

The National Lottery Community Fund

Meet the Funder
Dacorum CVS
February 2025



About the National Lottery Community Fund

- We're the largest single source of funding for community activities in the UK
- National Lottery players contribute around £30 million to good causes every week
- The National Lottery Community Fund distributes around £700m a year to communities across the UK.
- Across Essex and Herts we award around £17m per year and this equates to around 50 successful applications. We have to say no far more often than we say yes, due to finite funding.

Our 23-30 Strategy - It starts with community

We will support activities creating resilient, inclusive, and environmentally sustainable communities, to strengthen society and enhance lives across the UK.

To achieve this, we will:

1. Focus our funding on 4 community-led missions
2. Take an equity-based approach to tackle inequality
3. Support communities to build from their strengths
4. Support what matters most to different communities
5. Be flexible with our funding, offering small one-off grants, longer term grants and strategic partnership investments

England Portfolio - Introduction



- Community agency, power and control.
- An Equity Based Approach, focused on tackling poverty, disadvantage and discrimination.
- Our funding is focused on four thematic mission areas.
- A new Partnership approach, sharing power and control with partners.

Targeting our funding to drive change



We'll target our funding on four missions with focused outcomes, to enable you to make change in your community:

All delivered through a blend of small grants, Reaching Communities, national and regional partnerships, targeted programmes and grant holder support.

Help communities come together through inclusive places and activities, prioritising communities least able to help people come together

Supporting babies, children, young people and their families to navigate key transitions in their lives, prioritising social and emotional skills

Tackling health inequalities, as part of our mission to enable people to live healthier lives

Enabling communities to be environmentally sustainable by tackling Environmental injustice and access to quality nature

Taking an equity-based approach to tackling inequality across everything we do

Our current funding offer

Who can apply?



Our current open programmes are National Lottery Awards for All and Reaching Communities

You can apply if your organisation is a:

- registered charity
- constituted voluntary or community group/organisation
- not-for-profit company or Community Interest Company
- statutory body such as a local authority, council or school

Who we can't accept applications from:

- Individuals or sole traders
- Companies that can pay profits to directors, shareholders or members
- Organisations based outside the UK
- Organisations that don't have at least two trustees who aren't married / in a civil partnership / long-term relationship, living at the same address, or related by blood
- one organisation applying on behalf of another

National Lottery Awards for All



Overview

- Grants from £300 up to £20,000 for up to two years
- Can only hold one grant at a time and for a maximum of £20,000 within a 12-month period
- Prioritises groups with smaller incomes.
- Applications must show meaningful community involvement in planning and delivery of work
- Organisations cannot apply to other programmes for the same project over the same period if awaiting decision
- Applications are on-line, using a response to 3 questions
- Apply at any time - check website for current decision times.

Reaching Communities – Update

Where possible, we strongly recommend that organisations do not apply until we launch our new criteria in Spring 2025.

Until then we:

- will start to prioritise projects that fit best with [our vision for funding in England](#) and our four mission areas
- expect continued high demand, meaning you've a lower chance of getting funding
- are likely to take around 16 weeks to tell you our initial decision after you apply
- will not be able to have a feedback call with most unsuccessful applicants
- advise you not to apply again for the same project if you've been unsuccessful.

Reaching Communities – Priorities



We can fund projects or organisations that'll do at least one of these things:

- Bring people together to build strong relationships in and across communities
- Improve the places and spaces that matter to communities
- Help more people to reach their potential, by supporting them at the earliest possible stage.

Reaching Communities – Priorities



We will prioritise projects that fit best with our England mission focus areas:

- tackling health inequalities
- environmental injustice and access to quality nature
- inclusive places and activities, prioritising communities least able to help people come together
- supporting babies, children, young people and their families to navigate key transitions in their lives.

We will move our funding criteria to fully align with our England mission focus areas by Spring 2025.

Reaching Communities

Overview:

- We can fund individual organisations or collaborations between multiple organisations.
- Grants over £20,000, running for up to 5 years
- Applications are on-line with other formats available.

We can fund:

1. Direct costs / project related costs
2. Organisational development
3. Core / fixed costs
4. Capital costs



Reaching Communities - Application Process

Visit TNLCF website, check eligibility & apply online
- receive an acknowledgement email

If your proposal is not something we're interested in progressing, we'll let you know, providing some written feedback why, in around 16 weeks

If we're interested in your proposal, you'll move to the next application stage and we'll ask for more information about your proposal and organisation

Submit the additional information & meet and/or chat with your Funding Officer to develop your proposal

Confirm completion of your full proposal & await a decision.

Reaching Communities - How to Apply



How to apply

- You can apply online through our England funding page, alternatively you can contact our advice line, or your local funding officer for support with alternative formats.
- Advice Line: 0345 4 10 20 30, or general.enquiries@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk

Your Initial Proposal for Funding Form

We'll ask you:

1. What your organisation does
2. What you'd like to do
3. Where your work will take place
4. How you'll involve your community
5. How your work fits with local activities
6. Who will benefit & what difference you'll make
7. How much money you need & what you'll spend it on
8. How long you need the money for
9. Contact details for you main and senior contact
10. Information about the number of staff and volunteers inc. lived experience of session management.

Safeguarding



All Children and Adults at Risk have a right to protection and freedom from abuse or exploitation, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage or racial culture, religious belief, sexual orientation, economic status or otherwise.

All grant holders need to have a tailored policy in place that explains how anyone involved in any activity will be safe.

The NSPCC have lots of [helpful advice about setting Up and following good child safeguarding policies.](#)

NCVO also host a number of [safeguarding resources.](#)

If we do fund your organisation, you must comply with [our safeguarding policy.](#)



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Reaching Communities - If you're successful

Grant set up

- Return your offer letter and recent bank statement within one month
- Start your grant within six months

End of year & grant reporting

- How you've involved people from your community
- What difference the funding has made
- What you're learning
- How you're spending the money

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/managing-your-grant/over-10k>

Contacting the Local Team



If you need to contact either Helen or Rachael, please do so via email in the first instance.

Helen.Snowden@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk

Rachael.Luckin@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk

Questions and reflections

Thank you

[https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/
programmes/our-vision-for-funding-in-england](https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/our-vision-for-funding-in-england)

Advice Line: 0345 4 10 20 30, or
general.enquiries@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk