



Based on application data from 3 March 2026 at 13:43.

Ensure you have the latest version: unltd.org.uk/awards/downloads/trading-for-less-than-1-year.pdf

Draft your UnLtd Award application before you apply

This is a fillable PDF — you can type your answers directly into the form fields below. Use it to draft your responses offline before submitting your application online. When you're ready, copy and paste your answers into the online application form.

Your eligible awards

Based on the eligibility checker, you could be eligible for the following awards:

- Starting Up — Millennium Awards Trust (up to £8,000)
- Starting Up — Funding Futures Programme (up to £8,000)

A note on using AI

We know that AI chatbots can be helpful — they can make writing clearer and more structured. We encourage you to use them if they help you share your plans. But we want to hear your voice. If you use AI, please do so thoughtfully — as a tool, not a substitute. The more you personalise your responses and share your genuine values and vision, the stronger your application will be.

Helpful resources

The following resources are available to help you with your application:

- **Award Budget Guidelines**

This guidance covers budget preparation, managing your Award spend, and what to do if things change.
unltd.org.uk/spaces/award-budget-guidelines

DO NOT email us this form — This is NOT how you apply.

This PDF is for drafting your answers offline only. Do not email this form to UnLtd. We will not accept emailed applications.

How to submit your application:

1. Go to: unltd.org.uk/awards/trading-for-less-than-1-year
2. Click 'Apply now'
3. Sign up or sign in to the Application Portal
4. Start your application online
5. Copy and paste your drafted answers from this PDF into the online form

1. Contact details

The founder/leader of the social venture should complete this application form.

1.1. Preferred first name *

Please enter your preferred first name, the name you'd like us to call you when we contact you.

1.2. Preferred pronouns *

Please tell us the pronouns you would like us to use when we contact you.



1.3. Address Line 1 *

Please provide your residential address.

1.4. Address Line 2

1.5. Address Line 3

1.6. City *

1.7. County

1.8. Country *



1.9. Postcode *

1.10. Home phone/mobile phone *

Please provide at least one contact number, preferably your mobile if you have one.

1.11. Date of birth *

We ask for your date of birth to ensure eligibility; we cannot accept applications from people under the age of 16.

1.12. National Insurance Number *

We ask for this so that we can correctly link records in case you have a number of applications with us.

2. Equal opportunities & monitoring

We are committed to 50% of our Awards going to Black, Asian and minority ethnic social entrepreneurs, and/or disabled social entrepreneurs across our funding programmes.

We value lived experience and equal opportunity and encourage you to share openly, as we are committed to ensuring our Award making is free of discrimination and bias. Our commitments to inclusion can be found on our website.

We use the data you provide in this section to drive improvements in our Award making and support. We know that some of these questions are very personal. We do not publish or use this data in any way which allows any individual to be identified by a third party.

We use the definition of disability under the Equality Act 2010.

2.1. Please confirm that you are the founder/leader of the social venture *

I confirm that I am the founder/leader of the social venture, and all details I provide in the application relate directly to me or my social venture.

Yes

No

2.2. Do you have any of these disabilities or health conditions? *

Autistic spectrum condition or another condition affecting speech, language, communication, or social skills

Blindness or a visual impairment not corrected by glasses

Condition affecting motor, cognitive, social and emotional skills, speech or language since childhood

Deafness or a hearing impairment

Dyslexia, dyspraxia, or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) or another learning difference

Long term illness (e.g. cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease or epilepsy)

Mental health condition (e.g. depression, schizophrenia, or anxiety disorder)

Physical disability or mobility issue (e.g. impaired use of arms or legs, use of a wheelchair or crutches)

Another disability, health condition or impairment affecting daily life

I do not have any of these disabilities or health conditions

Prefer not to say

2.3. This question is intended for individuals who have a disability, health condition or additional needs. Is there anything you'd like us to consider when assessing your application?

If your application progresses and you are invited to an online panel meeting, we will ask you if you require adjustments to make the panel meeting accessible for you.

Maximum 2,000 characters

2.4. Which best describes your gender? *



2.5. Is your gender identity the same as the sex you were assigned at birth? *



2.6. What is your ethnic group? *



2.7. What is your current marital status? *



2.8. What is your religion/faith?



2.9. What is your sexual orientation? *



2.10. What is your current employment status? ***2.11. What is your highest level of qualification? *****2.12. What was the occupation of your main household earner when you were aged about 14?****2.13. Do you have the right to live and work in the UK? ***

We can only accept applications from individuals who have the right to live and work in the UK.

**2.14. How did you find out about UnLtd? ***

So we can monitor the success of our communications and work with our partners, please tell us how you found out about UnLtd.



