

UKSPF GRASSroots GRANTS

Fund Guidelines

Object of the Fund

To enable places to invest in and restore their community spaces and create the foundations for growth at neighbourhood level. 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.

About the Grants

- Grants may be up to £24,999 to include capital and revenue costs.
- Groups can only hold one grant at any one time from UKSPF GRASSroots Grants.
- Closing date: 1 September 2024 for bids from Boston Borough and East Lindsey District Council areas.
- 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 closing date.
- Funds awarded in the **Borough of Boston** district must be spent by **31 December 2024**.
- Funds awarded in the **East Lindsey** District Council area must be spent by **31 December 2025**.

Eligibility/Supporting documentation

Not for profit community groups, registered charities, social enterprises, Town, and Parish Councils etc. All applicants should 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 where specific items of expenditure exceed £10,000
- Evidence the balance of project costs has been secured/pledged (match funding)
- Any additional information (planning permission or Listed Building Consent for Graded buildings)
- Organisations already in receipt of UKSPF funding can apply to UKSPF GRASSroots Grants if the project is different or can demonstrate added value to existing activity
- National or Regional organisations are unlikely to receive funding.
- If applying for playground equipment, please submit an accessibility audit which evidences inclusive access and play for users and caregivers with various disabilities including mobility, vision, hearing and sensory such as autism spectrum disorder.

What can be funded:

Projects must align with the aims of UKSPF, 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
- Projects that enhance community transport infrastructure
- Community & neighbourhood projects/activities which bring people together and support groups of people
- Projects/events that develop new local arts, cultural, heritage activities
- Impactful volunteering and/or social action projects
- Capacity building projects for local groups that increase resilience and sustainability
- Projects that focus on local regeneration, engaging the wider community
- Community projects aimed at reducing the cost of living
- Projects that improve digital connectivity in local community facilities

Some examples of successful projects include:

- Replacement of windows and doors for a community centre, making the building warmer and more secure.
- Replacement of current play park equipment with new, more accessible and inclusive equipment for all the community to access and enjoy.
- Creation of a community village green, including a play area, seating, and memorial area.
- Contribution to a new hygienic food preparation and serving area in a community hub building.
- Development of access to activities, bringing people together to build strong social links through workshop, music, and exercise.

What cannot and/or is unlikely to be funded:

- Projects promoting religious or political beliefs
- Individuals
- General contributions to large appeals unless the majority of match funding support is in place
- Grant making bodies applying for funding to redistribute to others
- Retrospective expenditure or unsustainable deficits or loans
- Funding for capital projects (play equipment, outdoor gym equipment etc) where there has been no local consultation
- Renewable energy sources such as solar panels or LED lighting
- Requests for large capital projects where match funding has not been secured
- Projects in the Boston Borough district that cannot be delivered and report on impact by March 2025
- Projects in the East Lindsey district that cannot be delivered and report on impact by March 2026
- Projects where the applicant has a limited track record in local delivery
- A project that requires substantial capacity building (e.g. specialist recruitment)
- Activity that duplicates pre-existing private or public sector funding

Application process

Applications can be submitted electronically to helen@lincolnshirecf.co.uk along with all supporting documents. If you are unable to send an electronic copy, please send a hard copy to Helen Cater, 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). UKSPF GRASSroots 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. The Panel meets four times a year to consider grant applications.

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 UKSPF GRASSroots Grants Programme, please contact Helen Cater or Cavan Collins at the Foundation on 01529 305825 or helen@lincolnshirecf.co.uk for further guidance.