

Community Empowerment Fund





Overview of Local Solutions Community Empowerment Fund

Local Solutions' Community Empowerment Fund is a key part of our commitment to empower change. We hope this fund will provide individuals and groups with opportunities to make a difference in their own communities. We want to support ideas that empower, include, and have a positive impact on local people.

We want these grants to support smaller projects, ideas and initiatives that come through, or inspire, voluntary social action, rather than to fund larger established charities and community groups. If you have an idea that would make a difference to people in your community but need a little funding or support, then the Community Empowerment Fund might be right for you.



Who can apply for a grant?

- Individuals and groups living within the Liverpool City Region.
- The groups do not need to be formally constituted but come together for a common goal.
- Applicants over 18 years.

What we look for in applications?

- To fund work that aligns with our vision, 'a society where all people can live with dignity, lead fulfilled lives and realise their full potential'.
- Applications that will make a positive impact on individuals and groups in our communities.
- Projects and activities that encourage empowerment and inclusivity.



What you can apply for

- In the first year there is a minimum of £50k available. This is in recognition of Local Solutions 50th anniversary.
- The upper limit is £2,000. There is no minimum amount.
- Alongside funding you can ask for help and support with developing or delivering your idea if needed.

What we do not fund

- Groups, clubs, societies, communities and charities with an annual income of over £20,000.
- Activities that are illegal - debts, gambling, political etc.
- Applications for projects we have previously funded.



Application process

- You can apply on our website, on paper, via the phone or in person.
- We will ask you to tell us about your idea in your own words.
- There will be a named person to provide any support needed.
- A grants coordinator will check the application once received and contact you if we need any more information.
- A panel will discuss and score each application considering the need, impact, and reach.
- The panel meet every 8 weeks.
- There will be no date restrictions. It will be a rolling programme.



Once a decision has been made...

What happens if your application is successful?

- We will send you a simple grant agreement detailing the amount of the award to be signed and outlining the next steps. We will aim to notify successful applicants within 2 weeks of the CEF Panel meeting.

What happens if your application is unsuccessful?

You cannot make another application within 12 months. All decisions are final and there is no appeal process. Sorry!

And finally...

We want to celebrate the achievements of the successful applicants and to recognise the positive impact on people and communities. We will hold an annual networking meetings to look at ways that recipients could mentor new applicants and projects, share experiences and expand the reach and impact of the fund.

If you would like to donate to the Community Empowerment Fund, please contact Jenny Snell at: jsnell@localsolutions.org.uk



@local_solutions



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localsolutions.org.uk/community-empowerment-fund

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