This field is for if you selected an option in 2.14. which says 'Please specify'

Please Specify

3. About you

In this section we would like to get to know about you as the founder/leader of the social venture and how your experiences have motivated you. We're interested to understand the types of experiences and insights you bring to your work.

3.1. Tell us about yourself and what led you to start your social venture *

Your response could include:

- How you have developed an understanding of the social or environmental issue
- Why you are motivated to address this issue

There is no need to share anything that may be upsetting for you, or of a sensitive nature. Any information you choose to share will be treated sensitively.

Maximum 2,000 characters

3.2. Do you have direct experience of the issue that your venture addresses? *

Examples of direct experience:

- Someone who has been homeless and is working to improve homelessness services
- A disabled person who has set up and is running a support service for other disabled people



3.3. Do you have indirect experience of the issue that your venture addresses? *

Examples of indirect experience:

- The parent of a disabled child providing services for disabled people
- The carer of someone with dementia selling products to support people with dementia to live independently



3.4. Do you have professional experience of the issue that your venture addresses? *

Examples of professional experience:

- A former teacher setting up a service for young people not in employment, education, or training
- Someone who works in climate science who is setting up a social venture to reduce carbon emissions



3.5. Your experiences:

Select up to a maximum of three types of experience that most closely fit.

Access to education and learning

Addiction (of any kind)

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's)

Barriers to employment

Care leavers

Criminal exploitation and/or gang affiliation

Disability and/or chronic illness

Discrimination related to protected characteristics

Discrimination (other)

Ex-military

Experiences of trauma

Health and social care

Housing and/or homelessness

Human rights

Learning disability

Lone parenthood

Loneliness and/or social isolation

Long-term unemployment and/or economic inactivity

Mental health

Migrants, refugees and/or asylum seekers

Multiple complex needs

Neurodiversity

Prison/criminal justice

Poverty

Skills gap or access to economic opportunities

Unpaid carer

Victim of crime

Violence and/or abuse

Wealth inequality

None of the above

Prefer not to say

4. Social venture stage and programme

The questions that follow will depend on the stage you select here.

4.1. Please tell us the stage your social venture is at. *

Forming: I have an idea

You have an idea, and it is in the early stages of development.

You can apply for up to £8,000 which can be used for organisational costs. This cannot include living costs, paying yourself, or staff on payroll.

I've been trading for less than one year

Your social venture is already operating but has been trading for less than a year. By trading, we mean selling goods or services (not including grants).

You can apply for up to £8,000 which can be used for organisational costs. This cannot include living costs, paying yourself, or staff on

payroll.

I've been trading for one year or more

Your social venture is already operating and has been trading for between one and four years. By trading, we mean selling goods or services (not including grants).

Your social venture must have earned a minimum of £18,000 in traded income in the last 12 months to meet our eligibility requirements.

You can apply for up to £18,000 which can be used for organisational costs, living costs, paying yourself or staff on your payroll, or a combination.

If you select this stage, you must complete a financial workbook (the template can be found on our financial data webpage) which includes:

- 12 months financial history (month by month)
- 12 months financial forecast (month by month)
- Assumptions/narrative to accompany your forecast
- Your most recent full accounts (if you have them)

More detail can be found on our financial data webpage. If you think you might need support to provide this data, you can get in touch with us via the Awards page of our website.



This answer is pre-selected because the remaining questions are specific to this stage.

4.2. If you are interested in a specific Award programme, please tell us here

If you are interested in or have been advised to apply for a specific Award programme you can tell us here.

When we assess your application, we may decide that it is better suited to one of our other Award programmes. If you are not sure, you can leave this question blank. You can read more about our programmes on the Awards page of our website.



5. About your social venture

In this section we would like to get to know about your social venture, in particular the types of people you intend to work with and the focus of your social venture.

5.1. Name of your social venture, or proposed name:

If you haven't named your social venture yet, you can leave this blank.

5.2. Social venture website

If you don't have a website, you can leave this blank.

5.3. Social venture location *

We'd like to know where your venture operates, i.e. where are the people your social venture focuses on based? This could be in your local community, borough, city, or county. It could be in several locations or UK wide.

5.4. Who are the main groups that your social venture focuses on/will focus on? *

Select up to a maximum of three groups that most closely fit.

