



## **Summary of success rates for the Trust's grant programmes**

**2024**

## Key points

This document provides a summary of data for the Trust's grant programmes. It shows the number of applications received for each programme over the previous five years, and the number of those applications that received an award.

This information may be helpful for potential applicants and is intended to give an overview of trends and success rates for each programme.

We are sharing the data for information only. The Trust considers each application on its merits, against the award criteria published on our website for the relevant programme. Success rates for each programme, and the number and level of future awards, may not reflect the data for previous years.

## Overview

Since its foundation, the Trust has pledged more than £120m to support projects at many universities, hospitals and charities across the UK.

In keeping with the founder's wishes, our vision is to improve health and care for people living with serious long-term or life-limiting conditions. We do this by supporting:

- world-leading translational research
- investment in equipment and facilities to accelerate translational research
- investment in projects to scale-up new models of health and care and the integration of health and care services
- core costs for smaller charities that work exclusively to provide health and care services, including practical and emotional support to people with physical or mental ill health, people living with a disability, and their families and carers.

This summary includes data for the past 5 years, but figures for 2020 and 2021 need to be seen in context. The pattern of applications and awards in those years was inevitably affected by the pandemic. The Trust also reviewed its grant programmes towards the end of 2021, and a number of changes were implemented in 2022. The Trust's funding priorities remain unchanged, but the specific focus of individual programmes has been refined.

### Total value of new awards by year

2020	£1.91m
2021	£5.28m
2022	£3.27m
2023	£3.37m
2024	£3.12m

## The Sir Jules Thorn Award for Biomedical Research

The Award provides a grant of up to £1.7 million to support a five-year programme of translational biomedical research.

The Award is made through an annual competition. Each UK medical school or NHS organisation is able to submit a single application each year.

The Award is open to biomedical research in any discipline or disease area, but the research must be at the forefront of international science and be led by an outstanding Principal Applicant in the early stages of an established research and academic career.

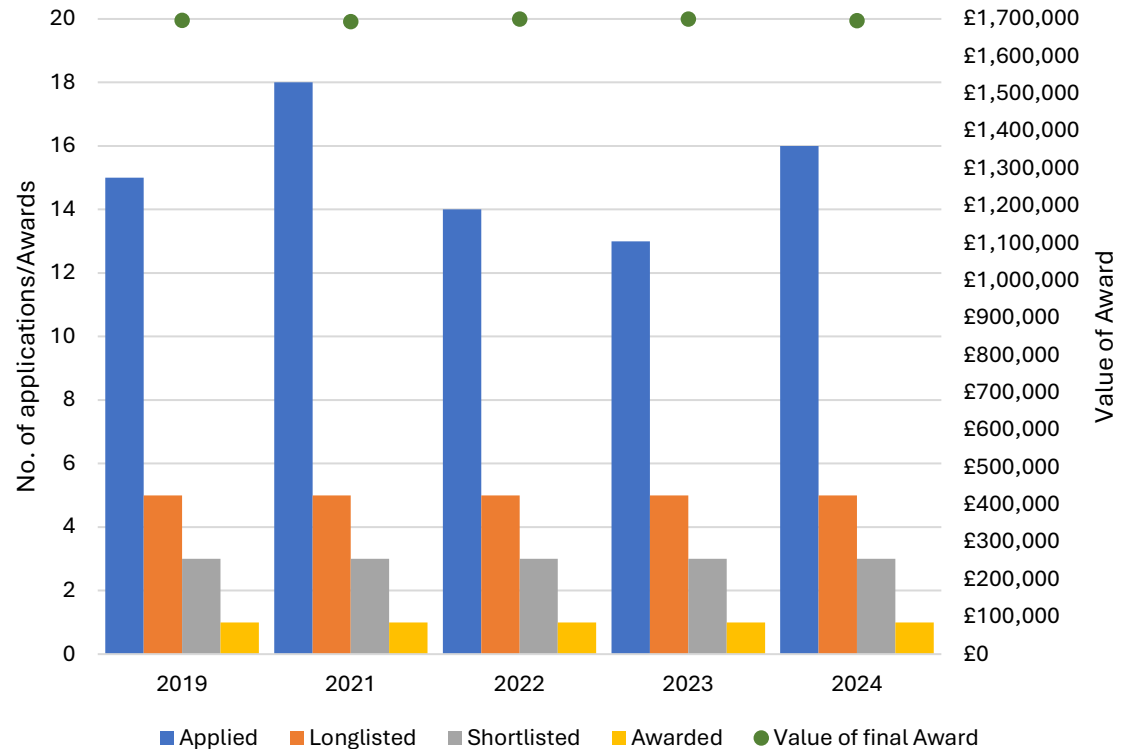
The Trust will not use the Award to support senior researchers who are already well-established in a professorial post, or candidates whose research programme has already secured substantial ongoing funding.

