

Grant Guidelines: Poverty Hurts Fund

What is the Poverty Hurts Fund?

The current cost of living crisis, driven by abnormal increases in fuel, energy and food costs, is forcing more families across our county into relative poverty. Many households who were 'just about managing' will be hard hit along with households who already fall below the relative poverty threshold.

The Poverty Hurts Fund has been created through the generosity of local people who have donated spare money (perhaps a Winter Fuel Payment or energy rebate) or made a larger donation to help the most vulnerable people in Gloucestershire during what we expect will be a very difficult period

The programme aims to support vulnerable people who are struggling to manage financially, including buying food and other household essentials or paying for fuel, heating and energy.

Grants will be considered at panel meetings whilst funds are available as we will continue to fundraise whilst awarding grants. We may pause the programme if available funds are fully spent but will update applicants of any changes to the status of the programme.

What you can apply for

This programme aims to support activities for people and families in need as a result of poverty and/or the cost of living increase that will:

- Help vulnerable people at risk of or in abject poverty
- Coordinate a community response
- Provide food supplies, a hot meal, warm clothing or other essential household/hygiene items
- Provide assistance with energy or winter heating costs
- Reduce isolation and loneliness or improve mental health for people in distress
- Provide access to local services and information that may help to prevent a crisis situation arising or provide valuable guidance, practical or emotional support for people struggling as a result of the increase in the cost of living
- Provide opportunities for learning and skills development that may support people to improve their financial position in the longer-term or help to build more resilient communities that can support each other.

Applications must demonstrate how their proposed project will deliver one or more of the above.

Funding available

Grants of up to **£2,500** are available for projects that help those in the community facing very real challenges as a result of the increase in the cost of living, including **low-income families, the frail, elderly, disabled, people with chronic medical conditions or suffering mental illness and the homeless.**

Priority will be given to groups that:

- Deliver a project/activity that reflects the concerns and priorities of the target beneficiaries and fits well with existing community activities/services
- Demonstrate they are well connected within the local community, and their project involves working in partnership with local organisations and groups
- Have experience of working with and reaching out to vulnerable people

What we do not fund

- Applications from Individuals (we can fund organisations who are able to distribute funding and support to individuals on our behalf)
- Organisations with less than 3 unrelated Trustees or Directors
- General appeals.
- Statutory organisations or the direct replacement of statutory funding.
- Political groups or activities promoting political beliefs.
- Religious groups promoting religious beliefs.
- Arts projects with no community or charitable element.
- Sports projects with no community or charitable element.
- Projects that take place before an application can be processed.
- Activities that are intended to raise funds for other organisations.

As a general rule, this grants programme will not fund groups that already have an established social responsibility. This includes local authorities and town councils, housing associations and schools.

Community Interest Companies (CICs)

We will consider applications from Community Interest Companies (CICs) that:

- Demonstrate they have clear charitable purposes and that their work has a defined social benefit.
- Are registered with Companies House
- Have three or more unrelated directors
- Have an appropriate 'asset lock' clause in the Articles of Association showing that your
- organisation's assets will be distributed to a named not-for-profit organisation with similar charitable aims in the event of closure
- Are Companies Limited by Guarantee, as opposed to Companies Limited by Shares
- The salaries and benefits of any paid directors are approved by a majority of non-executive directors and are reasonable and proportionate to the work they do and the financial position of the organisation
- In addition to the above, to be eligible, non-charity social enterprises must provide a plan

- explaining how the organisation is or aims to be financially resilient with trading as a core part of its income. If we agree the plan is appropriate for the social enterprise's age and size, we can consider applications for: reasonable direct costs of services that address a new or unmet community need, or which provide new ways of addressing issues; building the organisation's capacity to develop and run such services.

How to apply

You will need to complete a simple application form on our website at www.gloucestershirecf.org.uk/grants/. As well as the completed application form you may be asked to provide the following:

- A copy of your organisation's governing document/constitution/set of rules that set out the purpose of your organisation and how it is managed.
- Evidence of a bank account in the name of the organisation (a bank statement or paying in slip). The bank account must have at least two signatories.
- A copy of your organisation's most recent accounts or financial information that show your organisation's balance of funds, income and expenditure (unless they are already publicly available)
- A copy of your organisation's safeguarding policy if you work directly with children or vulnerable adults.

What will happen next?

Applications may be submitted at any time. Please see www.gloucestershirecf.org.uk for updates on the status of this grants programme and any deadlines for applications.

Each application will be fully assessed by the Community Foundation. We may contact you for further information.

You will be advised of the outcome of your application within a week of the panel meeting, and a Conditions of Grant Offer letter and acceptance form will be forwarded for you to sign and return. This will explain both general and any project-specific conditions that the Trustees are applying. Sometimes a final decision may be subject to further enquiries by the Grant Manager or it may be necessary to delay funding until further funds become available. On receipt of the acceptance form, the funds will be released.

Monitoring and evaluation

At an appropriate time, usually six-12 months after the grant has been paid (*or sooner if you have spent the grant and wish to apply for further funding*) we will send you a simple grant monitoring report form. This form asks for details of how the grant was spent and what was achieved.

How we collect and hold your data

The personal information collected via the application form is collected to solicit and process applications for grants from Gloucestershire Community Foundation. All information is collected in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA), and the General Data Protection Regulations 2018 (GDPR). By completing an application form, you are giving

consent for the information to be collected and for the Community Foundation to communicate with you/your organisation. We hold all personal information on our secure Customer Relationship Management database; grant related information is disclosed to grant panel members and to donors. We publish lists of grants awarded, and we use data in our publicity, but we anonymise details of any individual grantees. If you feel that any other information about your application or project should not be made publicly available, please contact us to discuss this.

Please refer to our Privacy Policy at <https://www.gloucestershirecf.org.uk/privacy-policy>

Need more information?

If you need more information about the Poverty Hurts Fund please contact:

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