

Birmingham Fairer Futures Fund

Locality Small Grants Programme

Applicant Guidance - October 2024



OFFICIAL

Heart of England Community Foundation

Heart of England Community Foundation is a registered charity and the leading, independent grant making foundation in the West Midlands and Warwickshire.

We believe in a fairer, happier and healthier Midlands – where everyone has equal access to opportunities, experiences genuine wellbeing, and enjoys a healthy and active life as part of their community.

We nurture philanthropy, connecting people who care, with incredible causes that matter. We help to unlock the resources to tackle local issues and to support people and communities to thrive across the region.

Key Highlights (2023/24):

- Since 1995 we have awarded over £40 million to good causes locally
- We have supported over 8,400 projects and community organisations
- In the last year alone, we awarded over £5.5 million in grants and donations
- We managed over 64 funds and programmes last year
- Over 400,000 people are estimated to benefit from our grants and awards

Neighbourhood Network Schemes

Adult Social Care developed Neighbourhood Network Schemes across Birmingham in 2018 and 2019 and now each constituency has a Neighbourhood Network Scheme which works closely with community organisations (“assets”) and the constituency social work team.

The Neighbourhood Networks’ role is to strengthen local communities so that neighbourhoods become better places to live in. The purpose of NNS is to ensure that citizens can access community-based support which can promote well-being and a better quality of life. NNS aims to do this through better coordination of community-based prevention & early intervention services. They develop partnership work between voluntary, community and faith organisations and the public sector, in particular Adult Social Care and health.

For the Locality Small Grant Programme, the role of Neighbourhood Network Schemes is to support local community assets to develop funding bids that address the priorities for the fund. All organisations seeking to submit a bid will need to connect with the NNS lead provider for their area (see contact details). Only bids that are supported by the NNS lead provider will be considered by the grants panel.

Neighbourhood Network Schemes (NNS) Lead contact details:

Edgbaston

Lead Facilitator: Age UK Birmingham
NNSEdgbaston@ageukbirmingham.org.uk

Erdington

Lead Facilitator: Witton Lodge Community Association
enns@wittonlodge.org.uk

Hall Green

Lead Facilitator: Green Square Accord
HallGreen.NNSTeam@greensquareaccord.co.uk

Hodge Hill

Lead Facilitator: Disability Resource Centre
ynsgrants@disability.co.uk

Ladywood

Lead Facilitator: Birmingham Settlement
ladywoodnns@bsettlement.org.uk

Northfield

Lead Facilitator: Northfield Community Partnership
NNSTeam@northfieldcommunity.org

Perry Barr

Lead Facilitator: Neighbourhood Development
Support Unit
PerryBarrNNS@birmingham.gov.uk

Selly Oak

SellyOakNNS@birmingham.gov.uk

Sutton Coldfield

Lead Facilitator: Age Concern Birmingham
NNS@ageconcernbirmingham.org.uk

Yardley

Lead Facilitator: Disability Resource Centre
ynsgrants@disability.co.uk

About the Fairer Futures Fund

- The £22.2m Fairer Futures Fund (FFF) was launched in 2022 by Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care System (BSol ICS) to fund new and innovative community-based projects across Birmingham and Solihull.
- It is part of the BSol ICS's strategic vision to radically transform health and social care services over the next five years – becoming more integrated and delivered as close as possible to citizens' homes whilst also focusing on preventing ill-health.
- Integral to this vision is the delivery of innovation at grass-roots level in the heart of communities through, and in collaboration with, the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector.
- FFF funds projects that will improve health and care provision; reduce health inequalities; and improve access to health and care; while supporting the broader social and economic development of Birmingham and Solihull.
- Over £2m of the FFF has already been distributed to over 50 projects across Birmingham and Solihull, and from March 2024 and beyond a range of new opportunities are being made available to apply to the FFF.
- The next new pot of FFF funding available is £2.46m for Locality Small Grants for locally based projects within specific parts of Birmingham.

