# Grants Search Project - Co-Production Partners

## Role description

We are seeking 7-8 people who know what it means to struggle financially or access welfare benefits to be part of the Turn2us Grants Search Project.

The aim is to redesign and improve the current Grants Search tool:

<https://grants-search.turn2us.org.uk/>

We will be building on research and user testing that has shown us areas that can be improved and where people struggle when using it.

We anticipate that you will need to commit 6 hours of your time each month for regular meetings or workshops. This time may be spent discussing ideas, looking at designs and images or testing the tool. It is expected most of this will be done online.

The first meeting will be in approximately 3 weeks.

You will be remunerated £38 per session for the time you spend in our meetings, workshops [etc]. Travel expenses will be covered. We do not want technology to be a barrier to getting involved so please let us know if you need help with this too.

## About Turn2us

Turn2us is a national charity that provides practical information and support to people facing financial shocks. We work alongside those who have experienced not having enough money to live on to develop practical information and support that helps people cope with life-changing events such as job loss, illness or bereavement.

In our latest strategy, we have made it clear that support and information should be led by people with experience of financial hardship and developed in partnership with them. Our strategy is underpinned by our purpose, which is:

***So everyone has the opportunity to build financial sustainability and thrive, Turn2us offers the information and support people need in the face of life changing events, and collaborates to tackle the causes and symptoms of poverty.***

## About co-production

In order to shape the best services to support people in financial hardship, we recognise that we can only do that with the help and expertise of people with lived experience of the issue.

That is why we are committed to people getting involved in everything that we do, from service design and delivery, through to communications, campaigns and research. We refer to this process as **co-production.**

Your lived experience is an important asset that will give you a valuable perspective on what we will be working on. The main goal won't be to share your own story.

Co-production goes beyond this and it is about working with you and achieving results together. Your views will be as important as everyone else’s.

## What you will do:

**●** You will represent the user voice and ensure it is heard

● You will be part of a diverse project group of 8-9 people who have different viewpoints that will be looking at the tool from service user perspectives.

● You will share your views on the current Grants Search as well as the new tool as we develop it.

● You will learn about and discuss insights into how the tool is currently used

## About you:

* You will be interested in making a difference and fighting for change
* You will bring the expertise of someone who knows what it’s like to not have enough money to get by on and/or navigate the social security system[[1]](#footnote-1)
* You will adhere to Turn2us’s values and policies including those around safeguarding and data protection legislation

We are committed to equity, diversity and inclusion so will be seeking a diverse mix of people to be involved.

## What you will get out of this role:

* Development opportunities including experience in project management and working as part of a team to build a digital accessible tool
* Opportunity to steer the direction on some of Turn2us’ work
* Gain a greater understanding of techniques for developing digital tools

## Payment

It is anticipated that we will hold half-day workshops approximately every three weeks for the duration of the project (expected to run for around nine months in total).

Rate of pay

The daily rate of pay will be £76 and this will paid monthly. So if you do 2 half days that will be £76.

We have a template invoice you can use to request payment and show the hours worked with us. We will support you to do this, if necessary.

Type of contract

You will need to be on a self-employed contractbecause of the length of this project. We can help you to do this. If this causes you problems, please let us know.

### Tax and benefit rules

The payments we make count as income and are therefore covered by the tax and benefit rules around declaration of earnings. It is important to understand that they may impact the amount of tax you need to pay and the amount of benefits that you are entitled to.

Turn2us appreciates the complexity of accepting a payment for public involvement while receiving benefits. Unfortunately we are not licensed to offer individuals advice.

We encourage people to speak with their local Citizens Advice Bureau or similar advice centre 9rbefore accepting a payment from Turn2us. You can use our Find an Adviser tool to find local advisers - <https://advicefinder.turn2us.org.uk/>

We also cannot accept responsibility for any impact the payment may have on your benefits/tax responsibilities.

If you need help with setting up as a self-employed contractor or insight into how this work may affect benefits/tax, we can put you in touch with other co-production partners who have already done this.

## How to get involved

Please contact [simon.brasch@turn2us.org.uk](mailto:simon.brasch@turn2us.org.uk) with the subject line ‘Turn2us Grants Search 2 Project’ and include:

Your name

Your email address or phone number

The best time to contact you

A short paragraph on why would you like to get involved

1. What do we mean by this?

   Social security system = government support to make sure that everyone in society can meet a certain level of needs (such as food and shelter), this includes benefits and state pension. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)