

Community Grants 2023/24 Our Funding Policy and Criteria

An innovative approach to community funding and support from Crawley Borough Council. Opportunities for small grants, crowdfunding, and strategic funding. Apply for one-off project grants to multi-year service funding.

Crawley Borough Council supports a range of Voluntary and Community Organisations to provide activities, including services or projects, for local people. We aim to support new and existing services provided by the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector to help build active communities and improve quality of life in Crawley.

This programme provides opportunities for discretionary small grants to be awarded in support of local not-for-profit community and voluntary action as well as match funding with Crowdfund Crawley and strategic funding for community services.

- **Small Grants (up to £2,500)**

This funding scheme will be open for one off small grants. Contact us to discuss your project idea. (Apply online)

This scheme is for local community groups and voluntary organisations. Applications can be for a one-off item including equipment or an activity. Discretionary start-up grants are available as Community Development support. Your application should ideally have local support including from a Crawley Borough Councillor.

- **Community Action Fund – Crowdfunding (up to £5,000)**

One-off funding for local voluntary and community activity, a contribution will be required as match funding. (Apply online)

Our community initiative funding is available for match funding to local community and resident-led projects.

For Crowdfund Crawley (2022/23) information please visit – <https://www.spacehive.com/movement/crawley>

- **Strategic Grants (£5,000 and above)**

For one-off project funding and up to 3 years service funding that can deliver certain outcomes. Contact us to discuss your project proposal. (Apply online)

This funding is available for local activity (project or service) provided by eligible organisations. Awards are available for up to 3 years local service funding where there is a detailed service/development plan. All awards are managed by a funding agreement with our terms and conditions and formal monitoring arrangements.

Who can apply?

Registered charities, community interest companies, voluntary organisations and community groups that can meet the *eligibility criteria* (see requirements below) may apply for funding. We also invite proposals from organisations working together in partnership. We particularly welcome applications from emerging groups and organisations seeking to develop new activities in response to clearly identified local needs.

Our key funding priorities

We have identified the following key strategic priorities and outcomes:

Priority 1 - Known Vulnerable

This might include residents or communities already accessing a number of Council services such as Housing Benefit, Council Tax reduction, assisted bins, sheltered accommodation, and clinically extremely vulnerable groups. They may already access Council services and/or Council grant funded organisations.

- 1.1 Reducing homelessness and the impact of homelessness
- 1.2 Improving health and wellbeing outcomes for those with a dementia diagnosis and their carers

Priority 2 - Emerging Vulnerable

This might be residents or communities less known or unknown from existing services, but is likely to include those newer groups and communities who are emotionally, socially, economically disadvantaged either previously or as a result of pandemic.

- 2.1 Bringing people closer to the job market and securing employment
- 2.2 Reducing domestic abuse and violence
- 2.3 Narrowing inequalities within our diverse community

Priority 3 - Future Vulnerable

This group are those residents or communities who are most likely to need support if early intervention and prevention does not meet the needs.

- 3.1 Supporting those who have experienced adverse childhood experiences to increase educational attainment and achievement and improve social mobility

Priority 4 - Community Spirit

Supporting those organised voluntary groups and community organisations who can help promote and celebrate what makes Crawley an enjoyable place to live, work and visit.

- 4.1 Supporting events that promote community spirit & cohesion
- 4.2 'Connecting' community groups and residents through the delivery of positive events and activities

We will only consider proposals that have a good evidence base (including details about local needs and gaps in services) and activities that demonstrate clear outcomes and links to our agreed funding priorities.

What we can fund

Funding can be given towards various direct costs or expenditure items, and for full cost recovery, providing it relates to the activity described in the application, represents value for money (including measures of social value). This includes, for example:

Administration - Items such as printing, publicity, stationery, and communications.

Equipment - Items of equipment needed or capital items required for the activity.

Premises – Rent or hire charges for using premises such as a school or community centre. Insurances, heating, and lighting costs.

Set-up costs – Including term-limited projects, development work, special programmes, and events.

Human resources - Employment costs of staff. Volunteers' expenses. Training and development of staff, volunteers, and service users.

Improvement and innovation - Organisational development including project and service evaluations, reviews, and suitable quality steps. Research and consultations.

Basic eligibility requirements

To be considered for funding groups and organisations must:

1. Be a constituted group with a management group of 3 plus people (these must not be related) or a Registered Charity and Limited Company or a Community Interest Company
2. Hold your own bank account (in the name of the organisation)
3. Be delivering for Crawley residents (for the activity at least 80% of the local beneficiaries must live in Crawley)
4. Have certain organisation policies in place such as for health and safety, safeguarding, and equality and diversity covering the organisation and activity

Note: certain exemptions and special conditions may apply.

Funding exclusions

We regret to be unable to fund the following:

- Private companies
- Individuals
- Organisations with a political or partisan stance
- Religious or faith-based groups religious activities
- Organisations who have an income or expenditure over £6m.
- Other public sector providers.
- Organisations with a CBC Community Grant awarded for the current financial year for small grants, or next financial year for strategic grants.

Making the case for support

You will need to provide a sufficient level of detail and evidence in the funding application. For example, your proposal should specify:

- All realistic costs of the proposed activity (include budget and relevant/direct income and expenditure including detailed costing information).

- The expected main and indirect outcomes or benefits of this activity to people who live in Crawley.
- How you have identified the need for the proposed or current activity and how you aim to meet this need with the funding and other support.
- How you have consulted people who currently use or are likely to use the service and these findings.
- The key milestones or targets for the activity over time from the main outcomes and benefits you have identified.
- How you will complement or enhance services provided by others working locally.
- How you will secure and use resources effectively including other funding, and how much you realistically expect to receive from all other sources.

Notice of outcome

We will notify you of the outcome of the application. If your application is unsuccessful, you may be able to apply later with a new proposal. Our Grants and Funding webpage highlights other sources of funding and support available.

Funding terms & conditions

Organisations awarded funding will be required to accept the standard funding terms and conditions (or a service level agreement if required by the Council). Any special conditions or requirements will be notified with any formal offer.

Making an application

- **Small Grants (£50 - £2,500)**

Contact us to discuss your proposal before applying as this could save you time. Applications may be submitted at any time of the year as there is no formal closing date (see our Funding and Support webpage).

- **Community Action Fund - Crowdfunding (up to £5,000)**

This funding scheme is subject to available funding from April when you may contact us to discuss your idea. To make your pitch for funding of a new local project visit our website.

- **Strategic Grants (£5,000 and above)**

Contact us to discuss your project proposal well in advance of the published closing date (see our webpages). You must complete the online pre-qualifying questionnaire (eligibility checker) before you can proceed to the full application stage. If you do not meet the published eligibility criteria, you will not be able to apply. Awards will be announced in March.

For further details about these opportunities visit our Funding and Support webpage <https://crawley.gov.uk/community/grants-and-funding-support>

All awards are published on our website.

Need any help with applying for funding?

If you require assistance to apply to us for funding or would like further information or advice about applying for this funding, please contact us.

Networking, funding, and development support is also available from our Community Development Team and Crawley Community Action (CCA) a Registered Charity and membership organisation for the local VCSE sector. For more information about CCA visit www.crawleycommunityaction.org

Contact us

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