

ELIF GRASSroots Grants

Fund Guidelines

Object of the Fund

To support community-led efforts in East Lindsey which 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, create opportunities for social connections to develop and thrive as well as further develop access to services for local residents.

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 ELIF GRASSroots Grants or other ELIF grant schemes
- Closing dates: 13 June 2025 and 10 October 2025
- 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
- Applicants will be notified of decisions within 6 weeks of the closing date
- Successful applicants must have spent funds by **31 August 2026**

Eligibility/Supporting documentation

This scheme is open to not-for-profit community groups, registered charities, social enterprises and town and parish councils etc. All applicants should submit:

- Their Constitution/Governing document
- The names, roles and addresses of their local management board or committee (with minimum of at least two unrelated people)
- A recent bank statement from any bank or building society accounts in the organisation's name. These should have at least two signatories who are not related or living in the same household
- The latest Accounts/Income and Expenditure Account (or last three months Bank Statements, if a new group)
- Any 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 that the balance of project costs has been secured/pledged (match funding)
- Any additional information which supports details in your application. (e.g. planning permission or Listed Building Consent for Graded buildings)
- 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.
- Projects operating within the Lincoln Diocese will need to provide evidence of an approved faculty if the project relates to building improvements, repairs or alterations.

What can be funded:

Projects must align with the aims of the East Lindsey Investment Fund, in the case of GRASSroots, relating to community development. Prospective projects should address themes and initiatives that are close to the hearts of the residents of East Lindsey and address one of the following priorities:

- Community Facilities - support for meeting places/community hubs/outdoor spaces which will improve and widen opportunities for residents
- Community Cohesion - community & neighbourhood projects/activities that bring people together and support groups of people
- Core Strength - capacity building that will increase the resilience and sustainability of local organisations (governance advice, volunteer recruitment & retention and longer-term financial planning)
- Digital Exclusion & Transport - projects that improve digital connectivity and access to transport (e.g. improving internet access/training, support for local transport schemes)
- Young People - provision of activities, facilities and opportunities (workshops, diversionary activities, intergenerational projects etc.) for young people.
- Older People - projects tackling isolation, loneliness, access to advice & support etc.
- Heritage, arts & culture - projects that develop new local arts, cultural and heritage activities that improve wellbeing and help strengthen communities.
- Energy efficiency for community buildings - cost-effective heating systems, efficient lighting systems, replacement of windows & doors, water heaters, energy efficiency building audit.

What cannot and/or is unlikely to be funded:

- Projects with a total cost exceeding £5,000 need to evidence match funding of at least 20% of the total project value, whether through other financial sources or an in-kind contribution. If applicants are unable to reach the match funding element, please contact the ELIF GRASSroots Team.
- Projects promoting religious or political beliefs. Places of worship will be considered, and will need to demonstrate the project is actively open and welcoming to people from all faiths and backgrounds and to the wider community.
- Capital works to domestic properties
- Individuals
- General contributions to large appeals unless the majority of match funding support is in place
- Projects not taking place in the area of benefit (East Lindsey)
- 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.
- Requests for large capital projects where match funding has not been secured
- Projects that cannot spend funding, deliver work and report on impact by the end of August 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 or activity that the applicant has a statutory duty to undertake.
- Schools or parent-teacher associations (PTAs)
- National or regional organisations
- Applicants with an open ELIF-funded project or an open UKSPF GRASSroots funded project which is similar in nature to the project being applied for with this funding.

Application process

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

Grant management

The grant scheme is managed by the Lincolnshire Community Foundation CIO (charity number 1196448). ELIF 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 three 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. Our privacy policy is available on the footer of our website - <https://lincolnshirecf.co.uk>

All complaints for this Fund will be managed through the Lincolnshire Community Foundation’s complaints procedure in the first instance. Non-resolved complaints regarding ELIF-funded projects will then be reviewed and arbitrated by the UKSPF Delivery Team at East Lindsey District Council.

If you have an idea which you think would be eligible for the ELIF GRASSroots Grants Programme or would like to have a chat about the scheme, please get in touch with either Cavan Collins or Hayley Crawford at the Foundation on 01529 572272 or elif@lincolnshirecf.co.uk for further guidance.