



UK SEARCH AND RESCUE VOLUNTEER TRAINING FUND

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Aims

The aim of the UKSAR Volunteer Training Fund is to assist SAR volunteering, by providing support for the costs of volunteers' operational training, to help improve safety and the quality of UKSAR services.

Who can apply for funding?

UK charitable search and rescue organisations seeking support to train their volunteers.

Umbrella organisations may make global applications to the Fund for their affiliated groups.

- Association of Lowland Search and Rescue
- British Cave Rescue Council
- Scottish Mountain Rescue
- Mountain Rescue England and Wales
- Royal Lifesaving Society UK

If you are affiliated to one of these SAR bodies, you may wish to contact them to discuss how they can incorporate your training needs into the application for funds, or review your application prior to the deadline. If you are affiliated to more than one body, please select one of them to apply through.

If you are not affiliated to one of these SAR bodies, and meet the eligibility criteria for application, you will be able to apply on an individual organisational basis.

Eligibility criteria

Eligible organisations may be either well-established or newer teams, but are those which:

- provide both search and rescue services as part of their core activities
- can show their activities are tasked by the relevant statutory authority or, for flood, are on the national or community asset register
- is provided on a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week basis (where appropriate)
- can prove that their training requirements reflect a confirmed operational need in their local area
- are a constituted organisation in the UK with a charitable governance document

Priorities of the Fund

The UKSAR Volunteer Training Fund will prioritise applications for support which demonstrate:

- strategic and sustainable training opportunities for their volunteers
- high quality operational search and rescue training.
- good value for money
- collaborative approaches, ie several organisations /branches can apply within one application
- innovative, replicable approaches to training, with high community and organisational impact
- incorporate wellbeing into the training activities provided, as appropriate

Strong applications will demonstrate how the training will impact both the capability of the organisation and its volunteers, and reflect the proven operational need in the local area.

What costs will the UKSAR Volunteer Training Fund cover?

The fund can be used for the costs of operational training for SAR volunteers in the UK.

This training must directly correlate with specific operational needs in the local area. Costs may be incurred by individuals, SAR units, or umbrella SAR bodies and may cover, but not be limited to, individuals paying for courses, administration costs incurred by a SAR organisation providing a course, the cost of hiring external trainers, volunteers' travel costs and accommodation in some circumstances and the costs of training equipment (eg dummies or training defibrillators).

We encourage collaborative approaches where joint training with other organisations could demonstrate increased impact on more volunteers and better value for money.

The Fund supports UK SAR activities. It will not support any training intended for overseas search and rescue work. We would expect as a rule any training supported by the Fund to be undertaken in the UK, unless there is an exceptional reason why this training needs to be undertaken overseas.

The fund can support up to 80% of the training costs. The applicant organisation must commit and contribute at least 20% of the total training cost. This can be sourced from any other funding or organisational reserves.

What size are the grants?

There is no upper limit, though expectations are for support to be from £1,000 upwards depending on need, scale and impact. The decision making process will review value for money to ensure that funds are used effectively.

What will it not fund?

- Non-charitable organisations
- Organisations outside the UK
- Organisations not working in the search and rescue sector and/or not recognised as viable SAR assets
- Applications not focused on operational volunteer training needs
- Applications where the request or amount required are unrealistic
- Applications from individuals
- Equipment not directly related to the provision of training
- Organisations seeking over 80% of the total training cost
- Training in the operation of drones

We ask you to prioritise your training needs into 3 different categories. This will be specific to your SAR team and should reflect the operational needs in your area. One way of considering this is:

- **Existing:** essential volunteer training to meet existing SAR needs
- **Developing:** essential for the skills development of the team
- **Innovating:** training that is not essential to maintain current SAR activities, but would enable teams to innovate their practice or develop their scope

We would expect that, prior to an application, any operational equipment or assets required to implement the training/learning are already in place. For example if you are applying for members of your team to gain DEFRA Flood Rescue Concept of Operations Module 3 (Water Rescue Technician) training, the expectation would be that your organisation already has access to boats, ropes and appropriate rescue equipment.

Funds are to be spent within 12 months of receiving the grant, unless there is a specific justification for a longer timeframe.

FAQ

What do you mean by search and rescue?

Search and rescue operations use available personnel and facilities to locate persons in distress, potential distress or missing. They also recover them, providing initial medical or other needs and deliver them to a place of safety.

Search and rescue organisations should be recognised as viable SAR assets by the relevant statutory bodies (either the Police or the Coastguard) or flood assets must be on the national or community asset register.

What is a search and rescue volunteer?

An operational search and rescue (SAR) volunteer is a person who, of their own free will, and without expectation of profit, gives their time, effort and skill in responding to emergencies by carrying out lifesaving SAR operations, as required 24/7, as part of an organisation recognised by the statutory authorities.

Do we need to be a registered charity?