There is a three-stage application process for the Award, beginning with an open call for short, preliminary applications. Longlisted candidates are then invited to submit a full application. Shortlisted candidates are then invited to interview.

Applications are assessed by the Trust's Medical Advisory Committee and are also subject to peer review by external experts in the relevant field.

Further information about the review process is set out in the Trust's [Peer Review Policy](#).

The Sir Jules Thorn Award - number of applications and Award value



*Note: the competition for the 2020 Award was suspended at the second stage due to the pandemic. Longlisted applications were carried forward, and the Award was made in the Spring of 2021.*

## Research Infrastructure Fund

This Fund was launched in 2022 and provides capital funding to support innovation in medical research. Specifically, the Fund supports investment in equipment and facilities to accelerate internationally-competitive translational research. The fund is open to UK universities, charities and NHS organisations.

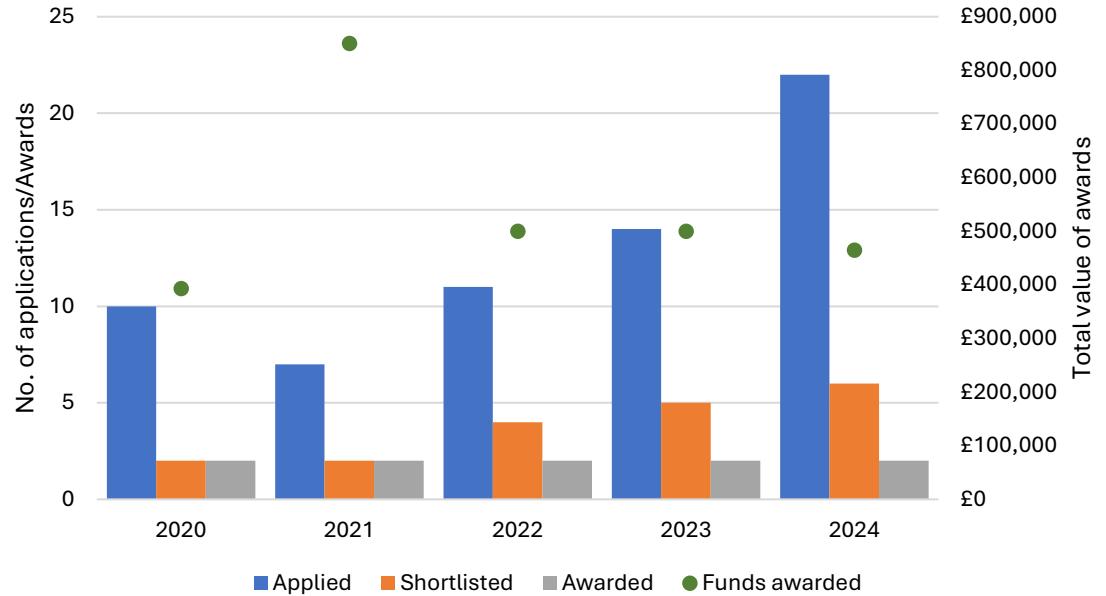
The Trust has provided capital funding for research infrastructure for many years. The figures shown here for 2020 and 2021 reflect applications and awards for a previous scheme, with very similar objectives to the Research Infrastructure Fund.

