

Community Grants Grant Rounds 2026

These grants are for £2,001 to £10,000 to deliver projects that will make positive change in their communities over up to 12 months.

For Grants under £2,001, over £10,000 or for projects that do not fit this grant guidance please have a look on our website at our Small Everyday Essentials and Activities Grants and Catalyst Grants.

If you are a new organisation with no, or limited, financial track record, please consider an under £2000 application in the first instance via the Small Grants for Everyday Essentials and Activities grant round which you will find on the website. If you are seeking kit, small equipment, qualifications you will get a faster decision applying via the Small Grants for Everyday Essentials and Activities Grants.

To ensure you do not waste time on an application that is not eligible for funding we **strongly recommend you read the grant guidance and application form before applying**. If you are in any doubt that your organisation or project would be eligible or you have queries then please do contact us for a chat first. We are always happy to talk through ideas, answer queries, or signpost to support to write a funding application – **please get in touch and we will do our best to help. Around 80% of rejected applications could have been avoided if the organisation had rang us first.**

Purpose of the Community Grants

The Woodsmith Foundation is keen to support a wide range of organisations to deliver projects that will make positive change in their communities within our **area of benefit (which is the Borough of Redcar and Cleveland, the Borough of Scarborough and the North York Moors National Park)**. We will award grants to projects that fit the Woodsmith Foundation's priority of **increasing opportunities and tackling disadvantage**. We will support projects that:

- Increase opportunities for better life chances
- Encourage positive changes by improving lives and places, or tackling issues that negatively impact on local people.
- Bring people together and enrich lives by ensuring there are local spaces, resources and activities that provide pleasure, learning, or community action.

1) Who can apply

Please read the following criteria below carefully before you apply. If you are unsure about your eligibility, please contact us for advice on your application.

We can support the following types of organisation:

- Local, voluntary groups that are constituted. That means you have a brief, written set of rules explaining how you will run your organisation and are governed by a committee of

at least three unrelated members. You will have a bank account (or a relationship with a community organisation that is willing to hold the grant money for you).

- Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) or sports clubs run as constituted voluntary groups.
- Charities or Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs) registered with the Charity Commission.
- Community Interest Companies (CICs) limited by guarantee and with at least two unrelated bank signatories and three unrelated Directors. To be eligible for funding from the Foundation you will need to be able to provide evidence of trading activity/planned trading activity and a contribution to public benefit.
- Parish and Town Councils or Parish Meetings.
- Faith organisations for secular activity benefitting the wider community beyond the congregation.
- We may consider companies limited by guarantee with charitable objectives, but would only fund this type of organisation once and following a detailed due diligence. Please contact us to discuss your situation before applying.

We cannot support applications from the following types of organisation:

- Individuals or private businesses
- CICs limited by shares
- Local Authorities (that are not a Parish Council, Town Council or Parish Meeting)
- Schools or school parent led fundraising groups. Please refer to Small Grants for Everyday Essentials and Activities grant guidance where schools or parent led fundraising groups can apply.
- Organisations that do not have at least two people on their board or committee who are not related.
- Organisations that do not have at least two unrelated bank signatories.

This grant round is open to both new applicants and organisations that have previously received funding from the Woodsmith Foundation. Organisations that have received funding before can apply as long as their last grant was awarded **more than 12 months ago** and **all required monitoring has been submitted**.

If demand is high, priority may be given to **high-scoring applications, first-time applicants**, and to ensure a **good geographic spread** across our area of benefit.

We will only support national organisations when they can clearly demonstrate local need and have local staff on the ground. Our focus is to support local organisations so we suggest national organisations only approach us every 3-5 years.

2) **Types of activities we will NOT fund:**

Community Grants for small revenue and capital funding are always very popular. Please ensure your project clearly meets our priority to ***increase opportunities and tackle disadvantage***. Please also note the maximum grant you can apply for in the table at section 3. Read the following bullet points carefully as they clearly state what we will not fund for this grant round.

We will not fund the following through our Community Grants:

- Projects that are not in our area of benefit or support people outside our area of benefit. **Our area of benefit is the Borough of Redcar and Cleveland, the Borough of Scarborough and the North York Moors National Park.**
- A contribution to a large capital project which does not have 75% of the costs already secured.
- Capital costs for a building you do not own where the lease is less than 5 years.
- One off events or contributions to festivals, fund raising days or similar.
- Projects where you intend to pass our funding on as grants, sponsorship or donations to other organisations/individuals.
- Disproportionate core organisational costs or ongoing running costs or contributions to overheads or management fees. You can include core costs only related to the project you have applied for and we may discuss it further with you.
- Projects to work in school settings delivered by an organisation that is not the school, during a school day.
- General appeals or sponsorship or prizes for competitions or raffles.
- Arts, culture, heritage or conservation projects which does not meet one of our charitable objectives (please see website). Please note we do not have a charitable objective to support this type of project unless it significantly improves health, wellbeing, education or skills.
- Repairs to churches or other places of worship where there is no significant secular activity happening or benefit for the wider community beyond the congregation.
- Retrospective funding. Costs that you have already incurred or will have by the date the grant is awarded
- Activities which are funded by another organisation. If, having applied to the Foundation, you find that you have been successful with an alternative bid for the same work, please contact us to discuss your application.

