

Press Release

19 June 2025

The Fore
V107, Vox Studios
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thefore.org

Title: The Fore Increases Maximum Grant Size to £52k as Small Charities Face Rising Costs

UK's only venture philanthropy fund dedicated to small charities and social enterprises raises support package value by 44% to help organisations unlock their full potential.

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The Fore, the UK's only venture philanthropy fund dedicated to small charities, today announced it will increase the maximum value of its support package from £36k to £52k for grantees from Autumn 2025. The uplift reflects rising costs of living. It ensures The Fore's offer remains differentiated and impactful for high-potential small charities and social enterprises. The announcement marks the end of Small Charities Week. It comes ahead of the opening of The Fore's next round of grants on 22 July 2025.

The enhanced support package will include up to £45k in unrestricted grant funding. This is increased from £30k and spread over 1–3 years. It also includes £7k worth of non-financial support. This covers upskilling opportunities, access to expertise via The Fore's Pro Bono Network, workshop programmes, peer support groups, and impact measurement training.

The decision comes as The Fore's research shows increasing demand for higher grant values. Between 2012 and 2016, only 29% of grants were awarded at the maximum £30k level. By 2022, this had risen to 52%. By July 2024, 81% of funded organisations requested the maximum amount. This indicates that the previous ceiling was limiting organisations' transformational aspirations.

Market Context Drives Change

The original £30k maximum was established in 2012. It was based on covering one year's salary for an experienced staff member. However, the ongoing cost-of-living crisis has rendered this amount insufficient for the same purpose.

Proven Track Record

The Fore's approach has demonstrated exceptional results. Benchmarking analysis shows that three years post-grant, the median income of The Fore's supported charities is double that of comparable organisations that did not receive funding. This highlights both The Fore's ability to identify high-potential small charities and the effectiveness of its wraparound support model.

The Fore is a charitable
incorporated organisation,
registered charity number
1204122

Registered office:
V107 Vox Studios, 1-45 Durham
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The Fore Trust
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under Company Number 6510777

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The Fore supports small charities and social enterprises with a turnover under £500k. It focuses on organisations with exceptional leadership that demonstrate potential for significant growth and impact.

Quote from Mary Rose Gunn – Founder and CEO, The Fore:
Why now, support from partners

Quote from Mike Tye – Chair, The Fore:
Support the increase and thanks to partners for making this possible.

Quote from Jo Jeffries – Consultant and Founder of 'The List':
Welcomed during this time of crisis for grantgiving organisations, support for the process?

END

Notes to editors:

The Fore is the only venture philanthropy fund in the UK backing the best small charities and social enterprises.

- The Fore's portfolio organisations consistently outperform their peers in terms of growth and sustainability.
- The new £52k support package (£45k financial + £7k non-financial) represents a 44% increase from the previous £36k total.
- The uplift will take effect from the Autumn 2025 funding round.
- The Fore supports charities and social enterprises with annual turnover under £500k.
- The next round of grants opens on 22 July 2025.

For further information, visit: <https://thefore.org>