



Llywodraeth Cymru Welsh Government

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE (VAWDASV) CAPITAL GRANT

Guidance for Grant Applicants

2025-26

Background:

The Welsh Government's VAWDASV Capital Grant supports capital projects relating to violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWDASV). This includes funding to statutory and voluntary organisations which is directed towards delivering the objectives of the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 ("the Act") as set out in the [Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence: strategy 2022 to 2026 \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#) Applications for project proposals are being invited for a share of the VAWDASV Capital Grant funding budget for 2025-26 (only).

Grant's are available at two levels: small grants under £50,000 and larger grants of up to £350,000.

Please read the following guidance and Frequently Asked Questions carefully before/during completion of the application forms.

Who can apply?

- **Third sector organisations** - voluntary sector organisation. For example a community group, a registered charity or a social enterprise.
- **Local Authorities**
- **Health Boards**
- **Other Public body**

We will **not** accept applications from Private sector organisations and businesses.

Aims of the grant:

The capital project concept must fit within Welsh Government priorities, as outlined in [National Strategy 2022 - 2026](#) which outlines the **six key objectives** as follows:-

Objective 1

Challenge the public attitude to violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence across the Welsh population through awareness raising and space for public discussion with the aim to decrease its occurrence.

Objective 2

Increase awareness in children, young people and adults of the importance of safe, equal and healthy relationships and empowering them to positive personal choices.

Objective 3

Increase the focus on holding those who commit abuse to account and supporting those who may carry out abusive or violent behaviour to change their behaviour and avoid offending.

Objective 4

Make early intervention and prevention a priority.

Objective 5

Relevant professionals are trained to provide effective, timely and appropriate responses to victims and survivors.

Objective 6

Provide all victims with equal access to appropriately resourced, high quality, needs-led, strength-based, inter-sectional and responsive services across Wales. [VAWDASV \(Wales\) Act 2015: Guidance for Local Strategies](#) which is to improve arrangements for the prevention protection and support of victims.

Subsidy Control

You must ensure that the use of the Funding is compatible with the Subsidy Control Act 2022 and scheme ref SC10869 and the applicable agreements contained in the World Trade Organisation rules, UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement and any Free Trade Agreement involving the UK and the Northern Ireland Protocol. Please see the link below for further information on State Aid:

Subsidy Control Act 2022 pursuant to scheme ref no.

Full details of the Scheme can be found at:

[GOV.UK - Public user search subsidy scheme details page \(beis.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/public/user-search-subsidy-scheme-details-page)

What we are looking to fund:

The VAWDASV grant is a capital only grant scheme. **Capital** means asset purchase, physical works, and professional fees directly related to the physical works (including non-recoverable VAT). Grants are available for the following types of projects:-

1. Purchase of property

- Acquire additional community-based disbursed units and/or move-on accommodation which can better meet the needs of families where emergency accommodation in the form of refuge may not be appropriate.
- Acquisition of an asset to meet the needs of the service users, which will provide benefit for more than a 5–10 year term.

2. Refurbishment projects

- Refurbishment and adaptations to ensure services are inclusive, accessible by all and meet the needs of the population.
- Refurbishment work to alternative refuge and move on provision upgrades.
- Refurbishment work to office spaces used by service users.
- One-stop-shop services (tackling perpetration and victim support).
- Updating existing areas for example, child friendly spaces.

3. Target Hardening projects

- Critical target hardening items for high-risk victims.

4. Improving and upgrading service user spaces and equipment

- Improving access and service user areas to provide equal access.
- Digital and IT equipment if supporting service users.

The funding cannot be used for:-

- Staff costs and other operating costs.
- Professional fees.
- Leases.
- Items which are deemed employers' responsibility.
- Promotional or advertising materials such as pens, posters, wristbands.
- Replacement of small appliances and furniture through normal wear and tear.
- VAT for VAT registered organisations (VAT registration status should be stated in the bid application).

The Capital project must be completed in the 2025-26 financial year.

Application Process:

There are two types of application forms available:

- Small grants of up to £50,000
- Larger grants of up to £350,000.

As the available funding is limited, grants will be assessed in line with the process below and we will seek the views of your region to prioritise projects that best meet the six key objectives set out in the National Strategy. In order to achieve this, it would be good practice to discuss your application with your Regional Advisor prior to submitting your application. When returning your application, you **MUST** also send a copy to your Regional Advisor for consideration.

Further details of each category are below. In each case, the application form will test the eligibility of the organisation and ensure that the proposals fit with the VAWDASV Grant criteria listed above.

The forms allow applicants to tell us about the project and what it hopes to achieve. Please keep to the word limits, as this will help us to process applications as quickly as possible.

From 2025/26 the programme will offer payment in advance to third sector organisations **ONLY** that meet the Welsh Government's criteria of financial need. If you are a third sector organisation and wish your application to be considered for payment in advance, please respond yes to the question on the application form. Should your application be approved for funding, officials will be in touch so that the assessment for financial need can begin.

