



GVC Grant Fund

Grant Guidelines

Aims

This programme aims to support local communities who use sport and physical activity to raise awareness, tackle mental health stigma, and support men with mental or physical health problems to become more active.

Priority will be given to small, locally based organisations in areas of disadvantage, run by people directly affected by the issues they are dealing with, and that have a clear understanding of the needs they are supporting.

Examples of the types of projects GVC are aiming to fund:

- Men's health projects¹
- Community sport activities
- Men's Sheds

Eligibility

Funding is available to charitable organisations based in or who mainly operate in County Durham or Tees Valley. Applications should be for a project that lasts a year however repeat funding is a possibility. Projects can deliver opportunities in a range of contexts and settings that can also include online, in clubs and groups, informally, or as part of structured programmes.

Groups can apply for up to 50% of the grant as core costs and the remainder as project delivery costs.

Applying for a grant

Applications can be submitted at any time. There are no closing dates for applications. You will receive a decision within 8 weeks from the receipt of a complete and eligible application. To apply for a grant, you must use our online application form which can be found by visiting www.cdcf.org.uk

Typically, we award grants to:

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

Organisations seeking funding must satisfy the following conditions:

¹ Applicant organisations can work with mixed age groups but the project for which you are applying for funding must only be working with adults.

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 £10,000 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 an asset-lock clause in the Company's dissolution.

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

- the company has been registered for a minimum of 12 months
- 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 (completed) 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,
- public bodies to carry out their statutory obligations,
- direct replacement of statutory or public funding,
- party political activity and campaigning,
- contingency funding 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
- onward awarding of grants except in exceptional circumstances
- CIC start-ups
- profit making or business ventures, including start-up costs
- activities that are primarily about proselytization or supporting worship activities
- capital costs or physical items of more than half the value of the grant
- individuals or sponsorship
- Trips abroad
- activities generating private profit
- organisations who are already in receipt of a grant directly from GVC
- national or regional charities, although we can support local branches of national charities if they are financially independent and locally managed
- organisations whose free reserves include more than 12 months of running costs,
- medical research and equipment,

Need more help?

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