

SYCF Community Grants Programme

The SYCF Community Grants Programme is made up of several funds provided by generous local donors. It is intended to support community groups and organisations across South Yorkshire, especially smaller, developing or less well-resourced organisations and grass-roots groups, where small amounts of funding can make a real difference.

How much can I apply for?

Up to £5,000, to be spent within one year.

When can I apply?

Applications are now open. Please see the website for specific deadlines.

Aims and priorities

We want to fund organisations which will make a difference in their local neighbourhood, focusing on the following priorities:

- Education and learning
- Poverty deprivation
- Work and the local economy
- Health & well-being, including physical and mental health
- Homelessness
- Social isolation
- Supporting people with disabilities

Who can apply?

Community Grants are for grass-roots community organisations in South Yorkshire. This includes charities, community groups, clubs and not-for-profit social enterprises. To be eligible for a grant you must:

- Have a governing document (e.g., a constitution or memorandum of association),
- Have a board or management committee of at least three unrelated people,
- Have a bank account in the name of the group requiring at least two unrelated signatories,
- Have an income of less than £200,000 in your last financial year, and
- Have beneficiaries who live in South Yorkshire and be locally led and run.
- We will only fund local offices or branches of a national charity if they have their own local management committee and manage their own local finances.



If you have previously been funded through SYCF, you must also have returned requested End of Grant monitoring forms to be eligible. You also cannot apply if you have successfully received a Community Grant within the last two years.

What can I spend the money on?

Anything that delivers the impact for your community! It can be:

- capital work (e.g., equipment, building works or repairs, provided you own or lease the building/land being built on or repaired)
- or revenue, including room hire, volunteer expenses, sessional staff or salaries (e.g., extra hours for an existing staff member, or a short-term contract)
- or service provision, including e.g., materials, practical and specialist support for groups and activities.

If your application includes staff costs, we encourage you to pay at least the real [Living Wage](#). Don't forget to include a fair share of overheads like rent or room hire, utilities, and admin or management costs needed to support your project.

Where relevant, we expect you to shop around to find the best value for money.

For any individual items costing over £200 we'll need you to attach a quote to your application.

What cannot be funded?

Community Grants cannot be used for:

- For-profit organisations, statutory organisations (e.g., schools and hospitals) or overseas organisations
- Organisations with an income over £200,000 (in your last financial year)
- Retrospective funding I.E. activity and costs that have already taken place or repayment of money which has already been spent
- Overseas trips or expeditions
- Grant-making to other organisations and/or individuals
- Organisations or activities primarily for the benefit of animals rather than people
- Activity that promotes a particular political or religious point of view
- We can fund religious organisations (like a church, mosque or gurdwara) delivering activity which benefits the community (like running a food bank), but we cannot fund religious services or activity intended to promote a particular religion.
- If activity is intended to target a particular group of people (ethnicity, gender, religion, etc.) there should be a good reason for this, for example if this is the best way to redress an existing inequality or to ensure services reach a group which would otherwise be underserved or marginalised.



What happens after I apply?

Your application will be assessed against the criteria, aims and priorities above and we may contact you to ask some additional questions or for missing information. Please ensure you attach or email the essential requested additional documentation when you submit your application to prevent delays to this process.

Our panel of independent volunteer decision makers will make their decisions, which are final. Please see the website for specific information about panel dates so you can ensure that your proposed start date for activity and/or events fit within the proposed timescales for the programme.

If your application is successful we will contact you with the good news and details of which fund has provided the grant and when you can expect payment. You will need to send a thank you letter to the donor related to your grant.

If your application unfortunately does not meet our criteria, or if the panel decide it is not a priority for funding, we will contact you to let you know and provide feedback on request.

Please note that we expect to receive more applications than we are able to fund, so not every eligible application will be funded.

Reporting

We're keen to understand what difference our grants make, and to share good stories with our donors and supporters. We also want you to learn from delivering your project, and to share that learning with us and with others. Finally, we have to ensure that funding has been appropriately spent, in line with your application and our terms and conditions.

For all of these reasons, we'll ask you to send us an end of grant report, confirming your expenditure and sharing information about the difference the grant has made to your group and beneficiaries. This must be completed six weeks after the grant has been spent or the activity has finished. We'll send you a link to the online end of grant report form and treasurer's confirmation form around the same time as we make your grant payment.

We might also arrange to come and visit your project or contact you during the project to discuss your progress.

Contact us

If you're ready to apply, complete the [online application form](#).

If you would like more information or to discuss your application, please get in touch with the Grants Team via grants@syfc.org.uk.

If you are based in Barnsley or Sheffield, and you would like more support to make an application, please contact our colleagues at [SYFAB](#) who will be happy to help you.

