

Community Independence Grant Guidance

What is a Community Grant?

Every year Yorkshire Housing sets aside a portion of money to give out to customers, charities and community groups in the form of a grant, which can help with community activities.

This money does not need to be paid back, but we do have a short application and some criteria for what it can be spent on.

Who can apply for a community grant?

Yorkshire Housing customers, local charities and community groups wanting to make positive things happen in their community can apply.

Your project or activity should be locally led and based in Yorkshire. It needs to benefit the local community and involve, or be accessible to, Yorkshire Housing customers. If you aren't sure where the nearest Yorkshire Housing homes are to your project area, drop us an email with your potential delivery area/postcode to communityenquiries@yorkshirehousing.co.uk and we will help you find out.

If you are part of a charity or group, your annual income should not be more than £10,000, and you should be locally constituted and managed rather than be a large or national charity.

In the past we've had people use the grant to develop community gardens, cafes or sports programmes for young people, just to name a few.

So, if you've got an idea on how to improve social opportunities, skills or health and wellness in your community, we'd love to hear from you!

Our target areas

We are particularly interested in projects or activities that will be accessible to Yorkshire Housing customers, but will consider other projects particularly if they meet one or more of the following priorities -

- Health & Wellbeing
- Digital Skills
- Young people
- Social Inclusion

How much can I apply for?

You can apply for a grant of up to £2500.

You must have a community or club/society bank account if you want the grant to be transferred to an account. We will ask for separate proof of your bank details along with your grant application.

If your group doesn't have a bank account, we can arrange to buy goods/services directly on your behalf. It may be some training you need, which we can book directly for you, such as Food Hygiene or First Aid. If this is the case, please get in touch via email and we would be happy to discuss this communityenquiries@yorkshirehousing.co.uk

Please be aware we don't pay grants into individual accounts.

What can I spend a grant on?

The grant can be used to kickstart projects, activities and events to benefit the local community.

It can pay for things like -

- Equipment
- Venue costs
- Volunteer expenses
- Transport

Where relevant, we expect you to shop around to find the best value for money. For any individual items costing over £200 we'll expect you to attach a quote to your application.

What it cannot be spent on -

The grant can't pay for -

- Alcohol
- Activities that promote a particular political or religious point of view (However, groups that are based in a religious building can apply, providing the activity / project is open to all people in the community. Please contact us to discuss eligibility if you are unsure.)
- Profit-making activities
- Salaries for paid workers unless you are hiring a tutor to lead a specific activity or have discussed your circumstances in advance with the community independence team

- Activities or projects that have already taken place or costs you have already incurred.

If you are unsure if our grant will cover what you need, contact us and we would be happy to advise you.

How do I apply?

If you have read all the guidance and are ready to apply, we have a short online application form which you can find [here](#). We can also send you a PDF copy if you prefer, just let us know.

We can also send you an application form, which includes descriptions of what information we need for each question, which may help you to complete it. Again just let us know if you would like a copy sending by emailing us at communityenquiries@yorkshirehousing.co.uk

Supporting documents

As well as your application form, we may need to see some supporting evidence. So, if you are applying for funding that will involve the following areas, please note the evidence we will need to see.

Young people (25 and under)

- A copy of a risk assessment
- Safeguarding policy

Older people

- A copy of a risk assessment
- Safeguarding policy

If you are a Charity or constituted group

- Your constitution / charity no.
- Your bank details on an official document

What happens after I apply?

Once you have sent us your application, it will then be checked against the criteria listed above. If we need some more information, we may contact you to ask some additional questions, or even arrange a visit.

Decision

Your application will then be viewed by a panel of Yorkshire Housing colleagues, who will consider your application and decide whether a grant should be awarded. We will aim to get back to you within four weeks of your application.

If your application does not meet our criteria, we will contact you to let you know. We will offer you feedback as to why you haven't been successful this time, but you are welcome to apply again in the future.

Payment

If we decide to award you a grant, we will send you an email confirming this and pay the grant by BACS transfer.

Support

If you need any help or support around promoting your activity either with Yorkshire Housing customers or the wider community, we can help you with this too.

Reporting

We always like to shout about good news stories, and we are interested in the difference our grants make to the community. As part of your grant, we will ask you to report on what you have done by completing a short end of grant evaluation. (Don't worry the questions are all set out for you!)

You will just need to confirm what you've spent and share information about the difference the grant has made to your organisation, if you are part of one, as well as to the local community.

This must be completed within four weeks of the activity has finishing or the money being spent. If this is not completed, you will not be able to apply for further funding from Yorkshire Housing.

We'll send you a link to the online evaluation after we have paid the grant to you and a reminder a week after your expected finish date.

Applying again

If you have been successful in getting a community grant, you will be able to apply again in the next financial year (April – March).

If you have been awarded less than £1000, we may consider a second application from you in the same financial year but do contact us to talk about your new project before applying.

Contact us

If you have any further questions, queries about our community grants process or help with the application, do drop us an email to communityenquiries@yorkshirehousing.co.uk and we would be happy to help.