



Winchester District Small Grant Scheme 2026/2027

Healthy and Thriving Communities

The Winchester district small grant scheme is designed to provide small-scale, **one-off grants of up to £700** to local voluntary/not-for-profit groups and organisations that aim to benefit their local community.

Funding is targeted at activities that promote healthy and thriving communities and require **one-off expenditure** or initial set up costs. The grants are available for one-off pieces of expenditure on projects, equipment and other items which will help your organisation to do more, to reach more people, to provide better services or to try something different. Examples of eligible costs include new or start-up equipment, set up costs for new groups, special events and activities. Unfortunately, these grants cannot be used towards the ongoing operational costs of delivering your usual activities.

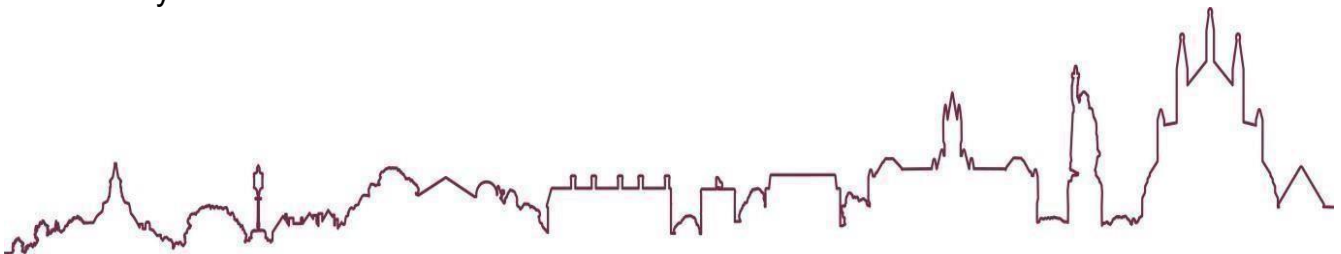
Organisations applying for funds must demonstrate how the work helps achieve the council's priority to **create healthier, stronger, and thriving communities** where our most vulnerable residents feel safe, supported and can easily access the services they need.

We update our criteria from time to time so please make sure you read the documentation carefully and let us know if you have any queries. The community grants team can help with any questions you have about the scheme and can support applicants to make an application. The team can be contacted by email: grants@winchester.gov.uk.

Key Dates

Fund closes to applications: **31 January 2027** or sooner on the full allocation of the budget.

We aim to support organisations throughout the year, so the fund is open on a rolling basis with panels held to review applications every couple of months. Please note this is a competitive fund and is likely to be over-subscribed.



Who can apply

Local not-for-profit organisations that operate for the direct benefit of residents of the Winchester district. Please see our [Ward Map](#) for more information. The following organisation types are eligible:

- Local not-for-profit groups
- Community organisations
- Registered charities
- Community Interest Companies limited by guarantee

Please note:

- Organisations applying will need to demonstrate community benefit.
- Every group and organisation should have a constitution or documentation which includes a formal decision-making process and aims that are acceptable to Winchester City Council.
- In the case of registered charities, they must comply with the standards laid down by the Charity Commission.
- If you are a school/pre-school or an organisation working with one, your activity must benefit the wider community outside of the school/pre-school.

We are unable to fund applications from:

- Parish Councils
- Commercial organisations
- Community Interest Companies limited by shares
- Individuals
- Organisations whose main objective is to raise funds for other charitable organisations

What you can apply for – funding priorities and eligible items

You can apply for a grant to cover the following costs:

- One off cost of unique activities or special events*
- Purchase of additional equipment or materials
- Set up costs for new groups
- Marketing material

*Grants for unique events can be used towards items which will enable the event to take place such as venue hire, signage, or equipment hire/purchase. We are unable to fund entertainment and refreshment costs.

These grants are intended to provide small scale funding and are unlikely to be awarded as a contribution to a large-scale project, unless the grant would complete your fundraising target.

Funding Priorities

Healthy and Thriving Communities



With this grant scheme, we want to support projects and organisations whose focus is on the priorities above; to create healthier, stronger, and thriving communities where our most vulnerable residents feel safe, supported and can easily access the services they need.

Priority will be given to applications that demonstrate multiple outcomes. We are looking for organisations whose work supports those communities/groups facing multiple challenges in the Winchester district.

Within these priorities our target funding themes are:

- Reduced isolation and a greater sense of belonging
- Wider digital access
- Increasing physical activity
- Increasing participation in local community groups/activities
- Enabling and encouraging volunteering
- Supporting good mental health and wellbeing
- Target on inclusion health groups*
- Supporting older people
- Reducing the burden of increased cost of living

*As defined in the [WCC Health Priorities Statement 2025](#); Gypsy, Roma or Irish Traveller and Veterans

When applying for these grants, you will be asked to identify which of these funding themes your project/organisation is focused on and explain how the grant will help your organisation provide support of our funding priorities. Please note that we expect competition for these grants to be high and will give priority to organisations whose work supports the most vulnerable people in our communities.

