

General grant criteria for groups

Prior to making an application, we advise that you read this document setting out our general grant making criteria. You will also need to read the guidance for the programme that you are applying to check that you meet the specific criteria for that programme.

The Foundation aims to build more confident communities across county Durham. To achieve this, we focus our grant making on groups and activities that meet the greatest needs, and where we can make the greatest difference.

Our funds aim to provide grants up to £5,000 to support charities, voluntary-led organisations and projects that have an impact in their community, enabling them to continue their work and make vital improvements to their service. We fund a broad range of projects including:

- health
- children and young people,
- arts and culture,
- the elderly,
- people with disabilities,
- projects providing services in the community
- improving the local environment.

What type of funding can you apply for?

Examples of the types of projects and activities we will support are listed below but we will consider funding any activities that have clear community benefits and that meet our general criteria:

- capital items, equipment (except vehicles or mini buses) for use in projects,
- coaching or training activity,
- project costs,
- sessional costs (we do not fund salaries unless stated in specific programme guidelines),
- capacity building activities,
- transport costs,
- repair costs,
- IT equipment limited to maximum £1,500.

For any single items or works between £250 and £1,000 we would accept one quote or estimate of works. For single items or works between £1,001 and £50,000 three quotes should be obtained.

Who we support:

Typically, we award grants to:

- voluntary-led organisations with charitable aims,
- registered charities and charitable incorporated organisations (CIO,)
- social enterprises,
- community interest companies (CIC),
- companies limited by guarantee that have charitable aims.

Governance due diligence

Organisations seeking funding must satisfy the following conditions:

Volunteer-led organisations, registered charities and CIOs must:	Social enterprises, Community Interest Companies (CIC) and other companies must:
Have a management committee with a minimum of four unrelated members	Have a management committee with a minimum of three directors, or four directors if two are related
Have a bank or building society account in the name of the organisation/group, with a minimum of two unrelated cheque signatories	Have a bank or building society account in the name of the organisation/company, with a minimum of two unrelated cheque signatories
Have charitable aims	Have clear charitable purposes and a defined social benefit
Provide evidence of good governance practices and sound financial management (including registering with the Charity Commission, CASC or other governing body, depending on the size of the organisation)	Have a recognised status (e.g. a company limited by guarantee), and be registered with the necessary relevant body (e.g. Companies House)
Usually, you must register with the Charity Commission if your charity is based in England or Wales and has over £5,000 income per year. We may ask for evidence of this in the form of a letter from the Charity Commission confirming receipt of your application for charitable status.	Have a nominated organisation as an asset lock body.

In addition, social enterprises, CICs and other companies must demonstrate within applications that:

- the company has been registered for a minimum of 12 months
- a reasonable percentage of their income has been earned through trading(usually over 50%)
- the project they wish to fund is not a tradable asset or service
- sessional costs are in line with an appropriate pay spine structure
- the application is made for cost to deliver the project not managing the CIC
- the project or activity for which funding is sought is charitable i.e. it must not be part of the trading services for which they would usually have a charge
- there is clear evidence of need (consultation etc.) from the community and the benefit must also be clear.

In managing your organisation, we would expect that the appropriate policies are in place. These should include (if appropriate) but not be restricted to:

- safeguarding policies and procedures for children and vulnerable adults,
- public liability insurance
- employer's liability
- equality and diversity,
- disclosure and barring service (DBS) checks carried out and in place for all paid and unpaid volunteer staff working with children and vulnerable adults
- suitable planning permissions and/or other regulations approval are in place prior to the commencement of any improvements to building or land as required.

While we may not always ask that these are submitted with all applications, we do anticipate that you hold appropriate assurances and that these can be produced upon request.

We are unable to accept application from groups that:

- have not returned monitoring forms for previous grants
- are subject to an investigation by the Charity Commission, the police or any other organisation in a legal capacity
- are connected to the donor unless a full and independent assessment has taken place to ensure that there is no conflict of interest and the proposed grant offers value for money,
- have restricted membership other than that associated with the objects of the group itself i.e. necessary for the safety/wellbeing of disadvantaged users,
- fail due diligence or do not comply with Charity Commission guidelines i.e. we would not make grants to organisations that had related bank signatories, several related trustees, income well in excess of the threshold for charitable registration etc.

What we cannot fund:

- unspecified contributions to general fund-raising appeals or large projects,
- for profit or commercial elements of charitable organisations
- capital items for general office resourcing (non-project)
- public bodies to carry out their statutory obligations,
- direct replacement of statutory or public funding,
- party political activity and campaigning,
- contingency funding,
- refreshments or food,
- building or buying premises or land rights,
- projects that solely support animal welfare,
- purchase of vehicles (running costs will be considered),
- feasibility studies or initial community consultations,

- fundraising activities,
- deficit or retrospective funding,
- sponsored events, multiple trophies or prizes,
- general running or core costs, except as a proportionate contribution to a project,
- CIC start-ups
- wholly grant-maintained CICs
- profit making or business ventures, including start-up costs
- activities that are primarily about proselytization or supporting worship activities (faith organisations may apply for funding towards a project/activity that is open to the whole community and has wider social benefits)

We do not normally fund

- national or regional charities, although we can support local branches of national charities if they are financially independent and locally managed.
- salaries through Community Grants but it may be considered by some of our other programmes (please check the specific programme criteria),
- organisations whose free reserves include more than 12 months of running costs,
- medical research and equipment,
- organisations that do not have their own bank account (in exceptional circumstances and through prior agreement with CDCF a group may nominate an organisation to hold the funding on their behalf)

Please note that each of our programmes and funds have their own criteria, which may vary from those listed above and may be subject to change. You should read the guidance notes for the programmes that you are applying to before starting your application. You should not apply to different funds or programmes for the same project i.e. we will not consider applications to Foundation funds as match for the same project.

If you require help with your application, please contact our office or email info@cdcf.org.uk