About FFF's Locality Small Grants

- They are small grants of up to £15,000 per annum or up to a maximum of £45,000 for individual projects over a 3-year delivery period.
- However, there is no requirement for organisations to apply for a 3-year delivery period – applications are welcomed irrespective of value or length of delivery period; subject to the upper limits of 3 years and £45,000. All applications must have an impact against the themes and priorities of the fund.
- Multi-year projects will be assessed at each end-of-year and continued funding will be dependent upon performance/meeting monitoring requirements.
- Applicants are limited to apply for funding to target one distinct theme per application. Groups/Consortiums leads are invited to apply for a maximum of two small grants only.

What we expect to fund

To successfully receive a grant from this fund, applicants will need to clearly demonstrate the following:

- Innovative, new or additional services to address long-standing health and wellbeing inequalities
- An evidence-informed rationale for how your project will show impact on the fund priorities, participant behaviours, knowledge and/or clinical outcomes against one or more of the specific priorities for this fund
- A focus on improving outcomes in a specific location in the City

How to apply?

To make an application to this Fund, (applicants must connect with their NNS prior to accessing portal) you need to apply via the Heart of England Community Foundation website (<https://www.heartofenglandcf.co.uk/available-grants/>)

Fund will launch on 9th October 2024, online applications will be open late October/early November. The fund will close on 7th January 2025 at 5pm. We anticipate that all applicants will be notified on a decision from March 2025.



There are 4 Themes -

- Best Start in Life
- Healthier Lives in Communities
- Better outcomes through earlier intervention and treatment
- Empowering and connecting communities

Once you have selected your theme - you will be prompted to select one of the sub-priorities from your chosen theme

Funding Theme **Best start in life**

Projects should focus on at least one of the following sub-priorities:

Children, particularly those in care and children living in low-income households, via activities that support the uptake of vaccinations; uptake of healthy start vouchers; reduce infant mortality and hospital admissions caused by injuries and asthma

Young adults - including reducing conception rates in those aged below 18 and interventions to improve mental health

Women - including projects encouraging breastfeeding; develop parenting skills; uptake of long-acting reversible contraceptives; uptake of antenatal screening; continuity of maternal services and reproductive health particularly for those from deprived and ethnic minority backgrounds

Funding Theme **Healthier lives in communities**

Projects should focus on at least one of the following sub-priorities:

Increasing physical activity for people living with long-term conditions and disabilities

Men, women, children, families and those from deprived and ethnic minority backgrounds - activities aimed at improving nutrition, reducing sugar and salt intake and increasing physical activity; reducing the prevalence of diabetes and cardiovascular illnesses and related admissions to hospitals

Manual workers, people with long-term mental-health conditions, and the unemployed - through smoking cessation reducing the prevalence of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and related admissions to hospital

Funding Theme **Better outcomes through earlier intervention and treatment**

Projects should focus on at least one of the following sub-priorities:

Ethnic minority backgrounds including African, Caribbean and South Asian Communities - through activities to increase uptake of NHS health checks particularly for hypertension, cardiovascular disease (CVD), and mental health

Deprived communities - through activities increasing immunisation uptake; uptake of cancer screening; and increasing dementia diagnosis in the under 65s

Heterosexual women - through activities preventing and treating blood borne viruses (BBV) such as HIV and Hepatitis

Funding Theme **Empowering and connecting communities**

Projects should focus on at least one of the following sub-priorities:

LGBTQ+ and people with long-term conditions and disabilities – through activities improving mental health; reducing social isolation; supporting adults with learning disabilities into employment; increasing uptake of annual health checks; reducing suicide and self-harm rates

Migrant communities, ex-offenders, gypsy, Roma and travellers, and those with English as a second language – through activities that improve health literacy

Carers – increasing uptake of annual health checks

Project Examples

Children	<p>Example Project: Develop community led breastfeeding support groups.</p> <p>Expected Outcomes: Increase in breastfeeding rates at 6–8 weeks (and beyond), supports parent–infant relationships and mental health and wellbeing.</p>
Ethnic minority background	<p>Example Project: Community-led walking groups in Daily Mile tracks newly installed in 8 deprived wards.</p> <p>Expected Outcomes: Increased Physical activity in minority ethnic groups and reduce gaps between inactivity levels between ethnic groups</p>
Carers	<p>Example Project: Tailored Wellness program for carers with exercise and peer support</p> <p>Expected Outcomes: Increased PA levels, better wellbeing</p>
Ex-offenders	<p>Example Project: Rehabilitative fitness program with structured activities and reintegration support for positive lifestyle changes, and a focus on social support.</p> <p>Expected Outcomes: Increased PA levels, better wellbeing</p>
Young Adults	<p>Example Project: Education, employment and wellbeing mentoring for vulnerable young people.</p> <p>Expected Outcomes: improved socio economic and health and wellbeing outcomes for vulnerable young people</p>

Measuring Impact

Projects will be expected to have a clear rationale for how they will achieve the change in outcome proposed.

