Bridging Communities

Grant Guidance

The NNS Bridging Communities grant is designed to be accessible to all applicants, and we can receive applications in a variety of formats. Please let your Project Worker know if you need any accessibility adjustments or support in the application process.

Grant Details

The Bridging Communities Micro Grant aims is to support grassroots organisations to build capacity, develop initiatives and grow community provision for 3 target communities in Birmingham which are:

- Deaf BSL community
- Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) communities
- LGBTQ+ communities

- Micro grants of up to £800 are available.
- Applications can only be accessed via our NNS Bridging Communities Project Workers

Criteria

Applications must:

- Come from or clearly benefit, one of the target communities
- Deliver activity within Birmingham for over 18s
- Demonstrate community benefit and need
- Not have previously received funding for the same project through NNS unless otherwise agreed and at the discretion of the grant panel.

Applicants must:

- Be working with one of our NNS Bridging Communities Project Workers.
- Be able to complete a light touch monitoring requirement (see below for further details).

Grant Conditions

- Grants are one-off only
- The same project cannot be funded more than once unless at the discretion of the panel. (As an example, this may be agreed for an annual community event)
- Funding must be used for the purpose agreed.

What NNS Bridging Communities Micro Grant will not fund:

- Research Projects
- Costs of existing staff who are not directly working on the project – whether permanent or fixed-term.
- Costs incurred in putting the application together (bid writers).
- Core costs of the organisation which are not directly related to the project or activity.
- Contingency costs – e.g. funds to provide a source of income or for fundraising activities.
- VAT that can be recovered

- Loans or interest payments
- Purchase of alcohol, tobacco products including vapes or illegal substances
- Activities that can be considered gambling – where there is a cash prize.
- Political or Religious activities
- Statutory organisations such as Schools or NHS bodies etc.

Application Process

Applications are by invite only via the NNS Bridging Communities team.

1. Once you have discussed your proposal with the NNS Bridging Communities Project Worker an application link will be provided, if you require an alternative method of completing the application, please let your Bridging Communities Project Worker know.
2. On receipt of your application your project request will be assessed by our grants panel.
3. Following agreement at grant panel Heart of England Community Foundation will undertake due diligence checks.
4. Subject to satisfactory checks grant payments will be made by the Heart of England Community Foundation.

Support Available

The NNS Bridging Communities team members can also assist with completing application forms.

Support can also be provided to applicants by **Birmingham Community Matters (BCM)** who can help you to:

- Develop ideas
- Set-up governance structures
- Build budgets
- Demonstrate need

To contact BCM – please email: info@birminghamcommunitymatters.org.uk Or access their 'contact us now' form via the website: https://www.birminghamcommunitymatters.org.uk/contact-us/

Monitoring and Feedback Requirements

Reporting will be 'light touch' and will be required once the project had been completed, this will include:

A short "story of difference" (Max 300 words) which can include:

- What changed because of the funding
- Who benefited and how
- Basic outcomes information
- Number of people supported
- Type of activity delivered

As part of the grant monitoring and reporting requirements, successful applicants will be asked to collect anonymised demographic information from participants attending funded activities where appropriate. This includes age, gender, sexual orientation, disability status, ethnicity, religion or belief, and relationship status.

This information helps us understand who is accessing activities, measure the reach of funded projects, and ensure support is reaching to our identified communities across Birmingham.

A template monitoring form will be provided for use. If collecting this information is not appropriate for your project or participants, please speak to your Project Worker, who will be happy to discuss alternative approaches.

For additional support or questions please contact the NNS Bridging Communities Team on 0121 354 4080 or nnsbridgingcommunities@ourplacesupport.org