about the shift in funding core institutional support?**

We are committed to provide more flexible, unrestricted funding when appropriate and possible. We realise the benefits this has for our partners. We consider core support or unrestricted programme support when there is a strong alignment between the strategy of the organisation, and the Prevent Child Sexual Abuse Programme's strategy, and when the partner has a strong track record. In addition, we are dedicated to funding the true cost (e.g., overheads) of project grants.

**Q: Does the foundation fund research to develop/adapt, valid, and test measures?**

Yes, the foundation has funded work to develop, validate, and test measures. Our priority funding area on investing in innovative research and

supporting promising solutions focuses on these efforts.

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## Survivors

**Q: Does your definition of "survivors" only include adult survivor groups, or also children and young people?**

We recognise that child sexual abuse affects everyone, regardless of age, but for ethical and safeguarding reasons, we primarily support adult survivor groups.

**Q: How does the Prevent Child Sexual Abuse Programme see the role of survivors potentially growing in other aspects of the work too? May there be a time when potential grantees will be asked in their project proposal form to explain how they have engaged survivors in the proposed project design? Will you be seeking out survivors to review proposals to assess how survivors are being involved in different parts of the project?**

We are learning from our work with survivors and survivor-led organisations and we want to be responsive and responsible.

We do not require programmes to justify survivor engagement, but we always explore how solutions are informed by relevant stakeholders. If survivors are a key stakeholder for a project, we would hope there has been meaningful engagement and input. At this point, we do not have participatory grant-making processes within the programme but we are exploring developing partnerships with intermediary organisations that may decide to include participatory processes where relevant stakeholders would be engaged in decision making.

**Q: Regarding increased support for survivor-led movements and actions: What are additional considerations/support that may be going into these types of programmes? What is being learnt to help others supporting survivors to**

### **engage more in the movement in safe and supportive ways?**

While this is a newer funding priority area for us, we have learned that funding survivor-led organisations requires a more holistic approach, including offering capacity building support to new organisations, wellbeing, security measures and opportunities to convene and build relationships across other survivor efforts.

While some of our partnerships will continue to be managed directly through Oak, we anticipate partnering more with external funds in the future to manage these partnerships because we have limited capacity in-house to provide more holistic support and are unable to support a large number of smaller grants. Also, by working with experienced funds to serve as intermediaries, the survivor-led actions will receive in-depth support for their capacity building needs, convenings and networking.

### **Q: What is the Prevent Child Sexual Abuse Programme doing to support well-being approaches across your partners, particularly since you are now focusing on survivors?**

While we focus primarily on prevention, we understand that working on child sexual abuse is challenging and can impact *all* staff's mental health. Therefore, we are open to supporting all our partners to put in place organisational wellness and mental health plans to prevent harm. We are particularly committed to support survivor-led organisations, and organisations with staff working closely alongside survivors who face additional challenges. Programme Officers will assess wellness plans with partners to identify potential areas of support, including developing organisational policies and practices to support staff in their work.

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## **Learning and connecting with other partners**

### **Q: How can we learn more about other partners across the different priority funding areas?**

A list of partners funded by the Prevent Child Sexual Abuse team is available under [our grant database](#). Please filter by the tag "Prevent Child Sexual Abuse team." Not all our partners give us permission to share their grant on the database so the list may not be comprehensive. We also publish the grants we make every year in our annual report. These are all available on our website as well. We are exploring better ways to show how partners contribute to different parts of our strategy and hope to be able to share some materials in the future.

### **Q: Will there be other opportunities / are there other channels for different grantee partners to interact with each other?**

We have heard from many partners a desire to come together and meet other grantee partners. We are exploring efficient ways to do this online and in person. We want to be respectful of our partners' time and want to make sure that when we convene and bring people together, it adds value to our partners' work. Additionally, Oak is committed to limiting our carbon footprint.

All this considered, we will work to identify meetings/conferences where we might come together; we might plan small convenings around key themes or strategy areas as well as facilitate introductions among our partners who work on similar or reinforcing areas of work.

We welcome ideas and suggestions about how to best do this. Please feel free to reach out to your Programme Officer if you want to share your thoughts.

**Q: What process are you contemplating to update grantee partners under other umbrellas to keep abreast of progress (or obstacles) illuminated by the Prevent Child Sexual Abuse Programme pillar?**

We share partner stories in our website and through our social media channels. We are exploring ways to bring our partners together to learn from each other and make sure that the learning from our funding is shared across grantee partners.

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## Other

**Q: How is Oak working with other funders on key issues in its strategy, and could you introduce us to other funders?**

We work closely with funders who support work in our priority areas by co-funding projects, sharing learnings from the work we support, joint strategising, and getting to know each other's strategies and priorities. We also support a number of donor collaboratives where we pool funds to support specific areas of work.

We strive to share learnings with other funders, which often includes sharing the work of our partners. We do not make direct introductions without a funders' interest and permission.

**Q: Can I introduce "x" to you for funding?**

Our typical approach is to proactively seek partners. However, we appreciate connecting with new organisations whose work is aligned with [our strategy](#). It is best for new connections

to be acquainted with our strategy as we are not able to fund beyond the contours of our strategy. We may ask for a concept note or background on the organisation to gauge alignment. We realise that having conversations can raise expectations of possible partnerships and we want to be certain we are communicating the importance of alignment with our strategy.

**Q: How does Oak find out about potential opportunities and what has the Prevent Child Sexual Abuse Programme found to be some best practices/lessons that has led it to work in the way it does now?**

We learn about potential opportunities in a variety of ways. We connect with partners and through their work learn about others in the ecosystem. We also receive concepts through our enquires box and review all of them. We commission landscape reviews and scans, conduct site visits in places of interest, join conferences, and follow news and academic literature to stay connected with the work and possible opportunities.

Recent insights include the importance of survivor leadership in driving change, the deeply political nature of child sexual abuse, and the need for strong campaigning and alliances to increase public pressure on decision makers and the importance of research uptake and scale up strategies to match the size of the problem.