



Frequently Asked Questions

Organisation Eligibility

Can new organisations apply if they don't yet have a full year of accounts?

No. Organisations must have completed at least one set of annual accounts.

Can umbrella bodies apply on behalf of smaller groups?

No. Applications must come from the organisation that owns or operates the building.

I have two project ideas. Can I apply twice?

No. Each organisation may only apply once for one proposed project in one community building.

Building Eligibility

Are church buildings eligible for funding?

Yes, if the community building is used by, and accessible to, the wider community. Buildings used exclusively for worship are not eligible.

Are sporting organisations eligible for funding?

Yes, community buildings operated by sporting organisations which are available as community venues for non-sporting activities are eligible. Buildings used exclusively for sporting activities, and works to sporting infrastructure, including changing rooms or pitches, are not eligible.

What if the building is owned by a larger organisation but leased to a community group?

The community building must be owned by the applicant organisation or leased to the organisation for at least 10 years from 1 October 2025.

Are council or statutory buildings eligible if leased to a community group?

No. Buildings owned by statutory bodies or councils are not eligible.

Are listed buildings eligible?

Yes, listed buildings are eligible provided all statutory approvals are in place. This must be evidenced by the end of Stage 2 (9 January 2025).

If planning permission is required, this must already be in place by 1st October 2025 and evidenced with your Stage 1 Expression of Interest.

If a building is less than 20 years old but is already under strain, is there any flexibility?

No. Eligible buildings must be at least 20 years old from 1 October 2025.

Can an organisation apply for more than one building it operates?

No. Each organisation is limited to one application for one building.

I am in the process of negotiating a lease extension of over 10 years, but it will not be fully executed before the 29th October, can I still apply?

Where you have secured agreement to a lease extension, but this has not yet been fully executed – a copy of your current lease, with a letter from your landlord confirming intention to extend the lease beyond 1st October 2035 will be accepted at Stage 1 only. A full lease agreement for the qualifying period will need to be provided with your Stage 2 application

Project Scope

Is the maximum grant £50,000?

No. The maximum grant is capped at £40,000. The total project costs cannot exceed £50,000.

Is there a minimum project cost?

Yes. The minimum eligible project cost is £10,000.

Do the minimum and maximum project costs include VAT?

VAT is not an eligible project cost where applicants are registered for VAT.

Can multiple elements (e.g. kitchen refurbishment and lighting upgrades) be included in one application?

Yes, if the proposed works are to the one community building.

Can a project be phased or include extensions?

No. Extensions, new builds and works part of a larger project are not eligible.

I want to redecorate my building – is that eligible?

No, standalone painting and redecoration works are not eligible. However, costs associated with painting and decorating where these are directly linked to a refurbishment project may be eligible.

What happens if project costs rise during delivery?

Grant funding is capped at 95% of project costs, up to a maximum of £40,000. No further funding will be made available.

How do you define ‘routine maintenance’?

Routine maintenance is day-to-day work such as gutter cleaning or a boiler service. These types of work are not eligible.

Is gym equipment eligible?

No.

Evidence Requirements

What constitutes ‘evidence of wider community use’?

Evidence of wider community use will vary depending on how your building is managed. Examples might include clauses in your constitution setting out how the building can be used, booking records, hiring policies or usage data.

I can’t find a copy of my title documents. Can I still apply?

You must be able to evidence that you hold security of tenure for your building for a minimum of 10 years from 1 October 2025. You must evidence this by uploading a copy of your title documents, lease or rental agreement or a copy of the land registry certificate. If these are not readily available in an electronic format, a solicitor’s letter confirming title will be considered.

Funding and Application Process

Is funding paid upfront or in arrears?

Payments will be made in arrears subject to evidence of costs. In exceptional cases, phased or advance payments may be considered, where a clear need for this can be demonstrated.

For the 5% contribution, can it be volunteer labour or in-kind, or does it have to be cash?

The contribution must be made through fundraising, reserves, or loans. Volunteer time, contributions in kind, or grants from other funders cannot be used.

Will previous funding received affect the application?

Yes. Capital grant funding received in the past three years will be considered as part of the Stage 2 Full Application assessment but does not exclude you from being eligible.

Can documents be uploaded in stages before the deadline?

You may save and update your Expression of Interest form within the application period.