Applications can be submitted in Welsh or English.

Collaborative approaches and bids are encouraged providing they comply with the guidance.

- **Applications for Small grants of up to £50,000**

The application form for the under £50,000 grant is designed to be relatively simple. We want to enable all types of organisations, whatever their capacity, to access this level of funding.

We aim to provide a response to all under £50,000 applications within 90 working days of the deadline. This may not always be possible and will depend on the volume of applications. **We do not expect to have sufficient budget to cover all fundable applications.** Please ensure you follow the guidance in respect of quotations/valuations to be provided. Failure to provide these will deem your application invalid.

Please be advised a deviation from your original proposal during the financial year is unlikely to be agreed.

- **Applications for Larger grants of up to £350,000, minimum of £50,001**

The application process for the larger grants requires a full application, as this is usually required for the purchase of buildings or their refurbishment.

Photographs showing the internal and external views of facility are useful during assessment and should be submitted electronically (if available).

We will seek to register a legal charge on any facility funded by the Programme which is owned by the applicant. This charge allows us to recoup funding if there are serious issues in which the funding is not being used as intended. You can request the charge is removed 10 years following the completion of the grant funded work.

Any works necessary for the delivery of a project must be properly procured and care must be taken to ensure that all procurement exercises are fair, open and are undertaken in a manner that is ethical, sustainable, accountable and compliant with procedural, legal and international obligations.

Evidence of the procurement process will be required during the appraisal of a full application.

The Welsh Government will monitor the delivery of all successful applications under the VAWDASV grant as part of the financial claim process.

You may wish to consider and include alternative project suggestions either on varying financial scales, or alternative options. For example, "if we were to receive x amount we would be able to achieve y, or if this amount was not available, but 50% was, then we would be able to achieve z.

Example 1: We require £50k to refurbish 20 flats which require new paint work and furniture. However, if this is unavailable, we can refurbish 1 flat at the cost of 2.5k per unit.

Example 2: We require 5 fire safety doors at the value of 25k, however, critically we require 2 fire safety doors in service user areas, without which the areas are no longer safe to use. This would cost £10k.

Please be advised a deviation from your original proposal during the financial year is unlikely to be agreed.

Supporting Documentation:

All applications must be accompanied by the applicant's latest annual accounts where these are available. We recognise that some newly formed organisations may not yet have this information. In these cases, applications should include financial projections.

Both types of applications must provide copies of quotes for the activity/item:-

- Projects/items less than £5k – one quote
- Projects and/or items between £5k - £25k – 3 quotes from 3 different suppliers
- Projects over £25k – Copy of organisation procurement policy and confirmation this has been followed

To note: Failure to provide evidence of the quotes/organisation procurement policy, will result in applications being denied.

Applications must be submitted in full to the CSJ.Finance@gov.wales by **15th November 11.59pm 2024**. We are not able to accept late applications.

Assessment of bids

Welsh Government officials will assess applications to check that all information is provided (**We will not accept incomplete applications**).

Achieving the minimum score for applications will not guarantee a grant will be awarded. The highest scoring applications will be funded first which will also be based on regional feedback and, the number of applications attracting funding will depend on the amount of funding available and the volume of applications received.

Your applications will need to be sent to your regional VAWDASV advisors who will prioritise projects in order of need. Welsh Government officials will then score the projects against the following criteria to determine whether they fit with the aims of the VAWDASV capital grant:

There may not be sufficient funding to fund all projects that meet the criteria. If more eligible projects are submitted than funding available those best meeting the criteria will be funded.

Applications will be assessed against the following priority areas:-

<u>Assessment Area</u>	<u>Priority (1 highest priority)</u>
About your Project	4
Evidence of Need	4
Welsh Government Priorities	3
Meeting the needs of all groups of people	1
Wellbeing of Future generations Act	5
Delivery of Project	2
Project costs/Value for Money	3
Governance	5

Applications will be discussed with regional VAWDASV advisors and a panel of Welsh Government officials will provide advice to Welsh Ministers regarding the projects to be funded.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

New data protection legislation, the GDPR, has been introduced. As a result, we've published a Grants Privacy Notice to make it easier for you to find out how we use and protect your information within the Welsh Government, when you enquire about or apply for funding. We won't be changing the way we use your personal information, but the notice will provide you with additional details such as:

- Your increased rights in relation to the information we hold about you
- The legal grounds for how we use your information

The Grants Privacy Notice will apply to any grants or funding we provide to you.

How to find out more

The [Grants Privacy Notice](#) makes sure we continue to comply with privacy law and regulation.

If you have any question or require any further help please contact us at: DataProtectionOfficer@gov.wales.

Additional Information

Annex A (below) contains a list of frequently asked questions you may find useful when completing your application.

Annex B contains a checklist for submission with applications.

Annex A - Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. What is the minimum/maximum grant available from the VAWDASV Grant?