Individual outcomes should be measured using standardised methods. The Birmingham Measurement Toolbox [Birmingham public health measurement toolbox | Birmingham City Council](#) has been developed to support this.

Please note that whilst there may be projects for which the measurement toolkit is not appropriate (such as those that aim to work indirectly with the public e.g. through training and connecting), these will nonetheless require robust evaluation measures.

Fund Learning, Evaluation and Reporting

Successful applicants will be required to provide 6 monthly written report to the Heart of England Community Foundation and to take part in:

- Quarterly monitoring meetings
- Data collection to support additional monitoring in partnership with an external evaluation partner using an online system to collect base line and follow-up surveys of outcomes and participant data. Budgeting for proposed projects should allow for this requirement up to approximately 15% of the requested grant amount.
- Participate in a wider evaluation of the programme and impact outcomes (details TBC)
- Yearly grant review to assess project delivery and impact
- Complete an End of Grant Monitoring Report at the end of the delivery
- Provide case studies

Eligibility to Apply

You can apply to this fund if you are one of the following:

- Registered charities
- Constituted Community groups
- Companies Limited by Guarantee with charitable aims
- Community Interest Companies*
- Co-operatives – registered Community Benefit Societies and registered Industrial and Provident Societies
- Social Enterprises

**Funding to Community Interest Companies and other non-charities may include conditions to restrict funding to charitable objectives only.*

Our ambition is to award at least 50% of the funding to groups with an income level of under £1 million – as stated in applicants most recent accounts or financial statements

What we won't fund

- Direct replacement of statutory obligation and public funding
- Promotion of religious or political activities (we can fund religious or political organisations if their project benefits the wider community and does not include religious or political content)
- Groups with significant financial free reserves
- Retrospective grants
- Contribution to endowment fund, payment of deficit funding or repayment of loans
- Overseas travel or expeditions
- Medical research and equipment for statutory or private healthcare
- General appeals
- National Charities who don't have an existing strong local connection/presence
- Animal welfare, unless the project benefits people (e.g. disabled riding schemes)
- Statutory work in educational institutions
- Sponsored or fundraising events or groups raising funds to distribute to other causes
- Schools, Churches, Parish Councils or PTA's unless community benefit is demonstrated

Supporting information to submit with your application

To ensure that your application is eligible and that you are able to progress you must be able to provide proof of:

- Your organisation / company has a management committee / board of trustees / board of directors with at least 3 unrelated people as members, a list of those directors will be required showing who has bank authorisation.
- A written constitution / articles / set of rules.
- A copy of your most recent annual accounts or financial records showing your organisation's balance of funds, income and reserves.
- A bank account in the name of the organisation with at least two unrelated signatories
- A bank statement from the last 3 months.
- Up to date safeguarding policy in line with the most recent legislation (if you will be working with children or vulnerable adults)*
- Up to date Equal opportunities policy in line with the most recent legislation*
- Quotes for capital items over £500.

** Applicants should refer to our online support and FAQ's as insufficient supporting documentation will result in a delay or rejection of your application



Fund launch 7th October 2024 and close on 9th January 2025 at 5pm. Online applications will be open late October/early November. We anticipate that all applicants will be notified on a decision from March 2025.

Contact Us

For more information about applying to this programme, or for information, advice and guidance about the process please contact the Community Foundation or local Neighbourhood Network Scheme Lead Provider

 heartofenglandcf.co.uk

 info@heartofenglandcf.co.uk



Any Questions?

 heartofenglandcf.co.uk

 info@heartofenglandcf.co.uk

