

Lancaster Community Fund - Guidelines

Overview

The Lancaster Community Fund was set up following the transfer of several dormant charity funds which had been left to Lancaster City Council in bequests and endowments but over the years had fallen dormant. The fund will also distribute additional grants from Lancaster City Council, on an ad hoc basis.

Who can apply?

You must be working within the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector providing activity to make a positive difference to the lives and wellbeing of people and communities.

We would like to encourage all voluntary or community groups to apply and we specifically welcome applications from new and small grassroots groups. Those without a formal constitution are asked to seek support from an established organisation or group. If you are unsure how to go about this, please get in touch with us.

You will also need to be a current member of Lancaster District CVS to apply for an award. If you are not sure whether you are a current member, please contact sharonphillips@lancastercvs.org.uk to check your status. If you need to update your membership, you can do so by following this link <https://lancastercvs.org.uk/join-us-today/> - it only takes a few minutes to complete.

What is the focus of the fund?

The fund has three main priorities:

- Projects that increase community involvement, build community wealth and resilience.
- Projects that contribute towards carbon reduction and a more sustainable district.
- Projects that contribute to individual and community wellbeing.

For the round closing in February 2023 we are also encouraging and prioritising applications that can demonstrate a focus on activities addressing the current cost of living crisis. This can be to directly pay for resources to lessen the impact of food or fuel poverty or indirectly address the inability of people to pay to access social and/or community activities and events over the winter months.

How much is available?

Grants of up to £1,000.

Which areas are covered?

The Lancaster district as defined by Lancaster City Council's limits i.e., Lancaster, Morecambe, Heysham, Carnforth and surrounding rural areas.

Criteria

Priority will be given to those groups working in disadvantaged areas of the community and to new and smaller grassroots groups with low-income levels.

Examples of the sorts of projects that may be funded

Equipment for youth club
Activities for young people
Training for volunteers
Community sports activities
Projects to reduce social isolation for vulnerable groups
Cleaning up of grot spots
Improvements to outdoor public spaces
Social enterprise activities
Money advice projects
Cost of living specific support e.g. lunch clubs, warm spaces

Supporting documents

To support your application, we recommend that you enclose any of the documents you have from those listed below. If you are struggling to supply these, please contact us for advice and support.

- A copy of your governing document i.e., your constitution or rules
- A copy of the group's latest annual accounts or income/expenditure document
- A copy of a recent bank statement for your group
- Copies of relevant policies, which have been reviewed in the last 2 years.

All applicants must ensure that they hold relevant policies and procedures in place to undertake activities, such as safeguarding policies, DBS checks and/or a health and safety policy, depending on proposed activity.

Closing Date

10th February 2023

If you have any queries about the fund, or about how to apply, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us by emailing funding@lancastercvs.org.uk or by ringing CVS on 01524 555900