3) **Funding available**

- Organisations can apply for grants between £2,001 and £10,000. If you would like to apply for less than £2,000 please refer to Small Grants for Everyday Essentials and Activities grant guidance.
- Please see the table above for the maximum you can apply for in specific project categories. We encourage you to work on a detailed budget which is based on accurate quotes and costs and then apply for what is necessary not simply the maximum grant available. The total grant pot across the 3 grant rounds in 2026 is expected to be £120,000. An organisation may only submit one application in a 12 month period.
- Funds must be spent within 12 months of your grant being awarded. In some instance we may shorten the grant period to less than 12 months, usually due to it being something that could be bought quickly. This would be communicated in your grant offer letter. If you require more time to spend the funding due to this being a contribution to a capital building project please state this on your application form. An extension will not be granted after the grant

end date, but we are always open to a conversation about budget changes within the period of your grant – please don't leave contacting us until the week before your grant is due to end!

We have separated the funding available into 2 upper limits, with clear and specific categories based upon what we know is needed from past grant rounds (please see table below). We will **prioritise funding projects that support people most at disadvantage due to unfavourable circumstances or facing barriers that lead to inequality.**

You can apply for **up to £5,000 capital* costs** for projects that will do at least one of these things:

- Support community venues and facilities to make repairs or purchases, refurbishments or extensions which will **enable them to keep open/re-open existing spaces or create new space**. Priority will be given to those projects that will allow additional services to be run or new beneficiary groups to be supported.
- Create, improve or extend the use of community outdoor space which can be **used by local people for activities that support health and wellbeing, education or community food production**.
- Encourage landscape improvements that are **delivered by the community and for the community**. Please note this need to be environmentally friendly projects e.g. we will not support funding for annual bedding plants that need large quantities of extra watering.

Please Note - For **capital projects** with a total project cost of **over £15,000** we need evidence that you have 75% of the costs already secured.

* **A capital item** is for something you can see and touch that is a lasting asset e.g. equipment, laptop or minibus. It can also be funding towards a new building or repairs/extension to an existing building. Revenue costs are where there is no lasting asset e.g. event costs, materials for a workshop, staff time etc. If your capital project **is to improve the energy efficiency** we may ask that you obtain an energy audit survey to understand the efficiency of the whole building rather than just one aspect.

If your **capital building** project **is used by a wide range of different community organisations** you could consider the Expression of Interest route for a higher contribution. Please read the EOI guidance on our website then contact Leah Swain for a conversation.

You can apply for **up to £10,000 revenue or capital costs** for projects that will do one of these things:

- Create opportunities to raise awareness or learn about the **impact of climate change**. Or **projects to adapt to, or mitigate the risks of, climate change**. This could include but is not limited to:
 - Adding climate change focussed modules to existing education courses e.g. servicing electric cars to car mechanic training
 - Energy audits or efficiency measures for community or charity owned buildings
 - Feasibility studies on community renewable energy
 - Community electric vehicle charging points, bikes or car share schemes
 - Reducing, re-using and recycling initiatives

- Water management schemes
- Community carbon reduction or waste reduction projects
- Adapting or creating new wildlife friendly habitats
- Deliver a programme of activities/support for local people **that will do one or more of the following: have a lasting improvement to health and wellbeing; create meaningful relationships to tackle loneliness; alleviating hardship; provide education in a non-school setting; deliver skills training or offer employment support.** We would like to see that you are measuring the change in the people you aim to support. If you have any questions on this, please give us a call. We would also like to understand within your application how you are ensuring you reach those who are unable to financially access this either elsewhere or from your organisation.
- Provide a sustainable transport solution **to support local people to access services and activities.** Please note we will not consider requests for just capital funding towards a vehicle that will only be used by one organisation for its own members/beneficiaries. We would consider a joint proposal e.g. a collective of local groups funding a shared minibus which would then be in use the majority of the time.

We are not always looking for new and different projects - we simply want to help fund those projects which are reaching those most in need, whether they be ongoing or new. If you are running a project or service that had been funded by other funders to date, and now need to seek new funding to keep it going, then you can apply to us. However, when we receive this type of application we seek to understand the following:-

- Has this project been evaluated in any way? (this does not need to be externally evaluated)
- Have you measured the change for the people you support and how?
- Do you regularly ask people who attend if there are any changes which could be made to enhance or make the service more accessible for all it would benefit?
- Could you, or do you, ask those who are able to, to pay a charge or give a donation?

