

VINCI UK Foundation opens applications for 2020 funding to charities tackling social exclusion

The VINCI UK Foundation invites charities across the UK and Republic of Ireland to apply for grants that will help them improve access to employment, mobility and housing for people suffering from social exclusion.



Charities promoting social cohesion and fighting exclusion have until 31st March 2020 to submit their applications via the [VINCI Foundation website](#) for grants – ranging from £3,000 to £20,000.

Grants may be used to purchase or upgrade transport, equipment and facilities to help the charities in their efforts to alleviate social exclusion and strengthen communities.

Successful applications will also receive the support of VINCI sponsor, an employee from a local VINCI business who will donate some of their time and practical expertise to the project.

Businesses offering sponsorship include VINCI Energies UK & RoI, VINCI Construction UK, VINCI Construction Grands Projets, VINCI Concessions, Bachy Soletanche, Eurovia, Freyssinet and Nuvia.

The main [selection criterion](#) is that charities operate in one of four areas:

- Access to employment – helping those currently excluded from the job market to adapt to the working world, while also receiving training and support.
- Inclusive mobility – improving the mobility of those deprived of means of transportation, providing them with better access to employment, healthcare and education.

- Insertion through housing – enabling access to housing for the most under-privileged individuals, providing them with greater security and stability.

- Building better communities – strengthening social links and fighting social isolation for those living in difficult areas.

If in doubt, prospective applicants can complete a simple [eligibility test](#) on the VINCI UK Foundation website.

Example projects that received support from the VINCI UK Foundation in 2019 include:

- **Blind in Business** – Sponsored by Eurovia, Blind in Business offers training and employment services to blind and partially-sighted people, helping them to enter the world of work and achieve their career ambitions. The charity was awarded £5,353 to purchase specialist new IT equipment for its London-based Access Technology Suite.

- **Rural Urban Synthesis Society (RUSS)** – Sponsored by Bachy Soletanche, RUSS is a community land trust in south London, aiming to create sustainable neighbourhoods and affordable homes. The trust was awarded £6,000 to help volunteers build London’s first training facility for community self-builders on land set aside in Ladywell, Lewisham, for a new 33-home affordable self-build housing project.

- **Telford Young Carers Service** – Sponsored by Freyssinet, Telford Young Carers Service provides advice and support for young carers aged 5-18. The Shropshire-based charity received a £9,699 grant for its Access to Life project, which aims to provide respite for young carers in the area, engage them in fun activities, help them discover new interests and make new friends.

Since it was established in 2016, the VINCI UK Foundation has supported 97 charities, awarding a total of £767k in grants.

Ruth Ottley, head coordinator of the VINCI UK Foundation says: “The projects we support have transformed the lives of so many vulnerable people in the UK and Republic of Ireland and I am proud of the achievements our financial and practical contributions have made. I would encourage any charities tackling social exclusion to consider applying for funding from the VINCI UK Foundation. Together we can make a real difference.”

More details can be found at www.vinci-uk-foundation.co.uk.

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