

MICHAEL CORNISH CORE GRANTS PROGRAMME

Fund Guidelines

Object of the Fund

To empower and support the resilience of community organisations delivering services and/or opportunities across Greater Lincolnshire addressing the needs of young people, families, ex-offenders, victims of domestic abuse or sexual violence and to alleviate poverty (including rural deprivation) in all its forms.

About the Grants

- Grants may be up to £5,000.00 for revenue, including running costs and small capital items
- Groups can only hold one grant at any one time from this programme, although they may re-apply for continuation funding upon receipt of a satisfactory Impact Report.
- Closing date of 16th October 2026 with applicants notified of decision within 8 weeks of the closing date. Projects should anticipate starting delivery from January 2027 onwards.
- Payments are usually made in advance.
- Funds awarded must be spent within one year of receipt unless otherwise agreed.

Eligibility/Supporting documentation

This scheme is open to not-for-profit constituted community groups, registered charities, social enterprises, 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 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)
- Other relevant policies and procedures (safeguarding policy, equal opportunities etc.)
- Evidence of cost

What can be funded:

Projects must demonstrate how they align with the aims of the Fund addressing at least one of the Fund's key priorities specifically. Priority will be given to eligible applications supporting the Fund's underrepresented themes to date, particularly homeless people, ex-offenders, rural deprivation and families facing hardship. Strong applications should offer a focused, cost-effective and sustainable plan that showcases how the project supports core strength both now and into the future. The priorities for the fund are as follows (the examples provided are not an exhaustive list):

- Young People - provision of activities, facilities and opportunities (youth clubs/groups, workshops, diversionary activities, intergenerational projects etc.) that will enable young people to reach their full potential whether preventive or enabling.

- Families – Projects that support parenting skills, access to vital services, employment opportunities, peer support networks, family engagement activities, social cohesion.
- Homeless/Ex-Offenders – Initiatives that assist vulnerable homeless people and ex-offenders (accommodation, advice, practical support, food/clothing/ benefits advice).
- Victims of Domestic Abuse or Sexual Violence – Support for survivors (counselling, practical support, benefits advice or solutions, housing).
- Alleviating Poverty (lack of access to basic needs) - Meaningful projects that address the root causes of poverty, including advice and support e.g. debt counselling, welfare advice.
- Rural deprivation – Provision that tackles the underlying factors creating economic and social hardship in rural areas e.g. barriers to essential services, community activities and social connection

What cannot and/or is unlikely to be funded:

- Projects promoting religious or political beliefs.
- Capital projects. Small capital items may be included, but these should be essential to delivering revenue activities and not make up a significant proportion of the project.
- Individuals.
- Grant making bodies applying for funding to redistribute to others.
- Retrospective expenditure or unsustainable deficits or loans.
- Projects where the applicant has a limited track record in Greater Lincolnshire delivery.
- Projects that do not show clear local need through consultation and/or local evidence.
- Activity that duplicates pre-existing private or public sector funding or activity that the applicant has a statutory duty to undertake.
- National or regional organisations will not be funded. The priority of this Fund is to fund locally based and governed organisations.
- Applicants unable to provide supporting documentation at the point of submission.

Application process

Applications can be submitted electronically to cavan@lincolnshirecf.co.uk along with all supporting documents. If you are unable to send an electronic copy, please send a hard copy to Michael Cornish Core Grants Programme, 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).

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.

If you have any further queries about the guidance or the Fund, please get in touch with Cavan Collins at the Foundation on 01529 305825 for further guidance.