There is a two-stage application process for the Fund, beginning with an open call for preliminary applications. These are reviewed by the Board of Trustees. Shortlisted applicants are then invited to submit a full application.

Full applications are subject to peer review by external experts in the relevant field. The Trustees may also seek advice from members of the Trust's Medical Advisory Committee.

The data show steady growth in the number of applications since the Fund was re-launched in its current form in 2022. The overall quality of applications has remained high.

**Capital awards for research infrastructure - number of applications and award value**



## Innovation and Improvement in Health and Care Fund

This Fund was launched in 2022 and provides capital funding to support the development of new models of health and care and the integration of health and care services.

Specifically, the Fund supports organisations to scale up innovative, tested models that will improve outcomes for people living with serious long-term or life-limiting conditions. Applications may address any area of physical or mental health, physical or learning disability, or end-of-life care, but must be scalable/replicable by other organisations. Applicants also need to provide a clear road map showing how they intend to secure long-term funding.

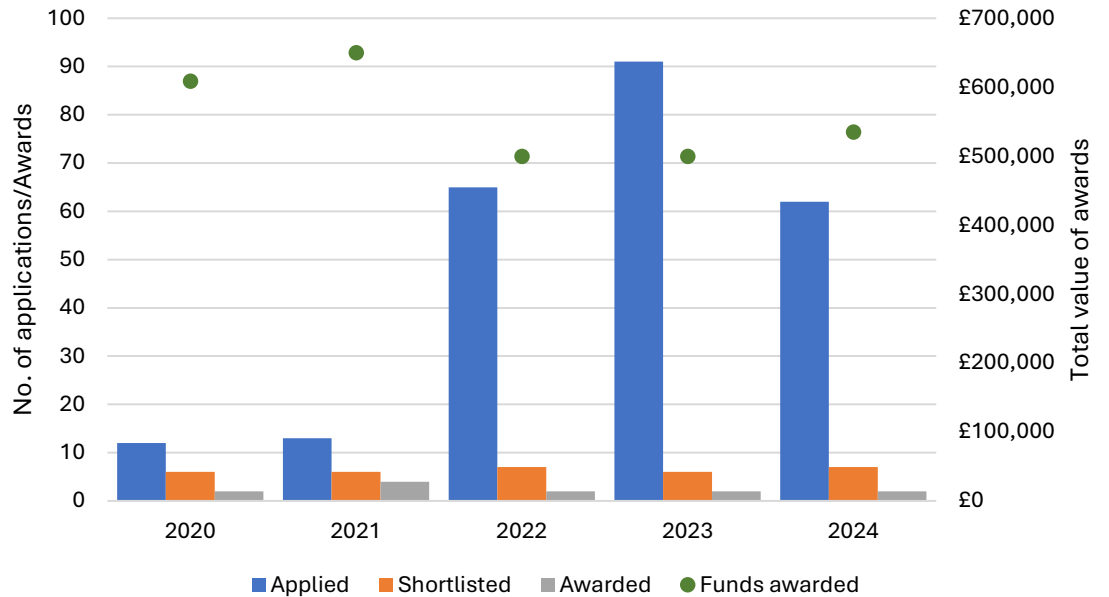
The Trust has provided capital funding for health and care projects for many years. The figures shown here for 2020 and 2021 reflect applications and awards for the predecessor scheme.

The number of applications has grown substantially since 2022, reflecting the pressures on the health and care sectors.

From 2024, there has been a three-stage application process for the Fund, beginning with an open call for expressions of interest. These are reviewed by the Trust team to assess eligibility and fit with the published criteria for the Fund.

