

The Connecting South Yorkshire Fund Programme Overview

£3,000 is available for projects running in 2024/25 for groups wishing to improve their own digital connectivity or the offer they provide to their community. Grants will be issued on a first come, first served basis to groups who meet the eligibility criteria noted below.

Who are The Connecting South Yorkshire Fund Grants for?

These grants are intended for groups and organisations from across South Yorkshire, where small amounts of funding can make a real difference.

We welcome applications from all community and voluntary groups and organisations operating for the benefit of South Yorkshire communities. Groups must therefore have beneficiaries who live in South Yorkshire and be locally led and run. This includes locally constituted and managed branches of national or large charities.

What can I spend the money on?

This grant is intended to help groups improve their broadband/internet connection or your digital offer to your community. The grant could be for:

- Digital/IT literacy support providing and improving public access to internet connections and public access to technology.
- Support with the costs associated with the delivery of community based digital inclusion activities, enhancing digital skills, and improving access to online services and information.

Which groups or activities will be prioritised for funding?

- Groups that respond to their communities' needs.
- Activities or projects that will support people whose needs can be clearly demonstrated.
- Activities or projects that will engage people who face discrimination or disadvantage.
- Activities or projects that will produce a wide range of benefits and provide good value for money.

Who and what cannot be funded?

- Organisations that are national charities (unless locally led and run).
- Organisations that have substantial unrestricted reserves
- Activities that promote political or religious beliefs. Groups that are based in a religious building can apply, providing the activity / project is open to all people in the community. Please contact the grants team to discuss eligibility if you are unsure.
- Statutory bodies e.g., schools/colleges, local councils. However, 'Friends of' or Parents' Associations may be eligible to apply.
- Organisations or activities that support animals.
- Contributions to a large project where the amount applied for is less than one fifth (20%) of the total project cost.
- Retrospective funding – this includes activities that have already taken place or repayment of money that you have already spent.
- Consultancy fees or feasibility studies
- Activities or organisations that are for personal profit.

How do we apply?

Before sending in your application, you will first need to:

- Sign up to the Good Things Foundation network as a registered digital inclusion hub - Link to their web page here www.goodthingsfoundation.org/network/join/
- Complete the South Yorkshire Digital Inclusion Survey <https://forms.gle/K1U2wS4bTVrAqSk4A>

- Sign up to the South Yorkshire Digital Inclusion Network to receive updates and invites to relevant events <https://forms.gle/FuKKjMETdszCsh1v8>

Then:

- Complete the SYCF Connecting South Yorkshire Application Form online (you can also request this form to complete by hand by contacting us on grants@sycf.org.uk or by telephone on 0114 242 4294.)
- Send us a reference if you are new to SYCF. The reference form is attached to the registration online form or can be sent to you/your referee directly. Please ask them to complete and return the form to us via email or post. We only need a reference from you if you have not applied to SYCF for funds in the past, or it was more than 3 years ago.

Groups applying for the fund are also required to provide:

- A copy of your group's signed Constitution or Rules which should tell us the names of at least three unrelated Trustees or Directors. If you are a registered charity or have supplied this on previous applications to SYCF you do not need to resend this document.
- Your most recent set of audited accounts, or a 12 months' income/expenditure sheet so we can understand the finances at your organisation.
- A copy of a recent bank statement in the name of your organisation
- if you would like to purchase any single item over £200, we will need to see two quotes for that purchase.
- If you work with vulnerable adults and/or children, we will need to see your Safeguarding Policy.

What happens when we apply?

When we receive your application:

- The Foundation staff will check it to ensure that it meets our main eligibility criteria. If we have any queries, we will contact you either by email, telephone or in writing.
- Support and advice is available for groups, but groups must be aware that any support provided will not necessarily influence a successful outcome.
- All eligible applications are assessed, and decisions are made internally.
- The Foundation may request a visit to your group.
- The Foundation may award a grant dependent on certain conditions (conditional offer) – in this case your payment will be sent once you have met / agreed to these conditions.

If your application is successful:

- Your group will be sent an award letter which will include an End of Grants report form. The monitoring form must be returned to the Foundation as soon as funds have been spent. If this form is not completed; your group will not be eligible for further grant aid from the Foundation.
- Your group may be contacted once funding has been given, to arrange a visit to evaluate and audit your spending of the grant.
- Your group is expected to send a Thank you letter to the Donor (s) of the Fund.
- Your group will be expected to include the Foundation in any publicity that your group arranges. Please ask us for our logo.

We look forward to hearing from you!