

## Example of a Grant Application

### Section 1 - Organisation

**Please describe the overall aims and objectives of your organisation and the activities or services your organisation provides:**

We want to see a world where every disabled child and young person can enjoy the same rights and opportunities as their non-disabled peers, including access to out of school play, social and creative activities. We believe that disabled children and young people should enjoy the same rights and opportunities as other children and young people as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, including access to activities that suit their needs, abilities and aspirations. We have been running inclusive activities in Oxford for over 25 years. As an established organisation with a proven track record of inclusive, high-quality delivery we have links with a wide range of professionals (CAHMS, PCAHMS, Schools, Social Services, JR paediatric Social Worker, Community Nursing Team) who regularly refer children, young people and adults to our services. Since 1991 we have used our building located in Northway to run an inclusive holiday playscheme and after school club and provided space at low cost to Oxford City Council's Youth Ambition - youth group. We run holiday and term time activities for teens at various venues around the city and beyond. We also run a year-round inclusive Volunteering project for teens and young adults. Over the past 2.5 years we have been piloting and then delivering a growing number of community-facing projects in response to need identified through local feedback and the work of the Northway Community Partnership.

**To help us understand the difference you make, please tell us how you have helped an individual in the past and the change your organisation has made to their life:**

C has been attending our inclusive Youth Group and Holiday provision since July 2013. C has a mild learning difficulty and is a young carer. After the initial introductory session C quickly became a regular member of the group. In his first year with us he attended every holiday and youth group session including a Summer Canoe and camping residential. As well as joining our Film Making group C became a member of our Young Person Feedback Group and through this became a member of the YOF panel. As a member of this panel C helped give out over £50,000 of funding to Youth Groups and Projects. After becoming an established member of the group C asked if he could become a Volunteer in August 2013. Volunteers support young people in accessing activities and act as examples of positive participation. As a Volunteer C excelled. He took on board the importance of being a strong role model for other young people and demonstrated a firm belief in the benefits of inclusive practice. We were especially impressed by C's kindness and patience towards our more vulnerable users and his ability to motivate others with his energy and enthusiasm. As he developed as a volunteer it became evident that we needed to enlarge the project in order to allow progression for him and several other volunteers. We introduced the role of Senior Volunteer in July 2015 and C was first on the list for promotion. As a Senior Volunteer C was given greater responsibility, handled petty cash, led projects and was placed at our Child Playscheme to support disabled children in accessing activities. C was especially interested in the Cooking Project where young people planned, shopped, cooked, served and cleared away lunch for between 40 and 60 people during holiday activity days. Through this role C developed his Leadership and Communication skills and is a very popular member of the team. C has helped to raise over £20,000 for our organisation through helping to write and pitching for various projects. During his time with us C became familiar with staff at a local burger restaurant where we regularly have meals. As an organisation this burger restaurant regularly employ our volunteers, donate to the charity and their General Manager is an ex-employee of ours. When C secured work experience there they already had a very good opinion

of him and supported him in becoming a paid member of staff. He became a shift worker before moving on to manage in another local burger restaurant.

**Please explain why the people in your community need your organisation?**

Northway is among the 30 percent most deprived areas of Oxford and the UK. One fifth of residents are under 18, and one-fifth over 65. Almost half of residents have no or low qualifications, and academic attainment is significantly below the city average. Close to a quarter of children and elderly people live below the poverty line. Northway has grown markedly more diverse since the early 2000s, yet residents with lived experience of racism and discrimination continue to lack support. Years of neglect and defunding of community services left Northway underserved and highly exposed to the impact of Covid-19. The formerly thriving Northway Community Centre was closed in 2012 and replaced with costly facilities inaccessible to most residents. The pandemic tangibly exacerbated longstanding inequities and heightened the prevalence of homelessness, unemployment, anxiety, and uncertainty in Northway. In the absence of accessible community spaces, resources and supports, increasing numbers of people are turning to drugs and alcohol as a coping strategy, and at risk of exploitation. In our 20 years+ operating in Northway it has become apparent that galvanising the community is particularly challenging and even when services are set up they fail for lack of engagement. However successfully running a children's playscheme from our venue in the heart of the community for many years puts us in a unique position to engage the community in our services.

**Section 2 - About your grant application**

**Funding Start Date:** 09/01/2025 **Funding End Date:** 15/09/2025 *(please note this is an example)*

**Which area (estate, town, borough) do most of the people who benefit come from?**

Oxford

**Please provide a postcode which represents the geographic area you will benefit:** OX3

**How will you spend this grant to deliver one or more of the 'desired outcomes' outlined in the grant criteria? Please include what activities you intend to deliver, and why you think they will lead to the desired outcome i.e. a positive change:**

