



North Kesteven Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF)

Capital Aid Scheme (CAS)

Fund Guidelines

Object of the Fund

To support new and improved community infrastructure, providing essential community services and assets for local people to benefit the local economy. Successful applicants must use any grant funding on **capital projects** that create long lasting community assets, such as a building or equipment for community benefit.

The intention is to strengthen the social fabric of communities, building pride in place by improving local community infrastructure, creating opportunities for social connections to develop and thrive. Projects must be in a rural area e.g. towns, villages and hamlets with populations below 10,000, or market or 'hub towns' with populations of up to 30,000 that serve their surrounding rural areas as centres of employment and in providing services.

Conditions of the Fund

Subsidy Allowance rules and requirements apply to this scheme and applicants are required to familiarise themselves with the details thereof. For more information about subsidy control please visit [UK Shared Prosperity Fund: subsidy control \(7\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-subsidy-control-7).

Successful applicants will be expected to comply with monitoring requests for the project's delivery and any evaluation of outputs and outcomes. This may mean that data will need to be collected before, during and after the project has been delivered.

NB: Most wards in North Kesteven are eligible for REPF funding, however The Council has been issued with guidance from DEFRA in respect some areas of North Hykeham and Waddington West which are ineligible for this grant funding. These locations, though part of North Kesteven District, are considered by DEFRA to be geographically next to the City of Lincoln. As an 'Urban' rather than a 'Rural' area, The City of Lincoln is ineligible for this funding.

Priorities

Capital investments projects comprise of the following:

- the purchase of property, land, or buildings by the community for the community.
- the purchase of equipment (including replacement).
- the conversion, improvements or refurbishment of buildings for community purposes.
- the creation or enhancement of walks, trails and cycle paths including access improvements.
- capital investment designed to improve the sustainability and resilience of rural communities including the creation of new services and amenities or improvements to existing provision in support of community cohesion and inclusion.

- Investments in renewables, green power and energy efficiency measures which lessen the reliance of Rural Communities on fossil fuels and make a positive contribution to Net Zero e.g. projects aimed at reducing fuel costs at a time of exponentially rising prices, Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points, solar panels and ground source heat pumps.
- Investments in digital connectivity, awareness, and infrastructure which will improve community confidence, including broadband.

About the Grants

- Applicants can only hold one grant at any one time.
- The grant will support capital projects only and cannot be used for revenue items.
- Grant bids may be from £5,000 to £10,000 for capital costs in the first round of funding, and from £5,000 to £25,000 for capital costs in the remaining two rounds.
- Closing dates: 16 February, 1 May & 14 September 2024.
- Applicants should demonstrate value for money and therefore the decision to match fund proposals may be critical. The greater the funding requirement the greater the expectation that applicants will be required to contribute.
- Payments are usually made in arrears. However, where an applicant does not have the financial resource to cover the project costs, payments may be made in advance or in staged payments.
- Decisions are notified within 6-8 weeks of the closing date.
- All funds should be spent within a year of receipt unless otherwise agreed, but in any event before 31 December 2024.

Eligibility/Supporting documentation

Not for profit community groups, registered charities, social enterprises, Town and Parish Councils etc. All applicants must submit:

- Constitution/Governing document.
- A local management board or committee (with minimum of at least two unrelated people).
- A bank or building society account in the organisation's name with at least two signatories who are not related or living in the same household.
- Latest Accounts/Income and Expenditure Account (or last three months Bank Statements, if a new group).
- Other relevant policies and procedures (safeguarding policy, equal opportunities etc).
- Evidence of cost with three quotes.
- Evidence the balance of project costs has been secured/pledged (match funding).
- Any additional information (planning permission or Listed Building Consent for Graded buildings).

What can be funded:

Projects must align with the aims of the REPF, and demonstrate they improve the wellbeing of residents, help strengthen communities and address one of the following priorities:

- Activities/programmes and capital costs for smaller meeting places which will improve and widen the use of community buildings including village halls and community hubs.
- Projects that enhance community infrastructure.
- Community & neighbourhood projects which bring people together and support groups of people.
- Projects that focus on local regeneration, that ultimately will engage the wider community.
- Community projects aimed at reducing the cost of overheads for a community facility.
- Projects that improve digital connectivity in local community facilities.

What cannot and/or is unlikely to be funded:

- Individuals.
- National or Regional organisations.
- VAT: if you are able to claim back VAT then VAT is not eligible as part of the costs of your project and should not be included.

- Projects promoting religious or political beliefs.
- Requests for large capital projects where match funding has not been secured.
- Grant making bodies applying for funding to redistribute to others.
- Retrospective expenditure or unsustainable deficits or loans.
- Projects that have received funding from Platinum Village Hall Improvement Grant Fund.
- Revenue costs such as running costs or promotional activities.
- Purchase or hire of vehicles.
- Funding for capital projects (play equipment, outdoor gym equipment etc) where there has been no local consultation.
- LED lighting, unless it is part of a larger project with strong evidence of impact.
- Requests for large capital projects where match funding has not been secured.
- Projects that cannot be completed and reported on impact by March 2025.
- Projects where the applicant has a limited track record in local delivery.
- Activity that duplicates pre-existing private or public sector funding.

Application process

Applications to be submitted electronically to hayley@lincolnshirecf.co.uk along with all supporting documents. If you are unable to send an electronic copy, please send a hard copy to Hayley Crawford, Lincolnshire Community Foundation. 4 Mill House, Carre Street, Sleaford, Lincs NG34 7TW.

Grant management

The grant scheme is managed by the Lincolnshire Community Foundation CIO (charity number 1196448). NKDC REPF Grants Programme operates under the umbrella of the Foundation and is overseen by representative(s) from the Foundation, local authority, strategic partners and the community and voluntary sector.

Lincolnshire Community Foundation will use details submitted internally for administration purposes. As some of the information may be classified as “personal data” it will be processed in accordance with the rights and obligations of the Data Protection Act 2018.

If you are uncertain about your project’s eligibility for Rural England’s Prosperity Grants Programme, please contact Hayley Crawford or Sue Fortune at the Foundation on 01529 305825 or hayley@lincolnshirecf.co.uk for further guidance.