

Community First Programme: Neighbourhood Matched Fund

Guidance Notes: How to request funds from your local panel

This document will explain how the Community First: Neighbourhood Matched Fund works, whether you can apply, and how to request funds from your local panel. It contains useful web links and guidance on completing a Funding Proposal Form, in which you can set out the aims of your project, the problems it addresses, and the benefits to your neighbourhood.

Details about the programme & the aim of the programme

£30 Million is now available to fund community projects in some of the most deprived areas of the country. People will be encouraged to give time, expertise and resources towards the projects they identify in their areas. The government will match these pound for pound, helping to stimulate local action towards meeting community needs.

The programme will help communities come together to identify their strengths and local priorities in order to plan for their future and become more resilient. It will fund both new and existing community groups.

Community First Neighbourhood Matched Fund is an initiative that provides local communities with the means to address their own priorities.

Communities will set up local panels in each eligible ward, and will decide upon projects for funding in their area.

It is a matched fund programme, which means that every £1 provided in funding must be matched by a similar amount of in-kind donations (this means donations of cash, services, free products or volunteer time).

Our Website

All the information on this fund can be found through the following link:-

<http://www.cdf.org.uk/web/guest/neighbourhood-matched-fund>

Am I eligible to apply to my panel for funding?

You can check the postcode finder on our website, to see whether your ward is eligible for funding. If so, and your project will directly benefit people in your ward then you are free to apply for funding. Each ward has its own Community First Panel which is made up of members of your community who have come together to produce a list of priorities to improve your area. If a project fits in with these priorities then the panel may recommend it for funding. You can learn more about panels on our website.

Each panel will have a webpage and email address. You can find out about local priorities on the webpage and get in touch with them via the email.

CDF's website will provide the web details and email addresses for all panels.

Is funding available to individuals?

No, funding for this programme is only available to groups, so if you have an idea to improve your neighbourhood, you must form a group to apply for funding. You will need to create a set of rules which all members of your group agree to abide by. This is called a Terms of Reference. For help on creating a Terms of Reference you can find a template form on our website. For some useful advice on how to set up a project, please visit the My Community Starter website: <http://www.communitytoolkit.co.uk/>

How do I apply?

You can discuss your project with your local panel and if it is approved then a representative from your local panel will recommend your project to us for funding. You can find the contact details of your panel on the website. Although you do not have to do this, it might be a good idea to fill out a Project Proposal Form which can be found on the website. This form allows you to show the panel how your project fits in with the aims of the Community First programme, and it provides the information in the way the panel will need to see it to make a decision.

Project Proposal Form Guidance

A section by section guide to completing the proposal form.

You need to answer all questions.

About your group

Please provide standard contact details so that CDF can contact you if the panel approves your proposal.

About your project

Project Title

Choose a name for your project which will allow it to be easily recognised.

Project Summary

Please provide details about your project i.e. the aims of the project. The aim is a brief statement that explains the overall purpose of your project.

Which of the local priorities identified for your ward does this project address?

The panel website will list the priorities for the ward, make a note of which of these priorities your project will address.

How does your project meet these priorities?

The starting point for addressing how your project meets the priorities in your ward is to be clear on the need it is addressing. You need to demonstrate a problem, issue or situation where something needs to be changed to make things better for a person, group of people or an environment.

Area Covered by project

Although funding for this programme is at ward level, different neighbourhoods within your ward may have greater need of funding. Please let the panel know here what specific area of your ward your project will benefit.

Amount requested

Tell us how much grant you are applying for?

What is the start date for the project and when will it be completed?

Tell us how long the project will take to complete. Be as realistic as possible about when the project might start and how long it will take to complete. Don't put a start date of a week after submission of your proposal, if the panel is not going to meet for three weeks. You should find panel meeting dates on their webpage, or you can email them to ask. Please bear in mind the time frames when planning your project. Any unspent funds will need to be returned to CDF at the end of each financial year.

The Local Community

How many people will be involved in the project? What will they be doing?

There are various ways of involving people. For example:

- Having people who would use your project on your management committee.
- Getting local people who will use the project to help design it.
- Setting up user groups to give feedback on your plans and plan activities.
- Where appropriate local people delivering activities or volunteering on the project.

The more members of the local community involved in the project will mean a higher number of volunteer hours, which means a higher match value for the project.

How will this project improve this neighbourhood?

Once you have addressed the need of your project of your project, you will need to have clear idea of the specific changes and improvements your project will have in your neighbourhood.

Financial Details

What will you spend the grant on?

List all the costs associated with your project.

How are you making up the match part of your project?

In order to receive funding for your project you need to contribute the same amount that you are asking for. You can raise this amount in the following ways:

- Volunteer time, which is valued at £11.09 per hour.
In order to greater reflect current labour market costs, CDF is using the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) and within this the Median gross hourly earnings rate.
- Gifts in kind. These are services provided free of charge that normally you would have to pay for, such as venue hire.
- Cash donations

How does your project represent good value for money?

With only a limited amount of funding for your area, you need to demonstrate that your project delivers the most benefits for the least amount of money spent. You can do this by:

- Ensuring the most amount of people in your area benefit from your project
- Thinking of a problem in your area that could be solved for a small amount of money but would make a big difference in people's lives
- When sourcing services and materials, obtain different quotes to make sure you are getting the best possible value for money
- Obtaining services and materials for free where possible from businesses willing to contribute to improving their community.

Need - key point's checklist

- Why your project is needed and how you know it is needed?
- Who would benefit from your project?
- How the people who will benefit are involved in your project?
- The difference your project will make?
- What your project will do?
- How much funding you want, for how long and what you will spend the money on?
- How will you demonstrate that your project has made a difference and has achieved what is sets out to do?