- Carers
- Children and families
- Children and young people (under 18s)
- Disabled people (including people with a learning disability or chronic illness)
- Ex-military
- Ex-offenders
- Homeless people (including people in temporary accommodation)
- Individuals who identify as Black, Asian, or minority Ethnic
- Individuals who identify as LGBTQIA+
- Individuals who identify as neurodivergent
- Informal health and social care providers (individuals)
- Long-term unemployed
- Migrants, refugees and/or asylum seekers
- NEET (not in education, employment, or training)
- People in later life (those over the age of 55)
- People with addiction and/or in recovery
- People with audio or visual impairment
- People with dementia or Alzheimer's
- People with mental health problems
- Women
- Young adults (aged 19-34)
- Other (please specify)

5.5. Which of these areas does/will your social venture focus on? *

Select up to a maximum of three areas of focus that most closely fit.

- Access to education
- Access to employment
- Access to legal services
- Business support
- Climate change and energy
- Care in the community
- Conservation
- Creative industries
- Criminal justice
- Digital products or services
- Environmental sustainability
- Equity, diversity, and inclusion

Financial services and financial inclusion
Food, nutrition, or agriculture
Healthy ageing
Housing and/or homelessness
Loneliness and/or social isolation
Manufacturing
Mental health and wellbeing
Poverty reduction
Quality of life
Skills and training
Social care
Sport and physical health
Technology
Urban environments/community
Water and sanitation
Youth
Other (please specify)

5.6. I am currently operating my social venture as a *

We don't require your social venture to have a specific legal structure. If you have not yet incorporated your social venture, you can select 'no legal structure'.

If you have more than one legal structure (e.g. a charitable foundation with a trading arm), please select the option from which your venture receives most of its traded income.



5.7. My social venture was incorporated on: *

Please enter the date that you incorporated your social venture, found on your certificate of incorporation, or on Companies House/Charity Commission website.

If you are currently operating as a sole trader, or have not yet incorporated, please enter the date you started your social venture.

5.8. Company or Charity Number:

Enter your company or charity number, found on your certificate of incorporation or on Companies House/Charity Commission website.

If you are currently operating as a sole trader, or have not yet incorporated, you can leave this blank.

6. Social venture: impact & inclusion

In this section we would like to understand the social or environmental issue you are addressing. We'd also like to understand the positive changes you plan to create and how you will do this.

6.1. What is the social or environmental issue you are addressing? *

Your response could include:

- Your understanding of the issue
- Who it affects and how (e.g. the number of people and/or demographics)
- The scale of the issue (e.g. is it a local or national issue?)
- The impact of the issue in the short-term and long-term

It would help to include some data. This could be evidence from your own research or testing.

Maximum 2,000 characters

6.2. How are you currently tackling the social or environmental issue and what are your future plans? *

Your response could include:

- The services or products you offer or plan to offer
- A timeline of key activities
- The people or partners you involve in your work (e.g. a local authority, NHS provider or community organisation)
- Your team (e.g. your staff, volunteers, or your governance structure)

Maximum 2,000 characters

6.3. What impact have you made to date, and what impact do you hope to create in the future?

We would like to understand the positive changes your work creates for people or the environment.

Your response could include:

- Both short term and the long-term impact of your work
- How frequently and for how long you work with people
- Information or insights that show your work is making an impact and how you collect this data

Maximum 2,000 characters

6.4. In the last 12 months, how many individual people have benefitted directly from the products, services or interventions offered by your social venture? *

We would like to understand how many people your social venture has impacted directly in the last 12 months. By individual people we mean that if a person has, for example, attended three workshops they should only count once in your total.

This number should not include wider audiences such as social media followers, unless you are providing a material and direct benefit to each.

If your venture has not benefitted anyone yet, please enter '0'.

6.5. In the next 12 months, how many individual people do you expect will benefit directly from the products, services or interventions offered by your social venture? *

We would like to understand how many people your social venture will impact directly in the next 12 months. By individual people we mean that if a person will, for example, attend three workshops they should only count once in your total.

This number should not include wider audiences such as social media followers, unless you are providing a material and direct benefit to each.

6.6. You can use this space to explain how you arrived at these figures

Maximum 2,000 characters

6.7. How do you ensure that your work is accessible and inclusive? *

Your response could include:

- How you reach the people who are most affected by the social or environmental issue you are addressing
- How you involve the people who are most affected in the design or planning of your social venture or decision-making processes
- How your hiring processes are inclusive and the diversity of your team and/or Board

Maximum 2,000 characters

7. Social venture: sustainability

In this section we would like to understand how you plan to make money and grow the impact of your social venture.

7.1. How do you generate income to keep your social venture going?

We want to understand your business model, by which we mean what products or services you are planning to sell or how you plan to make money.

Your response could include:

- Who your customers are
- What you sell
- How you know there is a demand, and that people will continue to pay
- How you cover the costs of your activities
- Any other ways you are planning to bring money in

Maximum 2,000 characters

7.2. What is your turnover to date? *

Tell us the amount of money your social venture has made so far. As you have told us you have been trading for under a year, we expect this will be the amount of money you have made in the past 12 months or less.

