

Mayor's Community Development Fund

CLAIRE WARD
MAYOR OF THE
EAST MIDLANDS



East Midlands
Combined County
Authority

How to Apply for the Community Development Fund (CDF).

This guide explains what the grant is, who can apply for it, how to submit an application and the key dates.

What is the Community Development Fund

The Community Development Fund (CDF) has been set up by Mayor Claire Ward of the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) to fund organisations to deliver projects that help communities within some of the most disadvantaged areas of the region to become stronger and more self-reliant and develop an ongoing legacy of activity.

The word organisations has been used as a collective term that encompasses community groups, voluntary sector groups or other local groups. Only formally constituted organisations can receive the funding and so there is an expectation that different organisations will work together to submit an application.

1. Who can apply?

Only formally constituted organisations are eligible to apply for the funding. Applications will be expected from organisations who have the capacity, expertise and relationships with communities to deliver activities with lasting impact.

Grants will only be awarded to a organisations where they demonstrate in their application that they will deliver through a community-led approach that ensures sustainable impact. Organisations will need to show how they are using local expertise.

Those organisations which work nationally need to show how they have local knowledge and structures to enable them to reach the targeted communities and build local capacity, rather than bringing in people from outside the local area.

CLAIRE WARD
MAYOR OF THE
EAST MIDLANDS



East Midlands
Combined County
Authority

Organisations will be expected to demonstrate that there will be a legacy left after the funding has finished.

. To be considered as a formally constituted organisation you must have

- A governing document (constitution, trust deed, or articles of association)
- A bank account in the organisation's name
- Annual accounts (or, if new, recent bank statements and a simple financial forecast)
- Appropriate insurance cover

Eligible examples: registered charities, community organisations, CICs and social enterprises, faith groups delivering community projects, and town/parish councils.

Not formally constituted? You can still be involved by partnering with an eligible organisation. Funds cannot be paid directly from EMCCA to informal groups.

All projects must be delivered in the specific priority area and Local providers will be prioritised, but regional/national organisations are welcome to apply if they show strong local partnerships and a clear plan for local delivery

2. Which areas will receive the funding

Funding will only be allocated to organisations within the agreed priority wards.

3. Funding

The Mayor has allocated £2,500,000, for delivery of projects in the 10 priority wards. Each ward has been allocated a baseline grant of £125,000 then additional funding has been provided based on population, deprivation levels and rurality. There is an amount allocated for grant administration. There will be an additional £8,000 allocated to each area to support the development of emerging community groups and other similar activities.

The Mayor is looking for organisations to come together to submit a joint application within each area. It is unlikely that grants will be awarded to multiple organisations.

The funding has been allocated as follows

Ward	Council		Small grants	amount available per area
Normanton	Derby	£288,766	£8,000	£296,766
Arboretum	Derby	£249,507	£8,000	£257,507
Bestwood	Nottingham	£262,223	£8,000	£270,223
Dales	Nottingham	£283,129	£8,000	£291,129
Workshop South East	Bassetlaw	£222,903	£8,000	£230,903
Cotmanhay	Erewash	£216,307	£8,000	£224,307
Shirebrook North	Bolsover	£248,076	£8,000	£256,076
Leamington	Ashfield	£220,634	£8,000	£228,634
Gamesley	High Peak	£183,587	£8,000	£191,587
Market Warsop	Mansfield	£244,868	£8,000	£252,868
TOTAL		£2,420,000	£80,000	£2,500,000

4. How can i apply?

Expression of Interest (EOI)

From Thursday 4 September 2025 there will be an opportunity for organisations to register their interest through an Expression of Interest (EOI) form. The EOI form will be on the EMCCA website and will remain open throughout the application period.

Submitting an EOI is helpful but not essential.

The EOI helps EMCCA to check that you fit the correct criteria for the grant as an organisation and if not, we will put you in touch with other organisations in the area so that you can work in partnership

The EOI will also allow us to give advice to you before you submit a full application form.

- You can apply for the grant even if you do not submit an EOI.

5. Applying

Please submit an express of interest. If eligible, you will be sent the grant application form.

6.Support

We will be hosting a number of webinars during the application window to provide advice and guidance, allowing you to meet other groups and answer any questions. We will let you know when these webinars are very soon

There is also a list of Frequently asked questions (FAQs) on the web site. These will be updated regularly but should cover most questions and queries that you may have.

If you have any questions, please email -
communitydevelopment@eastmidlands-cca.gov.uk

7. Timeline

- Thu 4 Sep 2025 – EOI opens (stays open throughout)
- Mon 13 Oct 2025 – Full application window opens
- Mon 24 Nov 2025 (5pm) – Full application window closes
- Dec 2025 – Fri 30 Jan 2026 – Assessment, moderation and approvals
- By Fri 30 Jan 2026 – Decisions issued and grant agreements finalised
- Mon 2 Feb 2026 – Projects start in the priority areas

8. What kinds of projects can be funded?

Community facilities & hubs – refurbishing or expanding local spaces; improving accessibility; adding warm-space or digital access points

Volunteering & social action – recruiting, training and coordinating local volunteers; micro-volunteering; neighbour-to-neighbour support

Youth & family activities – safe, regular activities for children/young people; school holiday provision; family learning; targeted support

Skills, employability & enterprise – community-based training; mentoring; entry-level pathways; support to start or grow social enterprise s

Health & wellbeing – reducing loneliness; men's/women's groups; active lifestyles; community mental-health support; food and nutrition projects

Community safety & cohesion – local initiatives that build trust, reduce ASB, and strengthen belonging (e.g., street-based youth work, by-and-for groups)

9. What you need to think about when you submit your application form.

- What is it that you are delivering
- Where will you be delivering it
- How will you deliver it
- who will benefit
- Why is it needed (local evidence, community insight)
- How you'll deliver (partners, staffing, safeguarding, risk management)
- What groups you are working with
- Is this one organisation applying on behalf of others or is this a joint application
- How much you need and what it's going to be spent on Budget (and value for money)
- Outcomes and how you'll measure success (simple, meaningful indicators)
- Your capacity (governance, experience, finances)

10. Things that you also need to include in your application

- Governing document
- Latest annual accounts (or recent bank statements + forecast for new orgs)
- Evidence of insurance (e.g., public liability)
- Safeguarding policy (if working with children/young people/adults at risk)
- Data protection policy (if handling personal data)

Thank you for applying and good luck.