

Community Capacity 2025 Grants Round

We are launching a new round of Community Capacity funding, thanks to **£520,000** from Oxfordshire County Council. Grants will be made to help Oxfordshire's residents to live independently and healthily for as long as possible in their lives.

Last year, 24 organisations received a share of **£341,000** from the Community Capacity Fund.

Amounts available: £5,000 - £20,000

Desired outcomes for this grants round:

The Community Capacity grants support the Council's [Oxfordshire Way](#) vision: "to support the people of Oxfordshire to live well in their community, remaining fit and healthy for as long as possible: to build community resilience and increase independence".

Local community organisations play a huge role in supporting people to thrive with less need for government services. This can help people have a much better quality-of-life.

We are seeking grant proposals which deliver these outcomes:

1. Increased physical activity levels
2. Reduce isolation and loneliness
3. Improved mental wellbeing
4. Development of local community spaces and organisations

The target beneficiaries **must be over 18**. For intergenerational schemes, it is acceptable for under-18s to be involved but the target beneficiaries to report on must still be over 18.

Types of schemes we would like to see:

- Tried and tested solutions, and also new, experimental approaches
- Schemes that fill gaps and therefore increase the options available to community connectors and social prescribers
- Schemes that focus on unpaid carers
- Schemes to tackle causes of loneliness, ranging from physical isolation to digital exclusion. These can include intergenerational schemes.
- Schemes that support underserved groups that find it hard to find support through traditional services

- Schemes that help to increase mutual support led by local communities (e.g. volunteering, self-sustaining enterprises)
- Schemes that work with local businesses and partners, tapping into their Corporate Social Responsibility policies.

Types of Costs Covered:

Costs incurred from 1 December 2025 until 30 November 2026*

- **Project costs:** these are costs directly associated with the delivery of a project.
- **Running costs:** these are costs that keep your organisation running, such as salaries, rent, utilities, etc. Also known as "core costs."
- **Capital costs:** these are costs related to any physical assets your organisation may need, such as equipment or IT support.

*Applicants can choose 12 or 24 months to spend the grant from date of award (December 2025). If the applicant chooses the 24 month option, they cannot apply for additional funding from the Community Capacity Grants during this period.

Please ensure you have understood the types of costs we can fund before proceeding.

External requests for any of the following are not eligible for our funding:

- Contributions to general appeals or circulars
- Activities where the primary benefit is the advancement of religion
- Activities where the primary benefit is to enable a public body to conduct its statutory obligations
- Activities where the primary benefit is the advancement of animal welfare
- Activities which have already taken place
- Grant-making or equivalent gifts in kind by other organisations (although we can fund provision of necessary goods for a service e.g. food parcels or activity packs)
- Applications from privately owned and profit-distributing companies or partnerships.

Please note that groups who received funding in 2024 and requested a two-year spend are not eligible to apply for this round of funding.

All information on eligibility and desired outcomes can be found on the **guidance document**, please read this before proceeding. [Community Capacity 2025 Guidance Document](#).

Dates and timings:

- Grants round opens: **12th September**
- Grants round closes: **midday on 15th October**
- Funding decisions announced: **20th November**
- Successful applicants provide required financial and governance evidence: **by 25th November**
- Grants paid: by **31st December** (assuming financial and governance evidence are submitted on time)

In addition, we are offering these advice sessions to answer any questions you may have about the grants round and your application - please book using [this link](#):

- Monday 22nd September, 2pm – 3.30pm: virtual drop-in session.
- Monday 29th September, 5pm – 6.30pm: in-person drop-in session at the [OCF office](#) in central Oxford.

Other sources of information:

- Click [here](#) for our FAQ document
- Example of a good application [here](#)
- Full list of questions required for this application [here](#)

* Indicates required question

Email *

my@organisation.org

After reading the guidance document, can you confirm you are eligible to apply? *

☒ Yes

☐ No. [If 'no', please do not proceed with the application.]

Charity/organisation details

Please complete the information below

Name of charity/organisation *

My Organisation

Address of your organisation *

5 Example Street, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX1 1HD

Organisation Website (if applicable)

www.myorganisation.org

Main Contact Name *

Jane Smith

Job Title *

Director of Fundraising

Contact Telephone No. *

01234567890

Organisation Start Date *

Date

01/01/2015 

We are a: *

- ☒ Registered Charity
- ☐ A Community Interest Company (CIC)
- ☐ Company Limited by Guarantee
- ☐ Unincorporated Club or Association
- ☐ Community Benefit Society
- ☐ Charitable Incorporated Organisation

If other please state below:

Your answer

Company Number (if applicable)

Your answer

Charity Number (if applicable)

Your answer

What was your income in the last financial year? *

20000

This round is exclusively for beneficiaries who are Oxfordshire residents. Please note that priority weighting will be given to schemes addressing beneficiaries experiencing rural isolation and deprivation. *

