

Dying Matters Community Grants Programme 2025

Information and criteria

What is the programme?

Hospice UK's Dying Matters campaign is working to create an open culture in which we're comfortable talking about death, dying and grief. Dying Matters' vision is of an open culture that talks about death and where people feel able to listen and support those who are planning for end of life, who are dying, and who have been bereaved.

This grant programme will directly support innovative and creative arts and culture projects, events and activities that focus on opening up the conversation about death and dying with communities who we know are traditionally less likely to be reached by hospice care and the Dying Matters campaign.

Objectives of the programme

The grants programme aims to support a portfolio of arts and culture projects which work to open up conversations about dying, death and grief in new and creative ways at a grassroots level. In doing this we hope to support hospices to build new partnerships, particularly with arts and cultural organisations.

In order to reach new and diverse audiences, grant applications will need to:

- Demonstrate that they reach defined groups who are less likely to be reached by hospice care and the Dying Matters campaign, specifically*:
 - Ethnic minorities
 - People experiencing homelessness
 - Imprisoned people
 - LGBT+ people

- People living in remote and rural areas
- People living in poverty, deprivation and with lower socioeconomic status
- People living with learning disabilities
- Demonstrate how the proposed project will approach the subject of death in an innovative and culturally relevant way through arts and culture.

The grant programme is only open to applications from hospices. However, the principal aim of this programme is to reach new groups in new ways with the expectation that this will impact on wider public attitudes to death. As such, we will only consider applications that show evidence of partnership working with local groups/community organisations who can help the hospice to reach one of the groups above who the hospice has traditionally struggled to support.

Grants

Grants are available to cover the costs of projects using arts and culture that focus on opening up the conversation about death and dying.

- Project grants between £5,000 - £10,000

Examples of what the grant funding can be used to cover:

- Artist fees
- Exhibition / Installation costs
- Materials
- Facilitator costs
- Translation & Marketing
- Refreshments
- Craft materials
- Sound and Light
- Venue Hire

The budget for the programme in this round is £40,000.

The proposed work

Examples of previous projects funded through this programme include:

- The development of a video game that supports young people to think about death and grief
- A series of art workshops that enable people experiencing homelessness to explore feelings about life, death and grief
- A theatre production exploring queer Jewish grief practices

Other examples could include:

- theatre production
- exhibition
- community mural.
- public art display
- comedy nights
- workshops and courses

Deadline

The deadline for applications is 17:00 on 5 December 2025. Applicants will be informed whether or not they have been successful at the Mid February 2026.

Eligibility criteria

In this round the lead applicant must be a hospice based in the UK and a member of Hospice UK, this includes:

- adult hospices
- children's hospices.

Please note: this programme is open to hospices, but we expect applications to be submitted in partnership with other local groups/community organisations.

Evidence of this partnership will need to be included in your application, with details of how the community partner will help you to reach your target audience.

Partnership working

We expect projects to be developed and implemented in partnership with others, e.g., community groups, individuals (artists, writers, filmmakers etc...), galleries, collectives, local charities, local councils, colleagues/departments, hospitals or other organisations, in order that they complement existing provision and are truly integrated in systemic plans to reach more people. Evidence of this partnership will need to be included in your application.

What is not eligible?

Non-eligible pieces of work include:

- work that has already started before December 2025 – although if you ran a clearly identified pilot phase before this date, you are not precluded from making an application to develop it further
- applications that are not in partnership with another local partner / community organisation
- isolated pieces of equipment not related to the proposed work
- already well-established activities on death and dying, such as Death Cafés or workshops on Advance Care Planning, bereavement groups (as these activities have already been tried out common)
- activities taking place within formal healthcare settings, we expect events to be held outside of the hospice setting unless there is a good reason
- activities which don't reach one of the audience groups outlined above
- sponsorship or fundraising events, promotional videos or films

Application process

Only one application will be considered from each organisation.

Full applications can be made on the online forms available on our website:

www.hospiceuk.org.uk/grants

Completing the online form

Before you can access the online application form you will be asked several questions in the eligibility filter. If answered correctly, you will be directed to the full application form.

