



Comic Relief Local Communities Grant Guidelines

There are still many communities in the UK that suffer from economic and social deprivation and the current economic climate may make this situation worse. This programme aims to empower local people enabling them to create lasting change in their communities. Projects should be run by people directly affected by the issues they are dealing with and priority will be given to small, locally based groups or organisations in areas of disadvantage that have a clear understanding of the needs of their community. This can also include 'Communities of Interest' which cover a wider geographical area.

Under the programme, organisations can apply for funding to:

- Increase local services,
- Build skills of local people,
- Increase community cohesion,
- Respond to local economic needs.

While groups will be using a range of activities we specifically want 50% of the available funds to go to sports projects that:

- increase access to sport and exercise for people who face social exclusion and isolation
- Help people who are experiencing difficulties in their lives.

Who can apply?

Organisations which have received a Community Cash grant or any other grant from a Community Foundation **can** apply for a Local Communities grant. However organisations which hold a grant directly from Comic Relief, **can not** apply for Local Communities Grant. Groups may have a variety of structures however must be able to evidence a clear set of rules, a committee or board and have a community bank account with at least 2 unrelated signatories as authorisation.

The following types of charitable organisations may apply:

- Community Groups
- Residents Associations
- Community Centres
- Social Enterprises
 - a. Community Interest Companies (CIC) *
 - b. Community Interest Organisations (CIO) *
- Credit Unions

* Community Interest Companies/Community Interest Organisations must have a minimum of 3 directors at least two of which are unrelated.

Tees Valley Community Foundation, Wallace House, Falcon Court, Preston Farm, Stockton on Tees, TS18 3TX

Tel: (01642) 260860/260870 Email: info@teesvalleyfoundation.org
Registered Charity No. 1111222 Registered Company No 5478088

Types of activities that might be funded

- Community sport activities
- Furniture projects
- Projects providing access to benefits advice
- Projects combating fuel poverty
- Community consultation exercises
- Community employment projects
- Food co-ops
- Running costs; including salaries, core costs and project costs
- Committee and volunteer/staff training

Exclusions

Grants will not be awarded to:

- Individuals;
- To statutory organisations, including schools;
- To fund trips abroad;
- To fund buses, mini buses or other community transport schemes (not including transport costs forming part of a project);
- To fund building costs, including access adaptations to buildings;
- To organisations who are in receipt of a grant directly from Comic Relief.

How much can I apply for?

The Local Communities Programme will run for two years and during this time, grants of between £1,000 and £10,000 will be available. A local Communities grant **MUST be at LEAST 30%** of the total project costs.

When can you apply?

We are open for applications at certain times throughout the year, a timetable of our opening and closing dates is given below.

(for the first round only, we aim to spend at least 50% of the money available, on projects which 'increase access to sport and exercise for people who face social exclusion or isolation).

Year	Round	Open for Applications	Closing Date for Applications	Panel Date
2013/14	1	1 st July 2013	29 th August 2013	30 th September 2013
2013/14	2	3 rd February 2014	27 th March 2014	28 th April 2014
2014/15	3	1 st July 2014	28 th August 2014	29 th September 2014
2014/15	4	2 nd Feb 2015	26 th March 2015	27 th April 2015

How to apply

Complete an online application form by following the links on Tees Valley Foundation's website. If you have any questions in relation to your application please don't hesitate to contact a member of the giving team on 01642 260860.

Once you have completed the application form it should be signed by 2 members of your group and an independent referee and forwarded along with supporting documents to Tees Valley Community Foundation at the address given below. Please make sure you take a copy for your own records and apply adequate postage.

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