

Community Fund Criteria and Guidelines

What is The Community Fund

Community Fund 2025/26

Applicants can apply for up to £500.

The Community Fund aligns with ForHousing's Customer Strategy which encompasses;

A culture that places the tenant at the centre of everything we do;

Listening and acting upon tenant voice; and

Improving customer experience through better use of resources, systems and processes

This will support the organisation's vision and mission which are to positively impact the lives of our social housing tenants and to provide safe, well maintained homes and deliver customer focused, equitable and efficient services

These activities need to be:

- well publicised
- Inclusive, meeting the diverse needs of communities
- (where possible) held in a venue that is accessible to all.
- reference the support received from ForHousing
- Positively impact the lives of ForHousing communities and deliver activities that matters to them and their communities

Successful applicants will need to provide feedback on the delivery of their activity and, if possible, photographs. Failure to do this will exclude any future applications to the fund being accepted. Applicants must retain all receipts from grant spend because a selection of applicants each quarter will be chosen at random to provide evidence of receipts for audit purposes.

There are three ForHousing Community Voices – Salford, Fitton Hill and Stockbridge. Members meet quarterly to help improve the services that ForHousing delivers and to strengthen partnership working in the local areas. They also decide whether to approve or decline Community Fund applications each month.

Who Can Apply

Any resident of the geographical area within ForHousing communities can make an application, this includes Community Voice members. Community Voice members that apply must declare this when voting and they won't be able to vote on their own application.

You don't need to be a ForHousing tenant to make an application.

A Charity, School or Community Interest Company can make an application providing that they can demonstrate they have tenant / resident support for the activity.

Businesses must show that they will not make a profit from the grant to be eligible. Activities provided by businesses must be free of charge.

Funding

We will allocate a budget to each Community Voice annually, which is proportionate to the housing stock we have in each geographical area. Each Community Voice will determine which projects in their area they will fund, up to a maximum value of £500 for an individual project.

Each Community Voice will be responsible for managing their allocated budget, ensuring that best use of the funds is made and that there is no overspend. The Community Voice members, made up of tenants and residents from ForHousing communities will review and make the final decision.

The deadline for applications is the first Friday of every month and they are considered by the Community Voice members monthly. Applicants will receive a response within 4- 6 weeks of this deadline.

Criteria

Criteria:

Successful applications should benefit people in ForHousing neighbourhoods in one or more of the following criteria:

- Connect communities and increase community cohesion
- Empower communities to influence decisions and contribute towards change
- Encourage Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- Volunteering
- Wellbeing activities (including physical and mental health)
- Education and Training opportunities
- Learn through play, sport or other activities
- Provide access to, and use of digital technology
- Help people to feel safe
- Improve greenspaces, the environment and neighbourhood
- Advice, information and education around help managing debt and finances
- Help and advice around food and/or fuel poverty
- Improve employability
- Prevent homelessness
- Financial inclusion
- Sustain a tenancy
- Other benefits to wellbeing of people in ForHousing neighbourhoods, not already listed

Ineligible for funding:

- Any expenditure incurred before the grant is confirmed
- Projects that cannot be completed within 12 months of the grant being confirmed
- Applicants who have already received Community Fund within the same financial year. Applicants are not eligible to apply again within the same financial year if they have already received a grant. This includes applications for a different project, if the same group organises it.
- Applicants who have not provided feedback for previous successful applications, including receipts if they have been requested.
- Applications which do not support ForHousing communities

Applications for a project that has previously been declined funding can be resubmitted for consideration providing any feedback from Community Voice has been taken on board and the activity/project amended accordingly.

Procedure

The Community Fund will be advertised on the website, via social media, by email and through word of mouth. The Community Fund application form is found on [Community funding form - ForHousing](#).

The Community Voice members are jointly responsible for promoting the Community Fund to the community along with ForHousing.

Each applicant will be required to complete an online application form. The applicant will receive a copy of the application submitted for their records.

Alternatively, telephone Johnny Cammish on 07754056369 or communities@forhousing.co.uk and support can be given to complete an application form over the phone.

The Community Development Team will review the applications submitted and will produce a report including applications for consideration by Community Voice members.

A report will be sent submitted to Community Voice members each month via email. The Community Voice will review the information provided by the Community Development Team and make a final decision whether or not to fund the project/activity.

The Community Voice can defer making a decision if they have questions regarding an application. The Community Development Team will then liaise with the applicant and coordinate responses to the Community Voice for a decision to be made.

If approved the Community Voice members will award the applicant the full amount of monies requested, depending on amount of funds remaining at that time.

Where there are insufficient funds available, members may defer the application to the next financial year.

The Community Development Team will make the applicant aware of the outcome of their

application, providing feedback from the Community Voice.

Completing the application form

Please follow this link for an example Community Fund Application and funding breakdown example.

[Example CF Application Form V2.docx](#)

Feedback and Measuring success

Feedback from the community, including photographs, regarding the success and positive impact of the project/activity will be requested to be submitted by the applicants no later than 3 months following completion of delivery of the project/activity. Applicants not providing feedback within 3 months will be ineligible to receive further funding until they provide the feedback.

The Community Development team will provide an end of year evaluation report to the Community Voice on the Community Fund.

An update will be presented to the members within the pack of papers at the quarterly Community Voice meeting. This will include case studies to showcase how much was awarded, what was delivered and the difference the funding made.