No, you do not need to be registered as a charity to apply for a grant. Applications will be considered from any organisation whose mission has charitable purpose, and which has governing documents outlining this. This helps us to check your organisation's eligibility to receive a grant.

If you are not a registered charity, you will need to complete CAF's Grant Eligibility Application form. This will be sent to you if required.

Should we send you our application directly?

If you are affiliated to an umbrella body, your bid must come from that body in a consolidated application, or your umbrella body must contact us to approve your application is valid.

If you are not affiliated to a SAR umbrella body, please complete your application via the online portal.

Can a group of organisations apply?

Yes, though we will only need to see and receive one application. All groups concerned will need to identify a lead who will complete one consolidated application. Each organisation will be listed with a summary of their priority areas of training. If successful, the grant will be paid to a lead organisation identified on the application form. All organisations involved must be charitable organisations. We would look favourably on applications where training can reach other organisations and where the cost is reduced by this more collaborative training approach.

Can I apply as an individual volunteer or do I need an organisation?

You will need an organisation or charitable group to apply on your behalf.

I've already received funding from another Central Government fund. Can I still apply?

Yes, however the Central Government funding should not be supporting the initiative you are applying for already (unless it is providing the 20% match funding required).

Can we include volunteers' travel costs in our application?

Yes, you can apply for funds for direct training and additional costs that may be associated with this including travel and accommodation costs if the training is far distant from your base. Please ensure this is detailed in your application and is proportionate.

Is there any requirement to match fund (or provide own organisation funds)?

Yes. All organisations must provide 20% of the funds required of the total training cost. These funds can be provided from any source.

Can we apply for costs that have already taken place?

No, expenditure must take place in the 12 months after the grant is paid (ie, April 2020-March 2021).

Can we apply for funding for equipment?

Only equipment that relates directly to the provision of training for volunteers (eg training dummies/ defibrillators) will be supported by this fund. Broader operational equipment and running costs will not be supported.

Can this fund support our business development or other activities?

No. The fund is purely to support volunteer training for operational search and rescue purposes only.

What happens if we don't provide a support letter from the appropriate tasking authority?

Applications that are not accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation will not be considered by the Grant Making Advisory Panel.

Is the deadline final?

Yes, please make sure you get your application submitted to us by the deadline shown in the guidance. There is one deadline per year.

How do you decide who receives funds?

Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) will review each application against the published criteria and prioritise these. The UKSAR VTF Grant Making Advisory Panel, made up of statutory organisations and those outside of the application process, assess each request against the published criteria.

We've received a training grant but it's less than we requested. Why?

The funds available are not sufficient to support all organisations. During the decision making process it may be decided to provide part-funding, or that only some training needs can be supported in some cases. This may depend on the proven training needs and the impact of the activities. There are no guarantees of support, even if an organisation has received funding in previous years.

What happens if an organisation is funded?

A grant offer will be made and once this is accepted by the grantee, funds will be forwarded by BACS directly to their organisation's bank account. It is intended that this will happen in April 2020. If an organisation is offered funding, but is not a registered charity, further due diligence checks will take place before the funding can be confirmed.

In the event that the grant is under-spent, not used for the intended purpose, or not used within the intended time period, we reserve the right to reclaim all or part of the grant funds.

Funded organisations will be expected to complete an impact monitoring form as a condition of receiving the grant.

What happens if an organisation is not funded?

If an organisation is not offered funding via this programme, they will be informed and general feedback offered.

Can we re-apply next year?

Yes, we welcome further applications regardless of whether you have been successful or unsuccessful with previous requests. We aim to provide constructive feedback to enhance and develop your next application.

Timescales

Deadline for applications: midnight Monday 23 September 2019

Notification of grant decision: end of November 2019

Grant payment: April 2020

Training completed / grant spent: March 2021

How to apply

If you apply for this grant programme, you will be directed via CAF's carefully selected service provider (Buzzacott) to enter your details on the UKSAR Volunteer Training Fund online application form. Your data will only be used for the purposes of the programme. CAF will act as data controller for the purposes of your data. Please refer to [CAF's privacy policy](#) and [Buzzacott's privacy policy](#) for more information on how your data will be used.

The online application form for the UKSAR Volunteer Training Fund can be found [here](#).

To access the application form, which is hosted via CAF's online grant making portal, you will be asked to log in (if you have applied before via the portal) or to register, using your email address and a password of your choice.

If you wish to share your part-completed application with colleagues (eg to review it prior to submitting it), you can do so via the 'email draft' button on the top right hand corner of any page of the form. Similarly, you can work on the application over a number of days and save it each time, and you can also print a draft at any time.

When you have already started your application, you must log in and return to a saved application [here](#).

If you have any difficulties in accessing the online portal, please contact us via the details below.

Contact us

Grantmaking
Charities Aid Foundation
T: 03000 123 334
E: uksar@cafonline.org

UKSAR Volunteer Training Fund
CAF Grantmaking team
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
ME19 4TA

Registered charity number 268369