This figure should include grants as well as income from trading (selling goods or services).

If you have not made any money yet, please enter '0'.

7.3. Looking at your turnover to date, how much of the money made was traded income? *

By 'traded income' we mean the money your social venture makes through sales of goods, or services. We use this information to assess how sustainable your venture is and how it avoids relying on grants or donations.

Traded income can include:

- Direct sales, such as the sale of food, clothing, tickets, classes, and workshops
- Rental income or housing benefit
- Sales of donated goods
- Contracts for the delivery of services to other organisations (this includes contracts delivered through local authorities or public bodies)
- Service Level Agreements or similar arrangements with public authorities, for the delivery of specific projects

If you have not made any money yet, please enter '0'.

7.4. Over the next 12 months, how do you plan to grow your social venture? *

Your response could include:

- New geographies or beneficiary groups
- New business opportunities
- Products or services you want to develop or expand
- Any other goals/growth plans

Maximum 2,000 characters

8. Funding request

In this section, we would like to understand how much money you would like to apply for and what you would spend it on, over the 12-month Award period.

8.1. Please tell us the amount you are applying for from UnLtd: *

You can apply for up to £8,000. £500 of this must be allocated to enable participation in UnLtd events and workshops. Please note that the amount you apply for does not affect the outcome of your application.

8.2. Please list what you would spend the Award on over the 12-month Award period and how much you would spend on each item. The total must match the amount you are applying for. *

We would like to understand your social venture costs. When planning your budget please bear in mind that an UnLtd Award can only be used to cover costs after the approval date. Any costs you incur before this date cannot count towards Award expenditure. We may ask you for more detail if your application progresses.

UnLtd Awards can be used primarily for running costs, but we will consider reasonable requests for capital items (fixed assets such as equipment). Conditions will apply to any individual items that cost over £1,000.

£500 of your budget must be allocated to enable participation in UnLtd events and workshops.

Examples of the types of costs you could use an UnLtd Award to pay for:

- Company formation and registration fees
- Insurance
- Enhanced disclosures and safeguarding costs
- IT costs (conditions will apply to IT hardware items over £1,000)
- Printing, advertising, and publicity
- Venue and equipment hire
- Materials
- Travel and subsistence
- Volunteer expenses
- Mentoring and support

- Sessional and freelance costs
- Minor repairs, decoration, or the installation of minor fixes

This type of UnLtd Award cannot be used to pay for:

- Living costs, paying yourself, or staff on payroll
- Capital works; such as the acquisition, development, or structural improvement of land or buildings (including semi-permanent structures)
- The purchase of vehicles such as a car or van (we will consider the purchase of a bicycle(s) which is not for personal use)
- Loans or interest payments
- Contingency funds or amounts for general expenses where the intended use of funds is not clear
- Funding activities outside the law, against public policy or anything that fosters ethnic, religious, or commercial disharmony
- Funding to undertake formal qualifications (but can be used to provide short-term training if critical to the success of the venture)
- Funding to employ others to undertake the bulk of the award activity
- Costs incurred prior to receiving an Award approval from us

Value for money and transparency:

We expect Award Winners to ensure they are getting value for money; this may mean obtaining more than one quote for the supply of goods and services, using price comparisons, or considering alternatives where feasible. When using funds to pay others (such as sessional or freelance workers) Award Winners must avoid conflicts of interest, such as paying members of immediate family or household. Approval must be sought if you think a conflict of interest exists. We may ask you for more detail on your costs if your application progresses.

In relation to assets costing £1,000 or more they will remain UnLtd's property unless we agree otherwise, and at the end of your venture you must dispose of them as required by UnLtd. If disposal of assets gives rise to any income, we may seek repayment of the whole, or any portion of that income. Assets must only be used for the purposes of the venture. Unless we request disposal, at the end of your venture you will undertake to ensure that any assets will only be used for charitable purposes. If we end our agreement before completion of your venture, we may keep any of the assets.**

Maximum 2,000 characters

9. References

The people you name here should have known you for a minimum of six months and should be aware of your plans for your venture. At least one should know you in a professional capacity (such as an employer, teacher, or colleague); the second can be a character/personal referee. To avoid processing delays, please ensure that you enter the email addresses correctly.

We may contact your referees; but we will only do so at the stage the Award has been approved and we will inform you

before contacting them.

9.1. Person 1 - Full Name *

9.2. Person 1 - Email *

9.3. Person 1 - Relationship *



9.4. Person 2 - Full Name *

9.5. Person 2 - Email *

9.6. Person 2 - Relationship *



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