Expressions of interest assessed to be potentially fundable are invited to submit a preliminary application. These are reviewed by the Board of Trustees. Shortlisted applicants are then invited to submit a full application.

**Capital awards for health & care projects - number of applications and award value**



*Note: the blue bars in the chart show the number of preliminary applications received in each year. The introduction of an additional stage for initial expressions of interest led to a reduction in the number of applications in 2024. The Trust sees this as positive. Requiring expressions of interest both improved the overall quality of the preliminary applications received and avoided organisations investing scarce resources in applications which were less likely to be funded.*

## Ann Rylands Small Donations Programme

The Ann Rylands Programme makes grants to support core costs for smaller charities that work exclusively to provide health and care services.

The Programme provides unrestricted funding to charities providing practical and emotional support to people with physical or mental ill health, people living with a disability, and their families and carers.

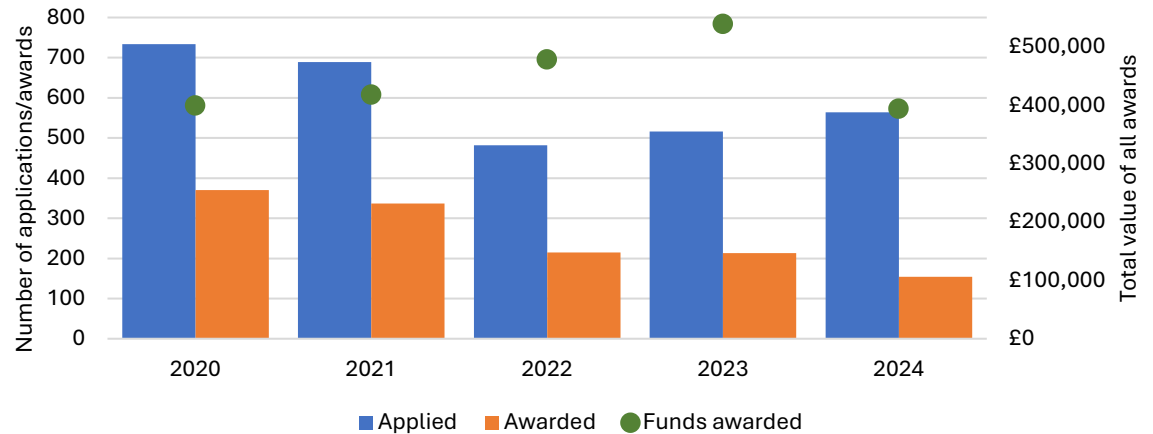
The number of applications to the Programme increased by over 50% in 2020, but the success rate fell from ~65% the previous year to ~50% in 2020. This reflected the number of applications received during the pandemic from charities whose work – however worthwhile – fell outside the Trust’s mission. The volume of applications has declined in more recent years but remains above pre-pandemic levels.

In response to the volume of applications and ongoing pressures on smaller charities, the Trust has refined the criteria for the Programme to focus more clearly on health and care services. The Trustees also increased the maximum value of awards to £5000 (from £1500 before the pandemic). Most awards remain below this maximum, but the average value of awards has nevertheless increased.

The Programme is open to eligible charities in all parts of the UK.

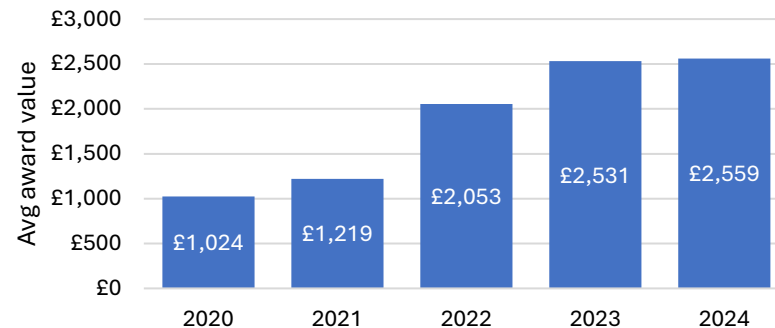
The profile of applications and awards - in terms of geography, and the focus of charities’ work in health and care – is shown in the charts on the next page.

