

ACO MEMBERSHIP GUIDE 2022-23



Championing benevolent & grant-making charities

CONNECTING CHARITIES THAT SUPPORT INDIVIDUALS



The Association of Charitable Organisations (ACO) is the membership body that champions the contribution of charities that provide financial and wellbeing support to individuals.

We encourage knowledge sharing, best practice and collaboration amongst our charity members and achieve this through our extensive events programme, thought leadership, networking opportunities and support services.

The ACO network comprises a diverse range of member charities, providing a broad cross-section of organisations to collaborate, knowledge share and benchmark against.

ACO members include:

- Occupational Charities
- Armed Forces Charity
- Illness and disability charities
- Regional and Local Trusts
- Livery Companies
- Children's Charities
- Women's Charities
- Older People's Charities
- General Grant-Giving Charities

We understand the common challenges that these organisations face in providing financial and wellbeing support to beneficiaries (and their families), and ACO provides a platform for these charities to connect and build strong working relationships that encourage collaboration, knowledge sharing and peer development.

"ACO membership provides excellent value for money because resources, networking, learning and sharing are available to everyone in our organisation"



HOW DO WE SUPPORT OUR MEMBERS?



ACO membership encompasses a diverse range of charities providing financial and wellbeing support to individuals in need. Yet these charities often face common issues ranging from meeting wider demand on services, increasing levels of income (fundraising and investments), building awareness amongst beneficiary groups, measuring impact and ensuring effective governance.

ACO provides an invaluable environment to bring together charities from throughout the sector to leverage their expertise, experience and resources to address these common issues and develop shared solutions. We achieve this through:

Knowledge sharing



We provide a platform to share best practice through member-only events, special interest groups (including CEO Forum, Evaluation & Impact, Income Generation & Fundraising, Small Charities, Marcomms and International Beneficiaries). We also publish a monthly e-bulletin Charity News Review reflecting activity in the sector as well as research and thought leadership around themes relevant to our membership.

Encouraging collaboration



We work with both fellow charities and external organisations to identify opportunities for joint-working and collaboration that will bring shared benefits to the ACO network. Current 2022 projects include the development of a sector-wide online grants portal, developing a common methodology for measuring the social impact of household giving and enabling grant-makers to individuals to publish grants data on the 360Giving platform.



Building peer-to-peer relations

We help you to develop working relationships with other charities and throughout the sector to bring significant benefits for both personal and professional development.



Providing support and assistance

We aid members on specific issues, whether through connecting them with fellow colleagues who have tackled similar challenges or signposting to appropriate advice/support within the sector.



Lobbying and advocacy

We act as the voice of the benevolence/grant-making sector and through our participation in the Civil Society Group of national charity infrastructure bodies we work to influence Government, regulators and industry bodies.

NEXT STEPS

If your organisation is a registered charity providing grants, welfare support and/or advice to individuals and families in need then membership of ACO could provide a strong platform to enhance your activities through collaboration, peer connection and knowledge sharing with other charities in the sector.

By joining us, your organisation will benefit from a range of tools and resources specifically tailored to the grant-making sector

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Basic Subscription: £770

An annual turnover £350k - £1m

Band A: £900

An annual turnover £1m - £3m

Band B: £1,010

An annual turnover £3m-£5m

Band C: £1,300

An annual turnover over £5m

Small Charity Subscription: £405

An annual turnover of below £350k

CONTACT

For further information on how membership of ACO could benefit your charity, please contact:

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