# WARBURTONS FOUNDATION RISE TOGETHER APPLICATION GUIDANCE

## INTRODUCTION

**Warburtons Foundation Rise Together: using the power of food to help children, families and communities thrive.**

Food has the power to do more than nourish. We believe that food can bring people together, support healthier lives and open up opportunities for children and their families in our communities to thrive. It helps people rise.

Whilst children and families face a range of interconnected challenges, including poverty, poor health, social isolation and limited opportunities, many community organisations are already using food as an accessible and affordable way to help support healthier choices for the future.

That's why Warburtons Foundation's *Rise Together* programme funds local organisations which use food as a catalyst for lasting change. The *Rise Together* programme is supported by our grantmaking partner, Charities Aid Foundation (CAF).

## KEY DETAILS OF GRANTS

- Amount: £4,000.
- Programme focus: children and young people up to the age of 18.
- Geographical area: The funding is available to organisations working locally to a Warburtons bakery or depot in England, Scotland or Wales.
- Total amount available in this round: £100,000 (25 grants).
- Delivery start date: Any point between 1 April - 30 September 2027.
- Duration: 9-18 months.
- Application deadline: 5pm, Friday 18 December 2026.

## PURPOSE

Funding is for organisations that are helping to transform the lives of children and young people up to the age of 18 using food as a catalyst. By this, we mean that food is used as a way to engage people, start conversations, help to build skills or connect with one another.

To be funded, organisations need to be working in one of three impact areas: Open the door: unlocking opportunities, Gather around: share and connect and Plant the seed: healthier living. The tables below show these impact areas and what we mean by them.

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| GATHER AROUND: SHARE AND CONNECT | |
|---|---|
| **PROVISION IS FOR** | Children and young people experiencing social isolation, exclusion or barriers to community participation. |
| **VIA** | Structured provision, based around food, which breaks down divides between children/young people of a similar age or between generations. |
| **SO THAT** | Children and/or young people:<br>– Have built new relationships with greater understanding between people than before.<br>– Have a stronger sense of belonging.<br>– Are more connected to their local community. |
| **MEANING THAT THE PEOPLE YOU SUPPORT CAN SAY:** | "Food helps me belong" |

| PLANT THE SEED: HEALTHIER LIVING | |
|---|---|
| **PROVISION IS FOR** | Children and/or young people and families who have limited access to healthier food. |
| **VIA** | Hands-on activities that are practical, affordable and relevant to cultural and family circumstances, to help children and/or young people grow their knowledge and skills with food. |
| **SO THAT** | Children and/or young people have:<br>– Discovered and enjoyed nutritious food.<br>– A deeper understanding of where food comes from.<br>– Learned practical food skills.<br>– Grown in confidence to make positive food choices and healthier habits. |
| **MEANING THAT THE PEOPLE YOU SUPPORT CAN SAY:** | "I am developing healthier habits, skills and confidence with food" |

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| OPEN THE DOOR: UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES | |
|---|---|
| **PROVISION IS FOR** | Children and/or young people and families who face barriers to accessing wider support, skills and opportunities. |
| **VIA** | Helping children and young people overcome barriers to progression, using food as a way to engage them. Work includes a clear pathway from food to next steps, including wider support where appropriate. |
| **SO THAT** | Children, young people and families are:<br>– Better able to access practical or specialist support.<br>– More skilled and confident in navigating everyday life. |
| **MEANING THAT THE PEOPLE YOU SUPPORT CAN SAY:** | "Food helps me overcome a barrier, access support or take a positive next step" |

**Please note:** This programme is not intended to support food provision alone. Simply providing food alongside another activity, or providing information about other services, would not in itself meet the priorities of Rise Together.

## PRIORITIES

We know that we do not have the resources to fund all eligible organisations. We will prioritise applications from organisations which:

- Can clearly and convincingly describe how a £4,000 grant would help them to achieve outcomes that are in line with the Rise Together impact areas.
- Already use food as a catalyst for change in their work with children and/or young people.
- Are clear about the link between food and the outcomes they seek to achieve.
- Involve families and communities in their work.
- Have a charitable purpose that is focused on community development or health through nutrition.
- Have a strong track record of helping children and/or young people make positive changes that influence their broader or future life, not just meet their immediate needs.
- Would use the grant within a defined geographic community.

