

Time to Talk

28 November 2024



Community
Foundation

About us

We grow giving and philanthropy, matching generous people with our region's most important community causes. *Vital Signs* research guides our giving by identifying local issues.

Generosity is directed towards good **people**, great **organisations** and special **places** that make North East England a great place to live.





How to apply

- Everyone needs to register online (**do this at any time** and at least 2 working days before a deadline)
- Please read all application guidance here: www.communityfoundation.org.uk/apply

General applications: average grant £6,000 – apply at any time. You tell us what you need!

- **we** match your application to a fund (from our 300+ funds)
- **<12-week turnaround time** and all applications will receive a response

Calls for applications: varying deadlines, grant size and fund-specific criteria

- always specifically promoted on our website, via eNews (please subscribe) and on social media
- there is a named Fund Manager for each **call for application**, to help with your queries

If you are a first-time applicant and successful in being awarded a grant, please complete all monitoring before applying again. This is the first step in establishing a relationship with us.

Applying for funding as an organisation

Average grant size is £6,000. The minimum grant is now **£1,000** and a maximum of **£10,000**

- Our main focus is on small, local charitable organisations
- By **small** we mean with income up to £1 million, with priority to those with income up to £0.5 million

Your organisation must have:

- not-for-profit status
- a governing document outlining charitable aims and objectives
- a governing body (3+ unrelated trustees)
- financial records in acceptable format and a bank statement
- Adult at Risk **and** Child Safeguarding Policies

We can fund: project costs, core costs and capital costs (but not as part of large fundraising campaigns)

Exclusions: activity that has already taken place, religious activity, statutory functions, animal welfare



Safeguarding applies to all organisations we fund

To be considered for a grant, **all** organisations must have **Child and Adults at Risk Safeguarding** policies that:

- show a commitment to protecting people from harm
- make sure everyone in the organisation is aware of safeguarding
- are publicly available, regularly reviewed and put into practice
- enable people to raise safeguarding concerns
- set out how to handle allegations and incidents, and report to relevant authorities

Organisations working directly with children or adults at risk also need a safeguarding lead, evidence of regular safeguarding training and appropriate checks on trustees, staff and volunteers in eligible roles.

Uniformed groups and local groups affiliated to national bodies must include a declaration/statement of adoption **at local level** with reference to the **local** Safeguarding Officer and their contact details

Example Calls for Application

Supporting organisations throughout Tyne & Wear and Northumberland

Vital Communities – Sector Support Fund

Maximum grant: £5,000

Apply at any time

Funding the development of small and medium sized organisations

North East Fund For The Arts

Maximum Grant Size: £2,000

Apply: 27 January – 10 March 2025

Supporting communities to access high quality arts activities

Applying for funding - Individuals

Individuals or organisations applying on behalf of an individual are invited to apply for funding **only in response to specific calls for application**

Funds for individuals are promoted on our website: <https://www.communityfoundation.org.uk/apply/>

and in eNews (you can subscribe from every page of our website)

Funds for individuals are particularly targeted towards:

- young people leaving care
- individuals in education
- individuals developing talents in the arts, sports, and science

The Curtin PARP Fund supports young people to pursue formal education and activities that enhance learning and contribute to overcoming barriers to employability. **Grant size:** £1,000

Applying for funding as a Community Interest Company

Social enterprises including CICs can be funded to support legally charitable purposes.

Non-charity social enterprises **must** provide a business plan to outline how the organisation **is or aims to be** financially resilient with **trading as a core part of its income**.

We can consider applications for:

- reasonable direct costs of services that address a new or unmet community need, or which provide new ways of addressing issues
- building the organisation's capacity to develop and run relevant services
- equipment, land and buildings in line with our rules on capital grants to non-charities

Top tips for your application

- Use plain, simple language and imagine you're explaining your idea to a friend
- Don't overcomplicate or create an unnecessary project
- Read the **specific** application guidance if applying to a call for application
- Explain why **you** are the best organisation to deliver these services
- Demonstrate that you understand the needs of your specific area and beneficiaries
- Prepare your application in a Word document and transfer to the portal

Common mistakes

- budgets that don't add up
- documentation that is out-of-date, uses outdated language or doesn't match
- applications not submitted under the correct legal name
- misunderstanding of the type of not-for-profit organisation
- use of unfamiliar/unexplained acronyms
- multiple applications submitted at the same time **for the same thing**

If your application is complete and eligible, the process runs like this:

- first we check if your application matches one of our available funds and if you've applied in response to a call for applications, it goes to that fund first
- one of our team assesses your organisation and the funding request and may contact you for more information at this stage. This is to clarify detail or request updated info.
- next we shortlist assessments (and there are usually more shortlisted applications than we have money to support). A donor or advisory panel may be involved in recommending grant applications. **The Fund Manager is your advocate in this discussion!**
- we decide whether to offer you a grant based on the recommendations of the team and aim to give a decision within 12 weeks of receiving **all** required information

If successful in your application:

- You will receive a confirmation email and be requested to accept and return the terms and conditions of your grant.
- You can now begin your funded activity.
- If for whatever reason you are unable to fulfil the requirements of your grant in the way you had planned, please get in touch **as soon as possible** to discuss alternative options for delivering your funded activity: we understand that circumstances can change unexpectedly.
- Once agreed activity is complete, you are required to complete **all** monitoring

Sector Support – Trustee Match

- promoting trustee roles and facilitating introductions
 - guiding your trustee recruitment and induction processes, enhancing equity, diversity and inclusion; ensuring a positive welcome for new trustees
 - many Trustee Match members are seeking their first trustee position and we host monthly **First Trusteeship Gatherings** alongside one-to-one support
 - for Chairs and aspiring Chairs, we coordinate the **Chairing Network**
- Next event: **9.30-11.30am 11 February 2025** at Sunderland Empire Theatre

Sector Support – Skills Match

Support provided includes:

- training to address key issues affecting sector
- discussions and webinars with guest speakers to inspire fresh ideas
- brokering bespoke pro-bono expertise from businesses and individuals

- Sector Support playlist addressing sector support themes:

www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLE1OuDf-PFI9n4x21z_7yoGC2ptkkXZlo

- All events advertised here:

www.communityfoundation.org.uk/news-and-events/?listing-category=events

In numbers: 2023-2024

60% success rate for external applicants

1,253 grants to 91 individuals and 630 organisations

73 organisations benefited from pro bono support

150 organisations were first-time recipients of our funding

£8.4m awarded and average grant size was £6,718

44% funding for core costs

Please share your feedback on the impact of funding