Alongside secured funding we would use the grant to upgrade our kitchen from a domestic kitchen to a commercial use space at our community building. This would allow us to deliver the following desired outcomes: provide basic services for those in crisis to prevent them slipping into greater need through the expansion of our current provision of free meals to local, vulnerable people of a variety of ages and to develop new initiatives in response to identified need, which aim to promote cohesion and participation. We will ensure that these are all advertised in our community newsletter. This funding would (1) allow our charity to adjust to a greater demand for services by upgrading our facilities to meet food business registration requirements, meeting the increased need for services. (2) support the mental and physical health and resilience of local residents as we will be able to expand our current community projects in response to demand. We have recently experienced a struggle when balancing the increased needs of the community and how much funding is available to meet the need. With funding for projects becoming restricted as the cost of living crisis continues we have lost around £30000 per year in grant funding and donations. The Cost of Living grants made available by OCF have helped keep us (and therefore our community) afloat during this crisis. Whilst previous funding has helped us develop new projects, further funding would enable us to help make these sustainable as our building would be able to cope with the demand for the community's needs safely. Over the past 2.5 years, with support from OCF funding in particular, we have been working

with local partners to deliver community facing initiatives designed to meet the identified needs of Oxford residents with particular focus on the Northway community. Each project was developed through learning gained by an initial pilot before funding was secured to deliver over an extended period of time. As local residents become more accustomed to consistent delivery of quality community projects (and our newsletter!) we are seeing greater than predicted take up for our current projects. We are also experiencing increased demand for 1) new partnership projects 2) low-cost space hire for community activity and 3) regular community events. Before the pandemic (apart from our office and very occasional hires) our building was used for 42 days of holiday playscheme per year. Alongside our holiday provision our building is now used weekly in term time for: our Tuesday afternoon community volunteering session (litter picks, gardening for elderly residents etc.) Tuesday evening: YOUTH AMBITION youth group (low cost space hire and equipment storage), Wednesday daytime: our BE CREATIVE group (involves a healthy lunch & producing community resources & items to sell at community events), Wednesday evening: our inclusive youth group (involves evening meal), Thursday morning: our Lunch Club run by disabled adults (producing 30+ free lunches for vulnerable residents, NHS staff & local volunteers), Thursday afternoon: our BE ACTIVE sessions (disabled adult dance/fitness sessions), Thursday evening: our inclusive child dance group, Thursday evening: Stay & Play for caregivers and siblings of dance attendees, Friday morning: Stay & Play Along with an increasing number of one-off weekend hires for community groups and events. Furthermore, from January, we are planning to start a Tuesday morning craft session for older residents a sensory gardening project in partnership with Marston community garden, as well as exploring the possibility of monthly family days, a baby clinic at our Stay & Play run by the Oxford Health visiting team, a weekly soup kitchen using food bank donations and locally grown veg. As a result of this increased activity, our kitchen is seeing heavy use as food is a simple and effective way of bringing people together and (with support from Oxford food HUB) can be relatively low cost. As said previously, our kitchen was originally designed as a domestic kitchen. Along with ensuring we are running as safely as possible for all of the above projects, we have the opportunity to become HAF providers (Healthy Activities & Food) which would generate between £28000 and £35000 per year. To become a HAF provider we need to register as a food business which would require changes to procedures, staff training and physical alterations to our kitchen. Changes to systems and training can be accomplished at relatively low cost but we would need to strip out our existing kitchen & install a small commercial kitchen. Alongside access to HAF funding, becoming a food business would allow us to respond to increased demand, develop future food related projects and allow us to access additional funding streams (e.g. National Lottery) to make us more sustainable.

**Please explain how you will measure and report on this grant:**

This grant will allow us to make our organisation more sustainable in an increasingly challenging funding environment. A commercial kitchen will be utilised for the majority of the projects we deliver so the impact of the grant will be linked to each of those projects. We will be able to provide quantitative feedback in terms of the numbers of people fed, participants involved in preparing meals and those receiving training in cooking and catering. We will collect qualitative feedback from those using the kitchen and, where appropriate, from those benefiting from projects making use of the kitchen.

**Section 3 – Impact**

**Beneficiaries**

**How many people will benefit from this funding? 500**

**Primary Beneficiary:** Disadvantaged/low income

**Other Beneficiaries:** Children & young people

Ethnicity (if applicable)

**Primary Ethnic Group:** All ethnicities

**Other Ethnic Groups:** Asian and White

Issues

**Primary Issue:** Poverty and disadvantage

**Other Issues:** Disability & access issues

Age Groups

**Primary Age Group:** All ages

**Other Age Groups:** Adults (26 – 65)

#### **Section 4 - Budget and Consent**

**Total cost:** £26,608.00

**How much money are you applying to us for?** £7,608.00

#### **Breakdown of Amount Requested:**

KITCHEN SPACE REFURB 10,000.00

HAND WASH BASIN 61.00

WASTE/TRASH CONTAINER 44.00

SINK, SINGLE BOWL 1,019.00

CUPBOARDS, WALL-MOUNTED 2,236.00

DISHWASHER, UNDERCOUNTER 2,269.00

WORK TABLE 754.00

CUPBOARD, AMBIENT 1,074.00

WORK TABLE 552.00

MEDIUM DUTY RANGE, 900MM, 6 HOT PLATES 2,108.00

CLADDING 49.00

VENTILATION CANOPY 1,799.00

WORK TABLE 273.00

WORK TABLE 462.00

FREEZER, UNDERCOUNTER 720.00

REFRIGERATOR, UPRIGHT (REACH-IN) 1,388.00

INSTALLATION 1,800.00

PROJECT TOTAL = 26,608.00

FUNDING SECURED = 19,000.00

REQUESTING FROM OCF = 7,608.00