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- Are rooted within, and led by, their local community and
    - Have a deep understanding of local needs.
    - Use the insights and experiences of the people they support in the design and delivery of services.
    - Provide culturally relevant activities and services.
    - Actively address barriers to participation.
- Will be able report back about what the grant has enabled their organisation to do and provide high resolution images and quotes from children/young people or their families to illustrate the changes that have taken place, along with appropriate permissions for Warburtons and/or CAF to use them to demonstrate the impact of the funding.

**Please note:** Rise Together is unlikely to be the right fit for your organisation if:

- Food is not already a meaningful part of your organisation's activities, approach or engagement mechanism.
- Your organisation does not primarily benefit children, young people and their families.
- You are looking for funding for emergency food distribution.
- You are looking for funding for research, campaigning or commercial farming projects.
- Your organisation is nationally or regionally focused, very large, very small or unconstituted.

## USE OF FUNDING

We want to provide the resources you need in the way that you really need it. Funding can be used flexibly in a way that will benefit your organisation and the people it supports the most. You can apply for funding for:

- **Direct activities with children, young people or their families:** eg an existing or a new project that creates positive outcomes for children and young people.
- **Ingredients**: the core costs of your organisation without which the activities could not happen, eg rent, utilities, non-project staffing costs.
- **Improvements**: defined improvements to your infrastructure or ways of working which would clearly support you to improve or scale up your impact, eg updated IT, equipment or training.

## CORE COSTS

Even if funding is primarily focused on direct activities, we will fund core costs as key ingredients of your work. When putting together your budget, please include a realistic amount towards your core costs.

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## GEOGRAPHICAL TARGETING

This funding is open to organisations working locally to a Warburtons bakery or depot in England, Scotland and Wales. We don't specify a strict proximity limit because we know that the characteristics of rural locations and cities are very different.

In your application, you will need to be able to demonstrate a relevant track record of working with children or young people using food as a catalyst for change in the locality of a Warburtons bakery or depot. Decisions will be made locally by Warburtons Community Champions who understand local priorities.

Bakeries and depots are grouped into hubs. In your application, you'll need to specify which hub your application is most relevant to.

| HUB | BAKERIES AND DEPOTS |
|---|---|
| **BELLSHILL** | Bellshill, Aberdeen, Eurocentral Motherwell |
| **BOLTON** | Bolton, Variety Bolton, Squires Gate Blackpool |
| **BRISTOL** | Bristol, Newton Abbot, Port Talbot |
| **BURNLEY** | Burnley, Widnes |
| **EASTWOOD** | Eastwood, Banbury, Thetford, Nottingham |
| **ENFIELD** | Enfield, Basingstoke, Biggleswade, Bognor Regis, Cowes, Paddock Wood |
| **NEWBURN** | Newburn, Riverside |
| **STOCKTON** | Stockton |
| **WAKEFIELD** | Tuscany Park Wakefield, Bakery 41 Wakefield, Howden |
| **WEDNESBURY** | Wednesbury, Stone |

**Please note:** In your application, you will need to make the case for why your organisation is a good fit for this funding, including its geographic fit.

We are expecting to receive more applications than we can fund and we don't want to waste anyone's time. So please do consider how strong your link is to the area of the Warburtons site that you select on the application form. Please also make sure you select the correct site in the list.

## ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for a grant, your organisation must:

- Work with children and/or young people, or their families or communities, towards one or more of the priority strands of Rise Together.
- Be registered as an organisation with charitable purpose as one of these organisation types:
    + Registered UK charities, including charitable incorporated organisations (CIOs).
    + Community interest companies (CICs) and community benefit organisations (where there is a minimum of three unrelated directors).
    + Constituted organisations, eg Company Limited by Guarantee (but not Company Limited by Shares), that is constituted to operate on a not-for-profit basis.
- Be registered and located within England, Scotland and/or Wales.
- Primarily operate locally with your local community (rather than regionally or nationally).
- Have been operating for a minimum of 24 months and have published financial accounts.
- Have had an annual income in your last financial year between £25,000 and £250,000.
- Have a bank account in the name of your organisation.
- Be able to apply and manage the grant in English.

## EXCLUSIONS

We will not fund:

- Organisations that don't meet the eligibility criteria above.
- Unincorporated associations, local authorities, schools, commercial or for-profit organisations with no constituted charitable purpose, or companies limited by shares.
- After school clubs and holiday clubs: Warburtons can support these initiatives through product donations rather than with this funding.
- Emergency food provision.
- Research, campaigning or commercial farming projects.
- Activities that have already been completed or will take place prior to receipt of a grant offer and signed terms and conditions.
- Activities or projects that are primarily for political or religious promotion.
- Applications seeking a contribution towards major capital building projects, eg land acquisition or projects requiring planning permission.
- Bursaries, scholarships, sponsorships or donations designated for a specific, named recipient.

