

Lancaster City Council UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Priority E13 Cost of Living

Guidelines

Overview

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is a central pillar of the UK government's Levelling Up agenda and provides £2.6 billion of funding for local investment up to March 2025. This fund replaces European Union structural funds.

The fund is focused on building pride in place, supporting high quality skills training, supporting pay, employment and productivity growth and increasing life chances in local places.

Lancaster City Council has been allocated £5.3million which will be split between the following three core Priorities, as defined by Government:

- Communities & Place
- Supporting Business
- People & Skills

The Council's local Investment Plan, which includes an indicative idea of how the funds could be allocated across the three Priorities to benefit the Lancaster district, was submitted in summer 2022 and approved by Government in December 2022.

The UKSPF Interventions and Priorities E13 - Cost of Living Priority

As the VCFSE umbrella organisation for the Lancaster District, LDCVS has been invited to use our Bay Foundation and digital grant platform to distribute funds across community groups and networks for projects which support local communities address the continuing cost of living crisis.

The partnership will allow groups to swiftly access awards to deliver cost of living solutions, including through measures to improve efficiency, and combat fuel poverty and climate change.

Who can apply?

We would like to encourage all voluntary or community groups to apply and we specifically welcome applications from new and small grassroots groups who have struggled to access funding previously to support their community with the cost of living.

The following organisations are eligible:

- Unincorporated community groups with a constitution
- Unincorporated small charities (income under £5k) with a constitution or set of rules
- Registered Charities
- Faith groups
- Asset-locked Social Enterprises
- Schools (for non-statutory provision only e.g. afterschool clubs, PTA led activities)
- Parish Councils

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 join, you can do so by visiting www.lancastercvs.org.uk/join - it only takes a couple of minutes to complete and is free of charge.

What kinds of project can the UKSPF support?

Some examples are listed below, however any project which helps communities address the cost of living is eligible for consideration.

- Warm and Welcoming Spaces that don't fit the criteria of the [Lancashire Warm Spaces grant scheme](#) (for example, you may need more funding than that scheme allows)
- Existing and new activities to support people to access hot, healthy, nutritious meals in community settings
- Programmes or campaigns to encourage uptake of energy efficiency measures for homes, including heat pumps and increased insulation
- Educational sessions focused on being energy aware and / or providing advice and guidance to manage the impact of cost of living on households

Your project must be complete by 31 September 2023.

Green Rose CIC Energy Champion Training

The council is also working in partnership with Green Rose Community Interest Company, an award-winning social enterprise based in Lancaster and Morecambe. Green Rose provides advice, support, and education to help households manage their bills and stay warm and well.

Green Rose is also the local service delivery partner for the Local Energy Advice Partnership (LEAP). Through home visits, LEAP offers low income and vulnerable households free energy and money saving advice, including:

- Free energy efficiency measures, such as LED lightbulbs and radiator panels
- Help to sign-up for the Priority Services Register
- Advice on simple changes to your habits that can save money
- Benefits check and advice on budgeting and debt
- Referral for grants for larger heating and insulation measures, and services providing free appliance replacement, emergency boiler repair and emergency fuel vouchers

As part of the agreement to award funding, you will be required to liaise with Green Rose CIC to provide and promote to local residents at least one free energy advice and information session. Details on how to arrange this will be provided with your grant agreement.

Do not include any payment to Green Rose in your project budget, as they are separately funded for their own costs relating to delivering these sessions. However, you are able to include any direct costs to your organisation such as room hire, payment of your own staff, provision of refreshments etc..

What kind of costs can we apply for?

- Project staffing and delivery costs for up to 6 months delivery
- Contribution towards core/revenue costs in line with the scale of the project for up to 6 months of delivery
- Expenses associated with the provision of community food and energy support
- Volunteer costs for new and existing organisations that are supporting residents to access food and energy and/or to stay connected
- Capital items directly needed for the efficient running of warm hub spaces and/or community food projects e.g. storage for food, fridges, freezers, tables, ovens, microwaves, air fryers etc
- Investment in energy efficient measures for community centres / village halls etc where the spend directly links to increasing the number of households accessing cost of living support
- Your costs linked to hosting a Green Rose energy session

Reporting Criteria / Output Indicators

You will be asked to provide monitoring data using a Monitoring and Evaluation form that will be provided with your grant agreement. The key output indicators for this fund are:

- The number of households receiving support or provision that helps reduce the burden of the cost of living
- The number of households supported to take up energy efficiency measures
- The number of households who then report going on to implement new energy efficiency measures

We will also be asking for some narrative information explaining what you delivered and how effective it was.

How much is available?

You can apply for between £500 and £5,000. We anticipate awarding 13 grants with at least half being valued at £3,500 or above.

If your project costs more than you are asking for from this fund, you will need to provide information about where the balance of the costs will come from.

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.

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 policies and procedures in place relevant to the activities they want to undertake. These could include policies relating to safeguarding, DBS checks, health and safety, or equality and diversity, depending on proposed activity.

Closing Date

Thursday 23 March at 5pm.

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