We are unable to fund:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">Local or national appeals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Costs payable to WCC, for example planning fees, licensing fees, etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Play areas (eg. large equipment for public playgrounds)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">School or preschool projects unless there is wider community benefit
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Activities which are of a political or religious nature, or organisations supporting political activism (we can fund religious organisations if their project benefits the wider community and does not include religious content).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">General running costs of an organisation. Staffing costs will only be considered if these are additional time limited costs incurred as a direct result of delivering your project. We cannot support salaries for existing staff usually covered by other income.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Replacement or "like for like" equipment/items	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fundraising events/activities for your organisation or others
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Projects of a statutory nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Retrospective funding of activities or projects
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Activities/events that make a profit and have no financial need for our grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Repeat activities or projects
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Websites	<ul style="list-style-type: none">VAT you can reclaim
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Events or activities that charge an entrance fee or a fee to take part (unless there is a provision to include those who might otherwise be excluded due to affordability)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Projects or activities that have received funding in previous years via this scheme or from other council funds
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Professional fees and licenses including feasibility studies, planning fees, permits, and event licenses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">School expeditions

If you're not sure, please contact us to find out what you can spend the grant on.

Application process

This is a competitive fund, and each application will be assessed against the grant eligibility and criteria. At the time the application is submitted, to enable the council to assess applications fully, all sections must be completed with all the information you wish considered together with all the documents requested.

Applications should be made via the Flexigrant online system and submitted by the agreed deadline found on our website. **Follow this link to apply here now:** [Flexigrant](#). If this is difficult for you, we can find an alternative way for you to apply – please contact the team by emailing grants@winchester.gov.uk or calling 01962 848269.

There is an annual budget for this scheme, and it may close early if the fund is fully allocated before the advertised deadline.

Should your application be eligible and suitable for funding we will invite you to a virtual panel meeting on MS Teams so we can have a brief discussion about your application. You will be

advised within a couple of weeks of the meeting if your organisation will receive the funding requested. **Please allow approximately 10-12 weeks from submitting your application to receiving a decision.** If you require funding in a shorter timeframe, please contact us before starting an application to check whether a decision can be made before your work is likely to commence. We cannot fund activities that are already underway.

Funding decisions are delegated to Winchester City Council's Funding Officer and Corporate Head of Economy and Community. The council's decisions with regards to funding are final and no appeals process is available.

Eligibility Criteria

In order to be eligible for consideration, applicants must comply with all the following criteria:

1. Organisations applying for funding must be able to support one or more of our funding priorities.
2. Organisations/groups applying for a grant must have a current bank account in the name of the organisation/group. Winchester City Council will not make grant payments to individuals, even if they are an official of the organisation.
3. Activities which have already received funding through this grant scheme will not be eligible for further funding **for the same activity** in subsequent years. Records are kept of all previous applications and awards.
4. Only one grant from this funding scheme will be given to an organisation in any one financial year.
5. Organisations working with children, young people or vulnerable adults must have a robust protection policy in place and ensure that all active staff and volunteers have undertaken a DBS check. If your organisation does not have the appropriate policies in place, support is available from Community First [Home - Community First \(cfirst.org.uk\)](http://Community First (cfirst.org.uk)) .
6. Organisations/groups must be able to demonstrate that they have an open access/equal opportunities approach towards membership, use of their facilities and activities. Groups are required to take reasonable steps to ensure their activities can be made available for as broad a range of people as possible and that positive measures are put in place to remove any barriers to access.
7. Voluntary organisations that provide support to asylum seekers and to individuals subject to a No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) condition will be considered for funding, provided activities are deemed to be lawful and reasonable in line with Immigration Rules.
8. Organisations/groups must have the appropriate public liability and employer's liability insurance for the activities they provide.
9. Organisations should have the relevant policies and permissions in place to provide their service.

Grant Terms

1. Any spend by the organisation prior to formal notification from the council, will make the organisation/group ineligible for funding.
2. Winchester City Council reserves the right to fund less than the amount requested in the application form.
3. Organisations/groups must not change the use of the grant award and must spend the grant on the purpose for which it was approved unless agreed otherwise in writing by the Funding and Development Officer at Winchester City Council.
4. All grant recipients will be required to publicise the support of Winchester City Council including the use of the appropriate council logo on publicity material. Guidance on this will be sent to successful applicants
5. **For grants of up to £700**, payment will be made in advance of expenditure, following formal notification of the grant and receipt of the signed Funding Agreement. Funds will be released in one payment. All grant recipients will be required to explain how they used their grant within three months of spending the grant. The organisation must submit to the council a short project completion report, to confirm that the money was spent on the approved purpose, or the council may seek to reclaim its funding.
6. If grant funding is used inappropriately, or the applicant fails to respect the conditions attached to the grant, the council may demand reimbursement of any funds already paid out or take other measures to recoup the funds.
7. Funding decisions are delegated to Corporate Head of Economy and Community. The council's decisions with regards to funding are final and no appeals process is available.