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- Activities solely focused on commercial benefit.
- Activities that may benefit Warburtons' commercial business: this is a grant programme with charitable purpose.
- Repayment of loans or debts.
- Sponsorship of other activities.
- Organisations or activities that discriminate on the basis of age, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, marital status or disability.
- Organisations set up primarily for the benefit of animals, with the exclusion of assistance animals trained to support individuals with disabilities.
- Individuals.

## PAYMENT

The grant will be paid in one instalment, once all validation checks have been completed.

## REPORTING IMPACT

All grant holders will be asked to complete a simple End of Grant report form within one month of the end of the grant term. This will enable you to tell us what impact this grant has had for your organisation and its work. As part of this, we will ask you for a high-quality photograph to illustrate the impact of your work and a quote from people who have benefitted from the grant. Please ensure that you build in appropriate permissions from people involved in your activities in a way that suits your safeguarding processes so that images and quotes are possible.

## HOW TO APPLY

Before you start, please ensure you have read this Application Guidance document thoroughly.

All applications for a grant must be made via CAF's online grant portal. To start a new application, use this link: https://bbgm-apply.yourcausegrants.com/apply/programs/9f0114c5-db07-4832-b533-c9489c50e07f

- You will be asked log in or to create a Blackbaud ID account.
- Complete a short eligibility questionnaire. If eligible, you are directed to the main application form.
- Complete the application form.
    + The form focuses on the information we need to assess applications fairly.
    + Some questions have suggested answer lengths: these are guidelines to the amount of information we would expect a good answer to contain. They are not word count limits so if your answer is slightly longer, it won't cut the text off.

    - You can save and return to the application form; you do not need to complete it in one go. To return to the grant portal to continue with an application, use this link: https://bbgm-apply.yourcausegrants.com/apply/applications

- Upload the supporting documents listed below.
- When you are ready, submit your application by clicking “submit”.

If you would like to prepare your application form offline, a word version of the template is available via https://www.warburtons.co.uk/goodstuff/responsible-business/financial-giving/. You will need to copy your answers into the online form in order to submit it.

## USE OF AI

At CAF, we have noticed an increase in the number of AI-assisted applications received across our programmes. We acknowledge that this decision is up to each individual organisation, and we support the use of AI tools in your interactions with CAF. If you do choose to use AI tools in this way, we kindly request that you:

- Ensure that human judgement is included. AI should not be the sole method of submission: you are still responsible for your application and any outputs submitted to CAF, even if AI helped you get there.
- Take care not to lose the unique perspective and insight that your voice offers on your organisation and the communities you support, including specific examples of your work and impact.
- Follow your own internal procedures and protect sensitive information, ensuring your use of AI aligns with your organisation’s data protection policies.

CAF’s Grantmaking team does not use AI to make funding decisions or assess applications.

- Human judgement remains central to our work and decisions always sit within a human-centred process.
- We are exploring how AI tools may support aspects of our grantmaking and we are committed to being transparent about how we use AI as our approach evolves alongside this technology.
- We will always ensure that any uses of AI include appropriate human judgement and align with CAF’s privacy notice and our wider responsibilities to protect sensitive information.

## REPEAT APPLICATIONS

If your organisation has previously held a grant made by the Warburtons Foundation, you may apply, as long as all previous grants have been completed, including meeting all reporting requirements.

If you are not successful in this round, you may apply again in future rounds. Application dates are published on the Warburtons website.

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## OUTCOME AND FEEDBACK

You will be notified whether or not your application has been successful by Friday 26 February 2027. We will provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants within one month of the outcome being published.

## DATA PROTECTION

In applying for this grant programme you will be directed to CAF's carefully selected service provider (Blackbaud) to enter details of your grant application. Blackbaud's privacy policy can be viewed here. CAF will act as a data processor and Warburtons will act as data controller for the purposes of your data. Please refer to CAF's privacy notice and Warburtons' privacy policy for more information on how your data will be used.

You can read more information about the Blackbaud applicant and grant holder portal here.

## CONTACT US

In the interests of fairness, we cannot comment on the content of individual applications. However, if you have any questions about the grant portal or the programme as a whole, please contact the CAF grantmaking team at warburtons@cafonline.org.

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