npower Business Solutions (nBS) Foundation

A guide to preparing a strong application



MAKING MEANINGFUL CHANGE HAPPEN

npower Business Solutions powered by e·on

FOUNDATION

A guide to preparing a strong application

Every quarter, we review applications from organisations working hard to make a positive difference in their communities. While no two projects are the same, the strongest applications usually have a few things in common.

To help you prepare your application, we have outlined the key areas our panel considers when reviewing funding requests. This guidance will help you explain the need for your project, the impact it could have, and how funding would support delivery.



What our panel looks for

Clearly explain the need

Tell us:

- What problem you are trying to solve
- Why the project is needed now
- What evidence supports the need
- What could happen if the project does not go ahead

Strong applications make a clear link between a local challenge and the solution being proposed.



Let beneficiaries tell the story

Some of the strongest applications include the voices of the people who would benefit from the funding.

Where appropriate, include:

- Testimonials from beneficiaries
- Quotes from staff or volunteers
- Feedback from families, community members or service users
- Real examples of the challenges your project is addressing

Hearing directly from the people affected helps the panel understand the impact behind the funding request.



Show us the numbers

A strong idea is more compelling when it is backed by clear evidence.

Try to include:

- The number of people who would benefit directly
- The wider impact on your community
- Current challenges or demand for your service
- Measurable outcomes you hope to achieve

The more specific you are, the easier it is for the panel to understand the impact of your project.

Instead of: “This project would support local young people.”

Consider: “Over the course of 12 months, this project would provide mentoring, skills workshops and work experience opportunities for 120 young people.”



Include quotes or cost estimates

If you are applying for equipment, building improvements, electric vehicles (EVs), technology or other purchases, supplier quotes can be very helpful.

Providing accurate costs helps us understand:

- How the funding would be used
- Whether the budget is realistic
- How any remaining project costs would be covered
- Whether there are any funding gaps

A well-planned budget gives the panel greater confidence that the project could be delivered successfully.



Demonstrate lasting impact

We want to understand what happens after the funding has been used.

Consider explaining:

- How the project would continue beyond the funding period
- Whether it would create long-term community benefits
- How success would be measured
- How you plan to sustain or build on the project in the future



Be realistic and transparent

If your project has risks, dependencies or additional funding requirements, it is better to explain them openly.

Transparency helps us understand:

- How well the project has been planned
- How risks would be managed
- What support is needed to achieve your goals



Bring your project to life with video

Supporting videos can strengthen your application and help us:

- See the space, facility or environment where the project will take place
- Understand your vision and ambitions
- Hear directly from your team, volunteers and beneficiaries
- Visualise the difference funding could make

Your video does not need to be professionally produced. A simple, authentic video recorded on a smartphone can be just as effective.



Complete every section fully

Before submitting your application:

- Answer every question fully
- Explain how your project aligns with the nBS Foundation’s areas of impact
- Check all figures add up correctly
- Upload all requested supporting documents
- Include policies, accounts and project plans where required

A clear and complete application makes it easier for the panel to assess your project fairly and efficiently.



