



Bristol Redistro membership information

Bristol Redistro members are groups and individuals working to create a more just, equal and sustainable world, who commit to meeting regularly to support each other, collaborate and learn from each other. Full members can request funding from Redistro without needing to complete applications each time.

Redistro is open for membership applications once a year. Non-members can request funds when there are open funding rounds (this could be once a year, but it will be up to members to decide depending on funds available).

We are a wealth redistribution group, raising funds from middle and upper class people, and others who have money to give, to support the work of working class people. We only accept membership applications from working class people and working class-led groups (e.g. decision-making power in the group is held mostly by working class people). We understand that people will have different definitions of what it is to be working class. Our definition fits lots of people from migrant or diaspora communities and includes experiences such as living in social housing, insecure or bad housing, receiving benefits, regularly worrying about covering basic living costs and not expecting to receive an inheritance (see full criteria below).

In Bristol, those struggling most with money include single parents, disabled people, trans people, Black people and people living in working class areas such as Hartcliffe and Withywood, Lawrence Hill and Filwood wards.

Many groups in Bristol, particularly those that are predominantly white and middle class, already have options for accessing income and funding (e.g. family wealth, professional jobs, personal savings, connections to other people with money and the capacity to apply for mainstream grants). Whilst we value the work of these groups, they are not eligible for Redistro membership.

Bristol Redistro recognises there are issues with the police. Police disproportionately target and harm our most marginalised communities and can make people feel unsafe. Policing needs to change, and this change cannot come from expanding police power, given the institutionalised racism, sexism, homophobia and other issues within all police forces. In addition to this, the historical role of the police has been to protect the class interests of the ruling classes, at the expense of the working class. Bristol Redistro sees the power of communities to solve their own problems rather than calling for the state to do this for us. We understand that some groups may need to work with the police,

particularly around safety, but we see this as very different to work that gives more power to the police, such as partnering with them to run events and trainings, encouraging people to report to the police and calling for increased policing powers (for example, longer prison sentences).

We are keen to support groups that cannot access funds from other funders, such as new and emerging groups that are not formally registered organisations, and those seen as too political or radical for mainstream funders.

We value groups that are accessible and inclusive, e.g. those that support people to get involved (by meeting their access needs) and support them to be part of the group's decision-making.

We will not fund any group whose work directly involves the slaughter of animals.

1 Why become a member?

Bristol Redistro members can:

- Attend Redistro members meetings to learn from and gain support from other groups active in the local community
- Request funds without having to complete funding applications each time
- Make decisions about how funds are distributed to members
- Make decisions on funding applications from non-members
- Make decisions about how Redistro operates

2 Types of membership

- Full group membership - for working class-led groups that meet criteria. Up to two people per group can attend meetings.
- Full individual membership - for working class people who meet criteria, who are not part of a group and are needing financial support for their community work/activism
- Associate individual membership - for working class people whose main work is through a group that does not meet criteria, e.g. is not working class-led or has an income over £10,000 (these members cannot request funds)

3 Membership criteria

To apply for membership you must meet **all** the following criteria:

1. Working to **create a more just, equal and sustainable world**. We are keen to support work that is meeting needs directly as well as work aiming to address root causes and create systemic change.

2. **Set up and led by a community most affected by inequality** (e.g. women, non-binary, LGBTQ+, working class, disabled, migrant, Black and racially minoritised people). The group/ project must be led by people with first-hand experience of the issue they are working on.

3. **Led by working class people.** We will only accept applications from working class people and working class led groups, e.g. where decision-making power in the group is held mostly by people who have been disadvantaged throughout their life due to their class background. We understand that people will have different definitions of what it is to be working class. This definition includes lots of people from migrant or diaspora communities, so if this is you, we don't want this criteria to deter you from applying.

Working class people are likely to have experienced some of the following experiences:

- Living in social housing, insecure or bad housing
- Not owning a property or expecting to in future
- Receiving benefits
- Regularly worrying about covering basic living costs, such as rent, food, heating
- Not expecting to receive an inheritance
- Experience of being homeless, in prison, being in care
- Being a migrant, refugee or asylum seeker
- Being disabled, including ill health and mental health conditions
- Not having been to university or perhaps being the first person in the family to have done so
- Working in low paid sectors e.g. manual labour, care, customer services
- Family not having gone to university, being in low paid work

4. **Based within the boundaries of the City of Bristol**

5. If it is a group application, the group must be a **non-profit community group** with an **annual income** (e.g. the amount your group has raised through fundraising, grants etc) **under £10,000**. You don't have to be formally registered as a charity, Community Interest Company etc. or have a constitution. You could be a group of people who've recently come together to tackle an issue you're affected by.

4 Becoming a member

Groups and individuals can join Redistro by completing an application. We are open for membership applications once a year. There are options for different ways to apply and support available.

As a Community Benefit Society (CBS) we operate on a one-member-one-vote basis (although we aim to make decisions via consensus) and membership is a £1 one-off fee. As a CBS, our work benefits our members and the wider community.

Membership applications are read and agreed by existing members. As we don't currently have any members, the first round of member applications will be read and agreed on by the applicants themselves.

Members will need to agree to group agreements and a confidentiality and conflict of interest policy (see below). These will be reviewed at the first members meeting.

Once membership is confirmed, members can request funds at members meetings. To do this they will need to request funds before the meeting with the following information: amount of money needed (so we know a total ahead of time), roughly what the funds are for, e.g. hiring a venue for a community meeting (as others may be able to help) and confirmation they still meet criteria.

There will be around 3 members meetings per year, but this will be up to members to decide. To help make attending members' meetings more accessible £40 will be given to every member who attends (up to two people from a group member can attend).

5 Group agreements

Bristol Redistro members:

- Commit to being active members and to supporting each other, sharing and collaborating
- Listen to each other - are open to different experiences, perspectives and opinions and look for common ground
- Ensure everyone is able to speak by being mindful of their contribution and that of others
- Understand we are all on a learning journey and all have gaps in knowledge and experience
- Criticise the action not the person
- Are willing to receive feedback and to be accountable for any actions that may have harmed others

Conflict of interest policy

A conflict of interest will exist in a grant decision-making when:

- Direct interest: you or your family could benefit from an organisation being funded, this includes if you are a director, employee, volunteer or benefit directly from the services of the organisation
- Indirect interest: you have a connection to an organisation, including being a donor or having a friend or family member involved in the organisation.

In both cases you must let us know how you're connected to the organisation as soon as possible. If you have a direct interest in the organisation you cannot be part of deciding if that organisation receives funding or becomes a member. If you have an indirect interest, you can be part of the decision as long as you feel your interest will not make you biased and this is agreed by the rest of the people making the decision.

Confidentiality policy

All information you receive about members and those who apply for money must be kept confidential. You must not share details of people or organisations who have applied to Bristol Redistro or the content of their applications. Discussions about applications and shortlisting must also be kept confidential.

Bristol Redistro will publicly share some information about the shortlisted groups with their consent. Information on the Bristol Redistro website and social media can be shared.

6 Ending membership

Membership will end if:

- A member no longer meets eligibility criteria
- A member has not participated for more than one year and the board decides to remove them
- A member is expelled via an Extraordinary Resolution at a meeting (needing a majority of 75% of votes or more)

In some cases a full member may become an associate individual member, e.g. if the group someone is part of receives a large grant and no longer meets criteria.