



Membership for charities

If you are a Charity that gives grants, welfare or support to individuals and families in need then the Association of Charitable Organisations is the specialist support organisation for you.

ACO members

Over 100 registered charities, all independent and seeking to raise their profile and help more people.

ACO members make grants to many hundreds of thousands of people each year offering them support, advice and befriending. Over £150 million is given annually in grants alone.

Our members are set up to help a broad range of people, potentially the 12.5 million people in the UK with less than 50% of average income. There are also eligible people overseas.

Membership benefits

Newsletter

Free newsletter published ten times per annum. Packed with up to date information and the latest guidance specifically tailored to organisations that give grants and welfare support to people in need.

The newsletter is sent to every email address within your organisation at the beginning of the month. A free sample copy is available on request.

Meetings

Members can attend a range of meetings and networks free of charge. This includes the Grant Making Forum and Under Fives Group (for solo workers and small staff teams). ACO organises regular one off meetings on specialist areas.

Annual Conference

Once a year ACO organises a national conference featuring keynote speakers and expert-led workshops, bringing members together and promoting best practice in grant making and welfare support.

Lobbying and Campaigning

ACO represents member's views on issues of concern to government, opinion formers and policy makers. We lobby to promote a better public understanding of benevolence: the giving of time and money to help people in need.

Better Together

ACO develops projects in partnership with members to encourage collaborative working. Recent groups have included a project for organisations working internationally, an impact group and a PR campaign to raise public awareness of the work of ACO members.

Online Support

Members get exclusive access to Benepedia, the ACO knowledge website that contains briefings on policy and practice, a research library and an on-line forum.

Eligibility for membership

Membership of ACO is for charitable organisations which support individuals and families in need by providing grants and welfare support.

If your organisation provides aid and support to individual people and families in need then we would welcome you to membership of the Association.

What our members say

"ACO membership provides excellent value for money because resources, networking, learning and sharing are available to everyone in our organisation – not just a named member."

"As a newcomer to the charity sector, I found the friendly support that I received from ACO members extremely helpful. The annual fee is excellent value for money giving as it does access to so much information and networking events."

"We have found the ACO conferences an invaluable and cost effective method of inducting new Trustees. The high quality speakers added with the unrivalled opportunity to network with other Trustees, staff and volunteers who work within the benevolent sector really helps to embed the uniqueness of the work which we do and the context in which we operate. We aim to engage every Trustee with ACO events as a part of the Board's development plan".

"Whenever I'm networking with ACO colleagues, I can hit the ground running – I don't have to explain what we are trying to deliver for our users - it's so energising to be in a room full of people who already totally understand what we are trying to achieve, and who can inspire me with new ways of doing just that. No other organisation can provide that opportunity."

"I am immensely grateful for the support I have received from the ACO community. Sharing ideas and best practice through ACO's regular networking forums has been invaluable."

Membership fees

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| Basic Subscription: For organisations with an annual turnover of less than £1m | £750 |
| Band A Subscription: For organisations with an annual turnover between £1m and £3m | £875 |
| Band B Subscription: For organisations with an annual turnover between £3m and £5m | £985 |
| Band C Subscription: For organisations with an annual turnover over £5m | £1,100 |
| Low Income Subscription: For organisations with a low income and subject to approval by the ACO Chief Executive | £395 |

Reasons to join the ACO

ACO provides support to its members with a wide range of services and support

Networking...

building peer networks providing opportunities for members to share and get advice and support;

Raising standards...

promoting good practice, tackling problems together and offering solutions;

Education...

Training charity professionals on finance, welfare, fund raising, governance, grant making and benefits.

On-Line services...

websites and member forums giving opportunities to seek and share advice and experience.

Lobbying and campaigning...

giving our members a voice by responding to government consultations and raising awareness about the work of our member organisations;

Providing information...

providing members with up to date information tailored to their specific interests through a monthly newsletter and policy briefings;

Corporate Members...

offers from providers of goods and services with competitive pricing and guaranteed service levels, available only to ACO members.

How to contact us

To join the ACO, or further information about membership, please contact Donal Watkin (Chief Executive) at donal@aco.uk.net



the **association of**
charitable organisations

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