



Special Interest Programme
Programme Overview

**Supporting a diverse
range of partners around
the world, reflecting the
interests of Oak's Trustees**

What we fund

Driven by the interests and passions of Oak's Trustees, the Special Interest Programme provides the space and flexibility to make grants outside of Oak's other programme strategies. Special Interest grants are diverse, supporting grantee partners in a wide range of fields including medical research, education, environment, humanitarian relief, mental health, the arts, and much more. Trustees support inspiring leaders, organisations, and projects from the local to global level, helping them to thrive and succeed in their missions. Read our stories and visit the grant database to see the diversity of grants within our programme.

Geography

The Special Interest Programme makes grants globally.

Request for support: Letter of enquiry

We are open to receiving requests for support through our letters of enquiry form online; however, please be aware that the Special Interest Programme is Trustee-driven and due to the volume of requests we receive, they are rarely able to accept unsolicited requests for funding.

How we work with our partners

Application process

If a Trustee would like to invite a grant application, a member of the team will be in touch with the organisation to discuss the grant opportunity. With staff based in Switzerland, the UK, and the US, we assign a programme officer to a grant based on their experience in that field, their location, and their workload. We are also supported by a team assistant and our colleagues in finance and grant administration.

Our grants support individual organisations, intermediaries, and community groups. Our grants are usually multi-year. We provide: core support (i.e., flexible and unrestricted funding); project support; and support to strengthen organisations to become more resilient and effective. [Read more about our organisational strengthening work.](#)

When we formally invite an organisation to apply for a grant, we discuss the size of the grant and whether it will be project support or core. We work with organisations to develop the application in partnership, ensuring we communicate consistently about when and who will make the decision on a grant, how the application process works, and how long it will take. We also discuss the possibilities of renewal well in advance of the end of a grant. We consider all renewals as distinct and separate grants.

[Download this document to learn about the grant-making timeline and process.](#)

Communications

We believe that the best relationships are built on trust, and we foster that in our relationships over time. We maintain a relationship with our grantee partners throughout the lifetime of the grant to share learning and impact with other grantee partners and the foundation. We value honest, open, and frank exchange and invite feedback on how we can be better grant-makers. We will ask for formal reports on an annual basis. At the start of the grant, we discuss the regularity of our communications and communications preferences. We strive to visit our grantee partners in person when possible; however, we are mindful of the environmental impact of travel, so this is not always possible or practical.

Additional information

Our team

We are a small, but passionate team and we are constantly inspired by the courage and creativity of our grantee partners. Our team members are based in Switzerland, the UK, and the US. We have diverse backgrounds and experience, including in human rights law, the environment, scientific and medical research, humanitarian aid, immigration, the rights of children, and more. In addition, our team is excited to learn with grantee partners about the fields they work in.

Contact us

If you would like to speak to us, please email us on info@oakfnd.ch.

Connect with us on social media

Through our social media channels, we amplify the voices of our grantee partners and support the work of our programmes. We want to inspire hope and possibility.



Our grantee partners

For information on our current grantee partners, [visit our grant database on our website](#) or read our annual reports. Visit our website page to learn more about our partners' work. We publish stories on a regular basis that help explain our grant-making approaches.