If you would like to check if your project or activity is eligible, or have a project idea that does not fit the criteria above but that you believe is increasing opportunities and tackling disadvantage, then please call us for a conversation or send us an email:

grants@woodsmithfoundation.org.uk

Rebecca Wagner – Grants and Programmes Officer – 07756 395535

Leah Swain – Chief Executive – 07724 832982

4) How to apply

Our preference is for you to apply via the link on our website. You are able to save and resume your application at any time and full instructions are at the top of the online application. A word version of the application questions can be found on our website so that you can work on it offline, but you will need to cut and paste answers into the online application.

We understand that some people may be unable to complete the application form online. Or perhaps you struggle with text heavy long documents, or you need information in another format that works for you. We would encourage you to contact us and we will work with you to find the best way for you to apply, for example a video transcript or hand written document.

All applications received via our online application method will be sent a receipt to the email address provided.

You can find top tips and more useful information on our “Helpful Information” tab on our website.

5) **Supporting Information**

The following documents will need to be uploaded with your completed application form when you make your submission.

- Accounts
 - If your organisation is required to have an audited/examined statement of accounts please send us your most recent version. If your most recent accounts do not cover the last financial year, please also send your organisation’s income and expenditure for the last financial year and a copy of your most recent bank statement.
 - If you are not required to have an audited/examined statement of accounts please send us your income and expenditure accounts and a copy of your most recent bank statement.
 - If you are a new group and do not have either accounts or financial information for last year then please send a brief note about your financial position and your most recent bank statement.
- Quotes for any significant items/activities over £1,000.
- Your organisation’s terms of reference or constitution or governing document.
- CICs will need to send a statement signed by all Directors stating they *agree to the application being submitted*. The letter needs to include:-
 - a) information on your financial viability. Please state your unrestricted funds at the end of your financial year. This includes all funds that are freely available to spend on your company's social objectives after excluding any funds that are restricted (e.g. restricted grants) and any fixed assets in your balance sheet.
 - b) your percentage of turnover which was earned/traded income in the last 12 months. Please also attach your latest CIC 34 document which is a mandatory submission to Companies House.

6) **Timescales for 2026**

Round 1	
Open for applications	4 th February 2025 to 10am on 26 th March 2026
Grants awarded by	End of April 2026
Round 2	

Open for applications	27 th March to 10am on 16 th July 2026
Grants awarded by	End of August 2026
Round 3	
Open for applications	17 th July to 10am on 5 th November 2026
Grants awarded by	End December 2026

You will have 12 months to spend your complete your project and spend any related spends. In some cases we may shorten this time frame to 6 months. This will be clearly stated in your grant offer letter.

You may submit your application for any grant round but may only apply once in a 12 month period. Applications received after the Round 1 and Round 2 closing dates will be moved to the following grant round for assessment. Applications received after 10am on 5th November 2026 will not be considered for funding.

For projects which are tailored towards summer activities you must apply in Round 1. For projects which have a Christmas focus you must apply in Round 1 or Round 2 to enable you to have appropriate time to plan and deliver.

7) How grant applications will be assessed

We will award grants to projects that increase opportunities and tackle disadvantage. Priority will be given to projects that support people most at disadvantage due to unfavourable circumstances or facing barriers to equality.

We may visit your project before making a recommendation to trustees. We may also contact your previous funders for a reference where applicable.

Unsuccessful applicants are always given feedback in writing and the opportunity to have a conversation with the Grant Officer or Chief Executive. The Trustees' decision is final and we are not obliged to enter into correspondence with regard to the funding decision.

8) Monitoring your grant

We will ask you to complete a simple form when you have finished spending your grant and will send a copy of this with your grant agreement. You will receive an email with a link to complete your form a month before it is due as a helpful reminder. We will be interested to hear about your work and what difference you have made for your community.

We understand that things don't always go to plan. We will try to be as flexible as possible when things change. Your grant will be approved on the application we receive, so it is important we review and approve any changes to your project before those changes are made. Send us an email or give us a call to discuss the planned changes. We often only find out about these situations within the last

month of a grant period, or after the grant period has ended, which limits the support we can offer and in some cases could lead to grant funding being returned.

For applications £7,000 to £10,000, following a grant offer we will ask you to provide us with some additional information regarding outcomes. We will support you to think about these. This will be no more than 1 A4 page at grant offer stage and a two page report at the end of the grant based on what was agreed.

9) **Support**

If you need support to develop your project idea or write an application then please get in touch with your local infrastructure support organisations:

For North Yorkshire	Community First Yorkshire (www.communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk) info@communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk
For Redcar and Cleveland	Enhance Redcar & Cleveland hello@enhanceredcarcleveland.org.uk

If you are unsure if your request for a grant meets the criteria please get in touch to discuss your application. If in doubt, please give us a call.

Call us on:-

Rebecca Wagner – Grants and Programmes Officer – 07756 395535

Leah Swain – Chief Executive – 07724 832982

Or

Email us at grants@woodsmithfoundation.org.uk

Good luck with your application.