Please provide a postcode which best represents the geographic area you will benefit (e.g. OX1, OX12 etc.):

Short-answer text

It is a requirement that 90% of your beneficiaries are in Oxfordshire for this round. *

Please share some details demonstrating this below (e.g. where your project is based, the locations of activities, areas your beneficiaries are concentrated in, etc):

Short-answer text

How many individuals do you expect to benefit directly from this funding over the grant period? Please provide a breakdown if possible (e.g. per year or per activity). *

Long-answer text

Your Organisation's Work

The questions in this section are to help us understand the work you do, why it is so important, and how you are having an impact. You can also send us up to three documents that support your application, which can include previous applications for funding (not just to OCF) or previously used presentations or documents that highlight your activities. These should be sent to grants@oxfordshire.org.

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

Test Answer

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. This should be anonymised. *

Test Answer

Your grant application

Funding request *

What does your organisation need this funding for?* (Select all that apply)

- **Project costs:** these are costs directly associated with the delivery of a project.
- **Core costs:** these are costs that keep your organisation running, such as salaries, rent, utilities, etc.
- **Capital costs:** these are costs related to any physical assets your organisation may need, such as equipment or IT support.

☐ Project costs

☐ Core costs

☐ Capital costs

Requested funds: how much are you applying for? *

20000

Please provide a budget breakdown of how you will spend the proposed * grant below.

If you would like to provide a spreadsheet, we have created a simple template that can be downloaded here: [Grant Budget Template](#). This should be submitted to grants@oxfordshire.org.

If you have submitted a spreadsheet to our email address, please type 'Submitted via email' below.

Test Answer

Funding Start Date (what costs will you have from grant award in December 2025 onwards?) *

Date

01/12/2025 

Funding End Date *

Applicants can choose 12 or 24 months to spend the grant from date of award (December 2025). If the applicant chooses the 24 month option, they cannot apply for additional funding from the Community Capacity Grants during this period.

Date

01/12/2026 

Funding Purpose: 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: *

Test Answer

Who are the main people who will benefit from this work? Please describe their characteristics, needs, and why they are considered disadvantaged or underrepresented. *

Test Answer

Which one of these outcomes will the funding meet: *

Please choose which outcomes your funding will meet

- ☒ Increased physical activity levels
- ☐ Reduce isolation and loneliness
- ☒ Improved mental wellbeing
- ☐ Development of local community spaces and organisations

Will your organisation charge the public for the activities to be funded by this grant? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

Are there other providers of such activities currently offering them to the public for a charge? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

Further Information and Consent

Would you accept part funding? *

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

Please read the terms and conditions below carefully *

- ☒ We agree OCF may share this application with members of the OCF grants panel and their assessors
- ☒ We agree OCF may share this application with potential donors

Supporting Documents: Please note we are not requesting documents to be attached to this application but will ask for these should your application be awarded funding. Please confirm that these documents would be available to be submitted.

Bank statement in the name of the organisation dated within the last three months showing the name of the organisation, the sort code and the account number *

- ☒ Yes

Signed Child Protection/Vulnerable Adults Policy *

- ☒ Yes

Signed annual report and accounts plus proof of income and expenditure covering 12 months Successful applicants will be required to supply audited accounts of the most recent financial year. If the most recent year is not yet available, management accounts or income/expenditure document will be accepted.' i.e., reporting on data at least up to September 2024. *

- ☒ Yes

Signed set of rules, terms of reference or constitution *

☒ Yes

Contact details for all trustees and/or management committee members with cheque/bank signatories (at least two) identified who *

☒ Yes

A signed grant agreement, provided by OCF to release funds *

☒ Yes

I confirm we have three Trustees, Directors or Committee Members (as relevant to our organisational structure) that are not related to each other *

☒ Yes

I confirm that our reserves are expected to be a minimum of three months' running costs, and I understand that if they are more than 12 months an explanation will be requested. *

☒ Yes

Grant recipients will be required to provide an end of year grant report on the delivery of their grant. This report must include demographic data about beneficiaries and also a summary of responses to the questionnaire set out in the guidance. Additionally, we will invite grant recipients to report on successes and challenges, lessons learned and stories of change. Please confirm that you have reviewed the information provided in our guidance document and are content with the requirements of the end of year grant report. *

☒ Yes

Further Information

After you submit your application, it will be reviewed thoughtfully by two assessors before our grants panel meeting.

Important dates:

- Grants round opens: **12th September**
- Grants round closes: **midday on 15th October**
- Funding decisions announced: **week commencing 2nd December**
- Successful applicants provide required financial and governance evidence: **by 9th December**
- Grants paid: by **31st December** (assuming financial and governance evidence are submitted on time)

If you need any help or have questions, please don't hesitate to email us at grants@oxfordshire.org. We truly appreciate your interest and are here to support you. For more information on OCF, please refer to [our website](#).