

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 **£10,000.00** for revenue and capital projects delivering in East Lindsey and South Holland.
- Groups can only hold one grant at any one time from the UKSPF GRASSroots Grant Scheme
- Closing date: **Tuesday 12th May 2026**
- Payments are usually made in arrears. However, when an applicant does not have the financial resources to cover the project costs, payments may be made in advance or in staged payments.
- Applicants will be notified of decisions within 4 weeks of the closing date.
- **Successful applicants must have spent funds and completed and reported on activities by the 9th 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. Accounts should have at least two signatories who are not related or living in the same household. There must also be a bank statement with details that match those supplied in the application.
- The latest Accounts/Income and Expenditure details for the last year (or last three months Bank Statements, if a new group). CICs are required to provide full profit and loss accounts.
- Any other relevant policies and procedures (safeguarding policy when working with children or vulnerable adults, equal opportunities etc.)
- Evidence of cost with three quotes where specific items of expenditure exceed £5,000 and one quote for any remaining items of expenditure.
- Evidence that the balance of project costs has been secured/pledged (match funding). This can be either financial or in-kind.
- Where significant capital works are taking place, proof of secured planning permission or confirmation from the local planning department that planning permission is not needed should be supplied.

- 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.
- Any additional information which supports details in your application.

What can be funded:

Projects must align with the aims of UKSPF and demonstrate they improve the wellbeing of residents in East Lindsey or South Holland, 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, and 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

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 UKSPF GRASSroots Team to discuss this further.
- Projects with bid values to the Fund exceeding £10,000.00. Any total project values exceeding £10,000.00 must evidence match funding (either financial or in-kind).
- Projects promoting religious or political beliefs. Places of worship can be considered but 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 or South Holland)
- 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.
- Funding for significant capital works where planning permission has not been sought and confirmed as needed or otherwise.
- Renewable energy sources such as solar panels.

- Requests for large capital projects where match funding has not been secured.
- Projects that cannot spend funding and deliver and report on work by the 9th 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 already holding grants from other South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership UKSPF funding programmes. Please get in touch with the UKSPF GRASSroots Team if you are currently in receipt of any UKSPF funding so that we can assess if you are eligible for this Scheme.

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 UKSPF GRASSroots, Lincolnshire Community Foundation, Glennys Sanders House, Pride Parkway, Sleaford, NG34 8GL.

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 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 UKSPF-funded projects will then be reviewed and arbitrated by the UKSPF Delivery Team at the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership.

If you have an idea which you think would be eligible for the UKSPF GRASSroots Grant Fund or would like to have a chat about the scheme, please get in touch with Helen Cater at the Foundation on 01529 305825 or helen@lincolnshirecf.co.uk for further guidance.