



Partnering with CITA

CITA is delighted to be associated with a wide range of partners and supporters, without whom our ability to provide technology services to charities would be impossible. Thank you for your support and help.

About CITA

The Charity IT Association (CITA) was founded in 2016 for the purpose of enabling all charities to be able to access expert IT help and support. CITA introduces volunteers with relevant IT skills and experience to charities who want or need to improve their technology capabilities.

Our vision is to have a world in which charities can harness the full potential of technology to increase their impact for good. This can be achieved by providing charities with access to affordable, independent and trustworthy technology services in order to allow them to achieve their own strategic objectives.

“As a small organisation, it is so valuable to know that someone with the right expertise can offer me impartial, objective advice. I was really grateful to bounce ideas off the volunteer and the charity is better off for his advice.” Rhema Partnership

Why partner with CITA?

CITA is committed to helping build a world in which charities can harness the full potential of technology to increase their impact for good. This can be achieved by providing charities with access to affordable, independent and trustworthy technology services in order to allow them to achieve their own strategic objectives.

But we cannot do it alone. CITA relies on supporters (like minded organisations who provide pro bono help) and partners (organisations that provide financial backing) to support us in providing an affordable service to charities.

Association with CITA means that you can be assured that your contributions will positively affect several charities’ effectiveness in delivering their valued and valuable work to those in need through improved use of technology.

You will also receive recognition through CITA’s partner programme, be entitled to promote your association with CITA in marketing and other activities, and, as a member of the CITA Community will be invited to various private social media groups and other networking opportunities.

Where possible, and if agreed by the charity themselves, CITA can directly apportion some of your Partnership Fee against a specific charity assignment, allowing you to see the direct benefits of your payment. Under the CSR Partnership Scheme, this link is self-evident as it will be your staff working with the charities.

“The advice and recommendation were very useful; we are in a much better position to take decisions and make changes.” CMV Action

How do I partner with CITA?

There are three ways to partner with CITA:

- Become a CITA volunteer partner, by which your organisation will promote CITA internally and encourage members of staff to sign up as a CITA volunteer. This tends to be an informal arrangement, with CITA providing appropriate promotional material and support for a small fee or donation.
- Become a CITA corporate partner, by which your organisation will pay a Partnership Fee to help fund CITA's charitable activities. The Partnership Fee will go directly towards funding charity assignments and covering our administrative costs in matching an independent volunteer with a charity that needs IT help and support. CITA can agree to promote your organisation appropriately.
- Become a CITA CSR partner, by which your organisation will pay a Partnership Fee and provide CITA volunteers from your staff to work on specific charity assignments as part of your Corporate Social Responsibility commitments.

"We have used CITA on a couple of occasions and it is an excellent service for small charities like ours." Jigsaw

The CITA CSR Partnership Scheme

Research shows that many IT professionals, and their employers, are keen to "give something back". However, few organisations can afford the significant commitment of traditional corporate social responsibility schemes.

CITA offers a simple Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) scheme to help organisations facilitate volunteering of their skilled IT staff to help charities struggling to manage or gain advantage from their IT. At the same time the organisation can make an immediate impact with their employees, their reporting and their communities.

Charities register and declare their needs. Your skilled IT staff register and declare their capabilities and interests as a CITA volunteer. CITA arranges the matching of the charity and appropriate volunteer so that they can deliver the project.

Our CSR Partnership Schemes enable our corporate partners to participate in this simple mechanism easily, quickly and cost effectively.

"The free IT consultancy offered by CITA allowed Respect to assess its IT needs and plan for the future. The volunteer was friendly, knowledgeable and offered advice suitable to Respect's needs and size. I would recommend the service to anyone." Respect

Frequently Asked Questions

How much does it cost to become a partner?

The cost will depend on a number of factors: the type of partnership programme that you engage in; the number of charity assignments you wish to support; the detail and frequency of information from CITA that you require; and the benevolence of your organisation!

What does the Partnership Fee cover?

The Partnership Fee covers the costs CITA has in terms of administering the assignment process by matching volunteers with charities; ensuring that the assignment proceeds and

that feedback is received at conclusion. The funds that CITA receive through our partners means that more charities can receive no cost, rather than low cost, IT support.

These assignments may be undertaken by your staff, if you are part of the CSR Partnership Scheme, or by independent IT professionals that are part of the CITA volunteer group. The work undertaken on behalf of charities by all CITA volunteers is pro bono.

Why should we participate in the CSR Partnership Scheme rather than just encouraging our employees to sign up to CITA without our corporate involvement?

The CSR Partnership Scheme allows the organisation to provide financial support for employee volunteering, and CITA will provide you with an annual summary of your assignments to support your own CSR reporting needs.

Why should we support CITA when the pro-bono volunteer work for charities competes with our own paid-for services?

Yes, they can compete, but more frequently CITA volunteers are providing services that the charity would otherwise not undertake. CITA volunteers most often advise on change projects – they rarely substitute for the provision of commercial services.

What is the effort required to administer the CSR Partnership Scheme?

Once on-board, there is no administration requirement on your side. CITA will provide periodic reports and send you invoices in relation to volunteer projects started. We might nudge you with an employee communication suggestion from time to time, but that's at your discretion.

Under the CSR Partnership Scheme why are the number of assignments restricted?

Included in the CSR Partnership Scheme Fee is an element by which CITA recovers its administration costs for managing the agreed number of assignments, and the costs of managing the partner relationship. Where you exceed the number of assignments an additional fee is applied to recover these incremental administration costs.

As a CITA supporter, how can I recommend CITA?

There are many ways that you can help to promote CITA – from referring charities to our web site on an occasional basis through to advertising us in your office, on your website or at your events, and to running workshops where a CITA representative presents to your audience. Please contact us to discuss how we can offer each other mutual support.

As a CITA supporter, am I able to register for CITA's pro bono services?

If you are a registered charity – yes. Visit the Web Site to find out how to register as a CITA charity and to understand how we can help.