

The Wesleyan Community Grants Fact Sheet 2024

The Wesleyan Foundation was established in 2017 as the charity arm of financial services mutual Wesleyan Assurance Society, which is a provider of life, pensions, protection and investment products.

Since 1841 we've put our communities at the heart of all we do, supporting Birmingham factory workers and their families during the Industrial Revolution – helping to cover their most pressing needs in times of sickness and to aid funeral expenses.

Now through the Wesleyan Foundation, we aim to support those who are in need in our communities to achieve high quality lives through funding community projects and charities.

Grant Aims

Our Community Grants programme supports grassroots charities across the UK to deliver vital community services. This grant supports our goals of:

- **Climate Action** – To fund groups who work to enhance our environments and combats the effects of climate change.
- **Quality Education** – To fund groups who remove barriers and enable access to quality education.
- **Reducing Inequalities** – To fund groups who drive equality for disadvantaged groups including the BAME, Religious and LGBTQ+ communities.
- **Gender Equality** – To fund groups who drive equality for women, men and the non-binary or transgender community.
- **Good Health and Wellbeing** – To fund groups who support good health and wellbeing for communities across the UK.

These five goals are aligned with the United Nation Sustainable Development Goals. Further information can be found at: <https://www.un.org/en/common-agenda/sustainable-development-goals>

Possible Community Grants Activity

Applications' activity could include one of the following:

- Projects which support Mental Health
- Projects which support Disabilities including Learning Disabilities and Autism
- Bereavement support
- Projects which are helping with the Cost of Living – cooking workshops, community kitchens, skills or object shares
- PSE (Personal Social Education)
- Domestic Violence Support (including women's refuges)
- Isolation / Befriending / Listening Services
- Projects which support Vulnerable and Elderly
- Projects which support Dementia / Quality of Life
- Social prescribing – alleviating the pressure from the NHS
- Employment – reskilling people, actively preparing people for a new job / new career, interview prep etc
- Education projects for any age
- Projects which are challenging discrimination / supporting BME/Gender/LGBTQ groups

- Climate Action / Environmental education projects.
- Activities to remove carbon from the atmosphere such as tree planting, heathland restoration or supporting algae farms;
- Remediating polluted areas via litter picking / clean-ups.
- Improvement of public community space to stimulate people getting more frequent access to outside space and wildlife.

Areas of need highlighted by our Lived Experience Advisory Panel:

- Housing advice and support for those with Learning Disabilities
- Housing advice and support for those who've experienced domestic abuse
- Out of school activities for young people and children.
- Employment support for those with Learning Disabilities
- Employment support for those with Domestic Abuse
- Projects which provide education on and reduce - gang / knife crime

Available Funding:

Grants are available between £2,000 - £10,000 and must be spent within a year.

Areas of Delivery:

Grants are available across the United Kingdom – England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

We will Support:

- Groups that have been running for at least two years.
- Salary, equipment or volunteer costs that are clearly budgeted and only used for the project – evidence will be required.

Grants can be made for a wide range of purposes including consumables, project or activity costs. For example:

- Pilot projects
- The purchase of equipment and resources
- Extension and development of existing projects

Please note:

- No more than 10% of the project costs can be assigned to operational/core costs.
- Your application value must be no more than 20% of the organisation's annual income.
- Your organisation's income level must be less than £500,000, as shown in your most recent annual accounts.

Eligibility

You can apply to this fund if you are one of the following:

- Registered charities
- Constituted Community groups
- Companies Limited by Guarantee with charitable aims
- Community Interest Companies
- Co-operatives - registered Community Benefit Societies and

- registered Industrial and Provident Societies
- Social Enterprises **Funding to Community Interest Companies and other non-charities may include conditions to restrict funding to charitable objectives only.*

Please note, we are unable to fund the following:

- Individuals or sole traders
- Arts and media focused projects
- Sports clubs and societies (unless the project benefits disabled people)
- Contact sports such as boxing
- Capital Builds
- Direct replacement of statutory obligations and public funding
- Promotion of religious or political activities
- Groups with significant financial free reserves
- Organisations or charities which are solely to promote any particular religion
- Organisations who have indicated poor management of any previous grants or who present poor financial health
- Payment of deficit funding or repayment of loans
- Animal welfare, unless the project benefits people (e.g. disabled riding schemes)
- Statutory work in educational institutions
- Pure sponsorship purposes or funding purely for costs of fundraising events

Additional Eligibility and Supporting Information Requirements:

To be eligible to apply you must be able to provide proof of:

- Your organisation / company has a management committee / board of trustees / board of directors with at least three unrelated people as members, a list of those directors will be required showing who has bank authorisation.
- A written constitution / articles / set of rules.
- A copy of your most recent annual accounts or financial records showing your organisation's balance of funds, income and reserves.
- A bank account in the name of the organisation with at least two unrelated signatories
- A bank statement from the last three months.
- Copies of your safeguarding policy (if you will be working with children or vulnerable adults)
- An Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy.
- Quotes for capital items over £300.
- To comply with Wesleyan's anti-money laundering and financial crime policies, we conduct due diligence checks on all charities and trustees who are recipients of grants. To perform this check, we require the names, dates of birth and trustees of all trusts associated with the charity. This information will be requested once the decision has been made to award the grant, pending this due diligence check.

Application timetable –

Our Community Grants Programme has three panels in 2024, we will be accepting applications from 1 February to 31 July 2024. Please see application timetable below,

organisations will only be able to put in one application for our Community Grants programme in 2024:

Community Grants Application Panel Timescales

Spring Panel – 1 February to 10 March 2024

Summer Panel - 11 March to 19 May 2024

Autumn Panel – 19 May to 31 July 2024

Apply

To apply for our grant please complete our online application form which can be found on: [Wesleyan Foundation](#)

Wesleyan Foundation Grants are administered in partnership with Heart of England Community Foundation full terms & conditions of our grants can be found here:

<https://www.heartofenglandcf.co.uk/terms-and-conditions/>

Decision Making

Applications are reviewed by our Community and Citizenship Manager, Senior Management and Wesleyan Foundation Panel. Unfortunately, we won't be able to fund all applications received due to application requests totalling over the available funds. If you are unsuccessful in your application the decision is final. Feedback will be provided as to why you have been unsuccessful.

All Applications Close 31 July 2024.

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