**Ann Rylands Programme - number of applications and total value of new awards**



*The lower success rate in recent years reflects the greater focus on health and care services. Despite the clear criteria published on our website, the Trust continued to receive applications from charities that are not eligible for funding.*

**Ann Rylands Programme - average value of awards by year**

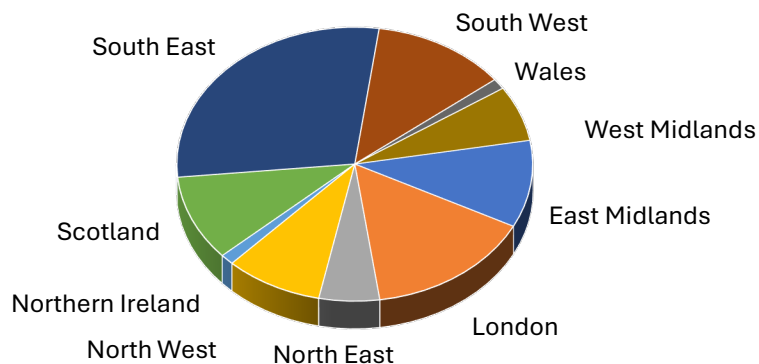


*Information about the type and location of charities that we funded in 2024 is summarised on the next page.*

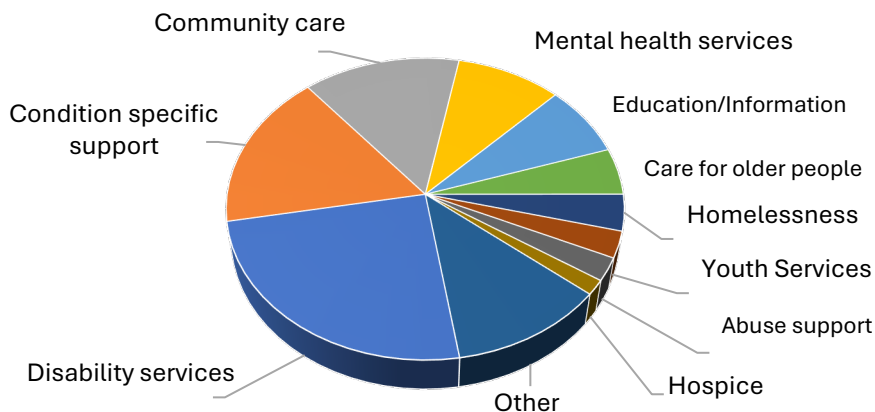
## Ann Rylands Small Donations Programme - cont'd

These charts show the profile of applications received in 2024, by region and the main focus of the charities' work in health and care. Please note that each application is considered on its merits. The success rates shown here are therefore for information only and do not indicate the likely outcome of any future request for funding.

**Location of charities applying to the Programme in 2024**



**Focus of charities applying to the Programme in 2024**



**Success rates by region - 2024**

Location of charities applying for support	No. of applications	% of applications funded
East Midlands	58	26%
London	86	23%
North-East	31	29%
North-West	50	30%
Northern Ireland	7	57%
Scotland	57	25%
South-East	162	29%
South-West	69	33%
Wales	7	0%
West Midlands	37	19%

**Success rates by focus of charity - 2024**

Focus of charity	No. of applications	% of applications funded
Disability services	139	32%
Condition specific support	95	35%
Community care	79	28%
Mental health services	53	23%
Education/Information	43	19%
Care for older people	28	32%
Homelessness	22	9%
Youth Services	16	25%
Abuse support services	14	14%
Hospice	9	11%
Other	66	26%