

Community Capacity 2026 Grants Round

We are launching a new round of Community Capacity funding, thanks to **£500,000** 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, 39 organisations received a share of **£523,000** from the Community Capacity Fund, representing a 29% application success rate.

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 will prioritise grant proposals that deliver positive outcomes through activities which support:

1. Independent living
2. Increased physical activity
3. Reduced isolation and loneliness
4. Improved management of disabilities and long-term health conditions
5. Increased support for unpaid carers

Target Populations

The target populations are adults (18+) who live in Oxfordshire and may need some support to continue to live independently linked to difficulties they may face due to:

- their disability, frailty, and long-term condition and their carers
- people who may find it difficult to access care and support due to language, cultural or other barriers
- people living with social and economic disadvantage.

Among these groups, priority weighting will be given to schemes supporting adults aged 65 and over and people who live in rural areas. Funding will be allocated taking into account current City and District council geographies to ensure distribution across Oxfordshire.

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.

Desired Activities

The Community Capacity Fund will specifically seek to support community led activities provided by community organisations.

We will prioritise organisations that fill gaps in local services and that offer community connectors and [social prescribers](#) more options to help people.

Types of Costs Covered:

- **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 2026). If the applicant chooses the 24 month option, they cannot apply for additional funding from the Community Capacity Fund during this period.

Please ensure you have understood the types of costs we can fund before proceeding. Any questions please contact OCF's Grants Team on grants@oxfordshire.org

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 2025 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 2026 Guidance Document](#).

Dates and timings:

- **Expression of interest opens:** 14 September
- **Expression of interest closes:** 5 October (midday)
- **Full application opens:** 19 October
- **Full application closes:** 16 November (midday)
- **Funding decisions communicated:** 15 December
- **Successful applicants provide financial and governance evidence:** 22 December
- **Grants paid:** by February (contingent on financial and governance evidence being received and due diligence being completed)

In addition, we are offering drop-in advice sessions to answer any questions you may have about the grants round and your application – please email grants@oxfordshire.org.uk to book an online slot with OCF's Head of Grants & Inclusion

- Monday 26 October: online, 9am – 4pm
- Thursday 29 October: online, 9am – 5pm

Other sources of information:

- Click [here](#) for our FAQ document
- Example of an application [here](#)

* Indicates required question

I. Email *

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

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

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

Charity/organisation details

Please complete the information below

3. Name of charity/organisation *

4. Address of your organisation *

5. Organisation Website (if applicable)

6. Main Contact Name *

7. Job Title *

8. Contact Telephone No. *

9. Organisation Start Date *

Example: 7 January 2019

10. We are a: *

Mark only one oval.

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

11. If other please state below:

12. Company Number (if applicable)

13. Charity Number (if applicable)

14. What was your income in the last financial year? *

15. This round is exclusively for beneficiaries who are Oxfordshire residents. Please note that priority weighting will be given to schemes supporting people who live in rural areas. *

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

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

17. We would like to know the demographics of individuals your organisation typically supports. Please provide any information you have on demographics of your typical beneficiaries, examples might include:

- Age
- Gender
- Ethnicity
- Disabilities
- Caring responsibilities
- Social and economic disadvantage
- Anything else

(e.g. "75% of the people we support are over 70 years old" or "80% of people currently attending our weekly coffee morning have caring responsibilities").

Your Organisation

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.

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

2. 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. *

Your 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.

Tick all that apply.

- ☐ Project costs
- ☐ Core costs
- ☐ Capital costs

3. **Requested funds:** how much are you applying for? *

4. 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.

5. **Funding Start Date** (what date will you begin the work?) *

Example: 7 January 2026

6. **Funding End Date** *

Applicants can choose 12 or 24 months to spend the grant from date of award (December 2026). If the applicant chooses the 24 month option, they cannot apply for additional funding from the Community Capacity Grants during this period.

Example: 7 January 2027

7. **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: *

8. 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). *

9. Who are the main people who will benefit from this work? Please describe their characteristics, needs, and why they are considered disadvantaged or underrepresented. Priority weighting will be given to schemes supporting adults aged 65 and over. *

10. **Which one of these outcomes will the funding meet:** *

Please choose which outcomes your funding will meet

Tick all that apply.

- ☐ Independent living
- ☐ Increased physical activity
- ☐ Reduced isolation and loneliness
- ☐ Improved management of disabilities and long-term health conditions
- ☐ Increased support for unpaid carers

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

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

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

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Further Information and Consent

13. Would you accept part funding? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

14. **Please read the terms and conditions below carefully ***

Tick all that apply.

- ☐ 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/funders

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.

15. 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

Tick all that apply.

- ☐ Yes

16. Signed Child Protection/Vulnerable Adults Policy *

Tick all that apply.

- ☐ Yes

17. 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 2025. *

Tick all that apply.

- ☐ Yes

18. Signed set of rules, terms of reference or constitution *

Tick all that apply.

☐ Yes

19. Contact details for all trustees and/or management committee members with cheque/bank signatories (at least two) identified who must not be family members (address, email and phone number) *

Tick all that apply.

☐ Yes

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

Tick all that apply.

☐ Yes

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

Tick all that apply.

☐ Yes

22. 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. *

Tick all that apply.

☐ Yes

23. Grant recipients will be required to provide an end of year grant report on the delivery of their grant. This report must include the number of beneficiaries supported by the grant, and information gathered for one question from the outcomes monitoring table 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. *

Tick all that apply.

☐ Yes

Further Information

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

Important dates:

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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](#).