When you are filling in your application form, please give concise answers as some questions may have a limit on the number of words you can write. **Tip, you may**

find it helpful to construct your answers in Word first, and then paste them into the online form.

If a grant is awarded, we will ask you to report back on your project by referring to the answers written on your application form, so it is important to be realistic in your answers.

Submitting the online form

Once you have completed the application form you can submit it online. To submit, go to the last page of the form and at the bottom is a 'submit' button. Once you are happy with your application, click 'submit'.

Once you have submitted your application you will receive a confirmation of submission e-mail, which will include a copy of your application.

Assessment

Applications will undergo a two stage assessment process:

1. By Programme Staff

The applications will be assessed against the eligibility criteria and shortlisted, those shortlisted may be asked to submit additional information to support their application. If further information is required, a member of the programme staff will request it.

2. By the Dying Matters Grants Panel

During the second stage all shortlisted applications will be considered by the Dying Matters Grants Panel, led by Dying Matters chair, along with others with expertise in community engagement and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion work.

Applications will be assessed against set criteria, including evidence that the proposed project will:

- Demonstrate **user involvement/partnership/co-production** in the development of the project
- Address the subject of dying, death and bereavement in an innovative and culturally relevant way through **arts and culture**

- Directly **reach communities** who we know are less likely to be reached by hospice care and the Dying Matters campaign, specifically:
 - Ethnic minorities
 - People experiencing homelessness
 - Imprisoned people
 - LGBT+ people
 - People living in remote and rural areas
 - People living in poverty, deprivation and with lower socioeconomic status
 - People living with learning disabilities

Your project should **work in partnership** with other local partners / community organisations. Applicants will need to submit signed letters of support from any significant partner organisations that you propose to work with.

In addition, **value for money** and the **feasibility** of the proposed work will be taken into account.

It is important that you address each point in your application. These are not listed in order of importance.

The Dying Matters Grants Panel will prioritise innovative projects they feel would most likely contribute to the body of knowledge and the possibility of scaling and replicating your model in other settings.

It is likely that we will receive more applications than the amount of funding available, so the success of your application cannot be guaranteed and the Panel's decision is final.

What happens if successful?

If your application for a grant is successful then we will send an Award Letter, together with an Acceptance Form.

The Acceptance Form must be signed by the application Chief Executive/Director/Trustee or equivalent of the applicant organisation, agreeing to the conditions of the grant. We will ask you to confirm when the project will start and when you expect to complete it.

We reserve the right to withdraw funding after 12 months from the award date if the grant is not claimed, so it is important that you keep us up to date with progress.

For grants of less than £5,000, payments will be made in advance. For grants above £5,000 a small percentage of the final payment may be contingent on submission of a satisfactory final impact report.

All successful applications will need to submit a final impact report at the end of the funding period.

Throughout the life of your grant

Hospice UK and Dying Matters are keen to see how our grants make a real difference to the subject of death in an innovative and culturally relevant way through arts and culture. We are also interested in increasing and sharing learning from the work that is funded through this programme. If successful in your application for funding, you will be expected to contribute to this.

Activities will include:

- submitting brief progress reports after your grant has been awarded
- visits by staff from Hospice UK
- sharing of ideas and knowledge and peer support through a variety of media
- documenting your project with photos, case studies, quotes and video for Dying Matters to use on its public channels
- Provide a final impact report (template will be available to read in advance)

Once your project is complete

As a condition of your grant, you will be required to send us a final impact report at the end of the grant funded period of your project. You will be asked for further information about what you have achieved and what impact the work has had on the subject of death in an innovative and culturally relevant way through arts and culture. We will send you a template form nearer the time for you to complete.

Timetable

An outline timetable for the programme is given below.

- 5 December 2025 - Deadline for submission of applications 17:00
- Early February 2026 - Grants Panel meet to allocate funding
- Mid February 2026 - all applicants to be notified of decisions

Acknowledgements

Grant holders are required to acknowledge Dying Matters in any information that is circulated about the project.

Dying Matters

Hospice UK's Dying Matters campaign is working to create an open culture in which we're comfortable talking about death, dying and bereavement.

We will provide a Dying Matters logo for use on any promotional material.

Further information

Please visit our website or contact us if you have any questions or if you need further information:

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