Grants are available at two levels:

- Small grants of up to £50,000
- Larger grants of up to £350,000, minimum of £50,001.

Q2. What is the application process?

- There are two types of applications available; Applications for Small grants of up to £50,000 and a full Application for larger grants of up to £350,000.
- Applications are a formal written request in which organisations are asked to set out the details and information about their proposed activity including their objectives and grant funding requirements.

Q3. Can I get help in filling out my application?

The County Voluntary Councils (CVCs) are often able to provide funding advice. While they cannot guarantee developmental support to every applicant they will provide as much help as time and resources allow.

You can find your local CVC by consulting the Wales Council for Voluntary Action website at:

<https://thirdsectorsupport.wales/contact-us/>

Q4. What can be funded?

Capital grants are available for the following types of projects:-

1. Purchase of property

- Acquisition of a sustainable asset to meet the needs of the service users, which will provide benefit for more than a 5–10 year term.

2. Refurbishment projects

- Refurbishment and adaptations to ensure services are inclusive, accessible by all and meet the needs of the population.
- Refurbishment work to current alternative refuge space and move on provision upgrades.
- Refurbishment work to office spaces used by service users.

3. Service improvement projects

- Service improvements to working with Children and Young people, as victims and as those who use harmful behaviour.
- One-stop-shop services (tackling perpetration and victim support)

4. Victim safety projects

5. Improving and upgrading service user spaces and equipment

- Improving access and service user areas to provide equal access.
- Digital and IT equipment if supporting service users.

Capital means asset purchase, physical works, and professional fees directly related to the physical works (including non-recoverable VAT).

The purchase of equipment is eligible where a project includes the fitting out of a new facility such as a kitchen or IT suite. We will **not** cover the costs for specialist office equipment, such as chairs, mouse etc for non service users.

NB: Independent valuation fees and architect fees can be included as an eligible capital cost as long as they form part of the necessary capital project activity.

Any potential requests for funding which fall outside of this list (excluding the categories we will not fund - below) should be raised with the Welsh Government) before an application is submitted.

Q5. What cannot be funded under the VAWDASV capital grant?

We will not fund revenue expenditure such as:

- Staff costs and other operating costs
- Professional fees such as solicitors' fees
- Fees, for example land registry, planning
- Leases
- Items which are deemed employers' responsibility such as specialist office chairs, developing a business plan, feasibility study; a design only project.
- Promotional or advertising materials such as pens, posters, wristbands.
- Replacement of small appliances and furniture through normal wear and tear.
- Postage, packaging, shipping and carriage costs
- VAT for VAT registered organisations (VAT registration status should be stated in the bid application).

The VAWDASV grant will not consider retrospective applications i.e. where work has been started prior to funding being awarded by a grant offer letter.

Q6. How will payments be made?

Payments will be made in arrears, unless requested by a third sector organisation, on production of all invoices accompanied by necessary evidence.

All expenditure **must** be incurred by 31 March 2026. **Purchases made after 31 March 2026 will not be eligible for reimbursement.** Welsh Government will accept invoices dated after 31 March 2026, providing the purchases have been made prior to the 1 April 2026. Payment will not be granted for any purchases made outside the 2025-26 financial year.

Q7. Can I apply for payment in advance?

Only third sector organisations can apply for payment in advance. There is no guarantee this will be granted as the organisation must meet the Welsh Government's financial need criteria. If you wish to be considered for payment in advance, you must notify us on the application form. Should your application be successful, officials will be in touch to start the financial need assessment process.

Q8. When will I know the outcome of my application?

We will acknowledge receipt of applications within 48 hours (during business hours). Applicants will be informed of the outcome of full applications as soon as is possible.

For general queries please use the CSJ.Finance@gov.wales mailbox

Annex B - Checklist for submitting Applications

To ensure that decision can be made in a timely manner, you will need to provide the following documentation along with your application:

Documents required for assessment process	Confirm documents included Yes / No
Fully completed application form for small grants under £50k Or Fully completed Full application form for larger grants of up to £350,000, minimum of £50,001.	
Additional documentation such as your organisation's latest Audited Accounts or Business Plan	
<p>Quotes</p> <p>For projects with value of less than 5k - one quote from supplier will be required with the application.</p> <p>For projects or items with values between 5k to 25k - three quotes from different suppliers will be required with the application e.g. for a project with a total value of £24k and one or more items cost £5.5k each, we would require three quotes for each of these items.</p> <p>Over 25k confirmation of the applicants own procurement process for company purchases over 25k will be required with the application – this will need to be approved by Welsh Government financial operations team.</p> <p>All quotes must be in writing and contain suppliers' commercial identification e.g. headed paper, quotation with company logo.</p> <p>Failure to submit quotations/valuations will deem the application invalid</p>	

Please send completed application and additional documents electronically to CSJ.finance@gov.wales

The closing date for receipt of the - capital application is 11:59pm 15th November 2024. Electronic signed copies of the application are sufficient, hard copies are not required.