Tell us the story and support it with evidence

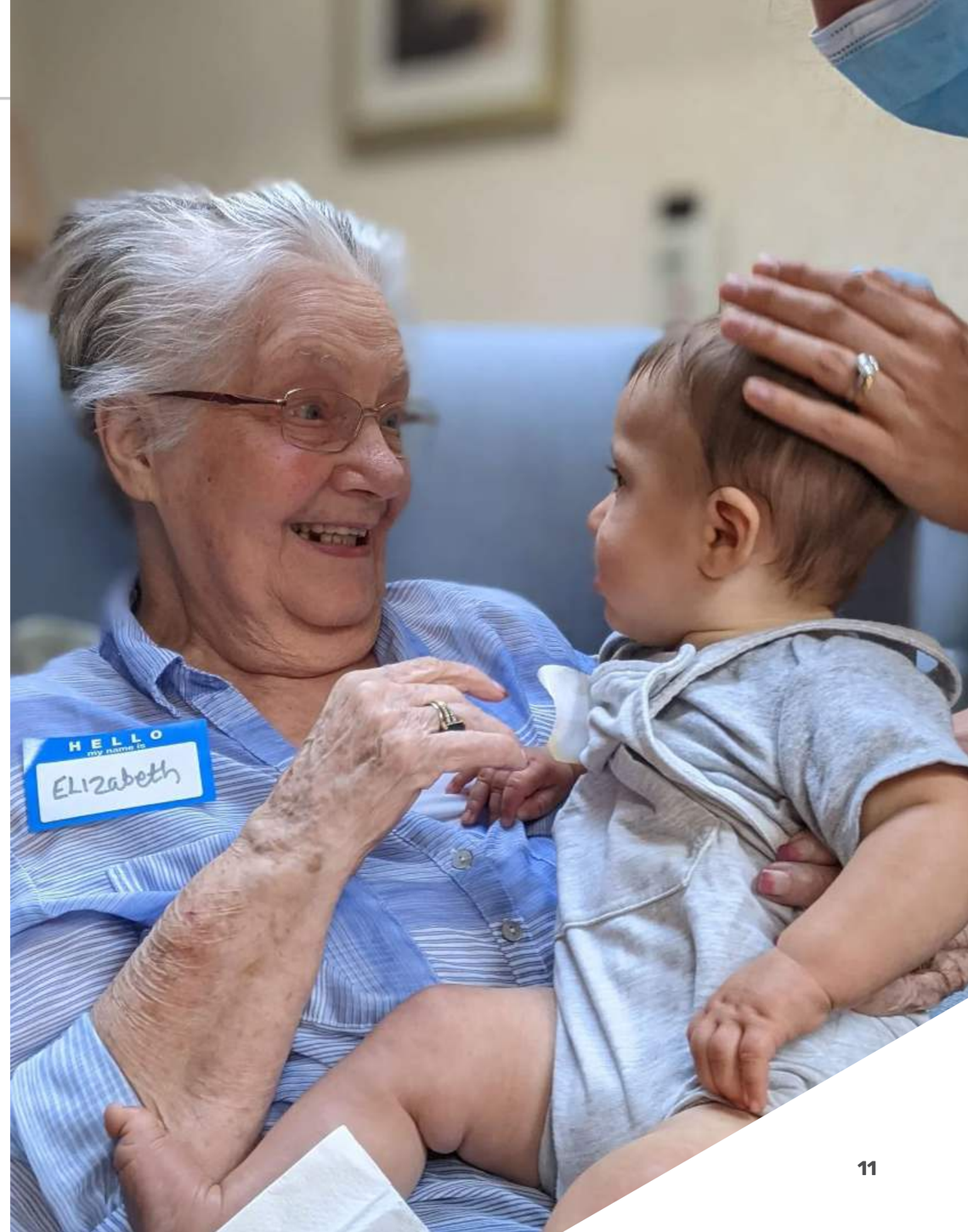
The strongest applications combine:

- A clear community need
- Strong beneficiary impact
- Realistic costs
- Measurable outcomes
- A compelling vision for positive change

Help us understand who would benefit, how many people would benefit, what success would look like, and how our funding would help make it happen.

Thank you for the work you do to support your local community. We wish you every success with your application.

npowerbusinesssolutions.com/foundation



MAKING MEANINGFUL CHANGE HAPPEN

0800 917 9323

npowerbusinesssolutions.com

npower Business Solutions

npower Business Solutions

npower Business Solutions
powered by e.on

FOUNDATION

Phone calls: We may monitor and/or record calls for security, quality or training purposes. Call charges to numbers beginning with 0800 should be free if you are calling from a business mobile or landline but this will depend on your contract. Please check with your operator for exact charges.

npower and npower Business Solutions are the trading names of Npower Commercial Gas Limited (Registered No. 3768856). Registered Office: Trinity House, 2 Burton Street, Nottingham, NG1 4BX.

npm16303/MM23820/10.26