

Frequently Asked Questions Living Essentials - Autumn 2025

UPDATED 27TH OCTOBER 2025

Can we apply if we have applied before?

Yes, absolutely.

If you were successful last year and want to apply for the same project, we recommend chatting to the Grants team (email grants@oxfordshire.org or call 07927 539 699). This is because, as per our [Grant-Making Policy](#), we cannot fund activities that have already taken place.

If you applied previously but were unsuccessful, you are welcome to apply again.

Why does the grant period start in December 2025 if payments will not go out until January 2026*?

The grant period begins on 1st December 2025 to accommodate activities that may commence before the grant payment is issued. We understand that many of the activities that align with our desired outcomes will want to start in December. If your application is successful, we will be able to retrospectively cover eligible costs incurred from this date.

* Note that our Grants team are currently experiencing a high demand for our grants rounds that are currently in progress.

If we receive a large number of applications for the Living Essentials Fund, we may have to extend our timelines for the stages of this grants round, which we will communicate. However, we will ensure that all payments are made by the end of March 2026.

What should the budget and delivery timelines be for Living Essentials grant applications?

We expect to confirm conditional grant awards in w/c 12th January 2026 and funds will then be transferred (subject to successful applicants then providing the necessary governance documentation). We can fund costs which have already been

incurred starting only from 1st December 2025. Funds need to be spent within 12 months of the grant award. Assuming the necessary paperwork is quickly provided, the grant could therefore fund costs from 1st December 2025 to 30th November 2026.

Do we need to provide a budget?

Yes, an itemised budget is part of the application requirement.

You have the option to either:

- Type it directly into the application form
- Send an Excel budget spreadsheet to **grants@oxfordshire.org** after submitting your application

If you don't know where to start, we have a [simple budget template](#) that you can use.

We are a part of a larger national charity, but we have an Oxfordshire branch. Can we still apply?

Groups that fulfil the following three criteria may apply (in addition to the other eligibility criteria):

- You are an independent branch already operating in Oxfordshire
- Your Oxfordshire branch has its own bank account with at least two unrelated signatories, that has been open for 3 months or more
- You have a local management committee

Our organisation was previously part of a larger entity, but we have since registered independently within the past year. Are we still eligible to apply?

Yes, you are eligible to apply, provided that the organisation you were previously affiliated with sends an email to **grants@oxfordshire.org** confirming:

- The period during which you were part of their organisation
- The date on which the separation occurred.

Can we collaborate with another group and submit a joint application?



We welcome collaboration and joint applications. However, the funding request should not exceed the upper limit of £10,000. The lead applicant would also need to meet all eligibility criteria, take responsibility for the government and management of funds, and will be liable for monitoring and evaluation.

Can we apply on behalf of someone else?

Yes, you may apply on behalf of another person only if you are a genuine partner actively involved in the project or activity.

Is there a word limit to the application form?

There is no strict maximum word limit as we encourage applicants to express in their own words what they aim to do, why they wish to pursue it, and how they plan to deliver it.

To ensure sufficient detail, we recommend responses to free-text questions be a minimum of 150 to 500 words.

Please note that Google Forms has a technical character limit of approximately 20,000 characters across the entire form.

