

Communities Fund 2019-20

“Engaged and active communities are not the *by-product* of a successful city rather they are a *prerequisite* for its success”

Source: Brighton & Hove City Council Communities & Third Sector Development Policy 2014-17

About the Communities Fund

Brighton & Hove City Council's Corporate Plan 2015-19 sets out principles around increasing equality and active citizenship. These include “recognising the role third sector partners play in engaging our communities and most vulnerable residents.”

As part of this commitment the council has established a Third Sector Investment Programme 2017-20 including a third sector commission supported by a dedicated Communities, Equality & Third Sector Prospectus 2017-20.

This model is complemented by a Communities Fund administered annually by council's Communities, Equality & Third Sector Team recognising the positive impact of local community groups, voluntary organisations and not-for-profit social enterprise. It is an open, accessible fund and we like to talk so why not introduce yourselves before bidding? For now please read on:

Community Fund outcomes

All applicants can address any one of three key *outcomes*:

- Improving Wellbeing
- Building Cohesion
- Promoting Fairness

Examples of activities that could help achieve our outcomes include:

Improving Wellbeing

- ✓ Community arts projects such as audience development workshops or performances
- ✓ Sports clubs, activity / recreational initiatives or social groups
- ✓ Pre-school / out of school activities, adventure pursuits, health education and counselling support for young people
- ✓ Local history and heritage initiatives

Building Cohesion

- ✓ Community associations and centres
- ✓ Social / support groups for communities of interest or identity eg. BME, LGBT, younger and / or older people etc.
- ✓ Support for residents with physical or mental health difficulties
- ✓ Improving the built or natural environment

Promoting Fairness

- ✓ Advice services and centres
- ✓ Developing the skills of residents to enhance their employment prospects eg. volunteer training programmes
- ✓ Supporting victims of crime and provision of diversionary activities for those at risk of offending
- ✓ Recycling / re-use projects and raising awareness about local and healthy food

Your bid will need to include information about how your project will contribute towards one of these outcomes, and how you will measure this contribution. We are not looking for anything too complicated. You may be able to get help from local support organisations (such as Community Works, the Resource Centre , Hangleton & Knoll Project, Trust for Developing Communities or Serendipity CIC) to develop ways of measuring your work that are suitable for your group.

Communities Fund schemes

To help achieve one of these outcomes the Communities Fund comprises *three* distinct funding schemes:

- Engagement
- Resilience
- Collaboration

The Engagement Fund

The Engagement Fund recognises the potential of local community groups to engage and empower local residents.

Applicant Income: usually up to £20,000 pa.

Maximum Grant: usually up to £2,000

Application Deadlines:

- 24 May 2019 (for full year running costs or early project starts)
- 26 July 2019 (for half year running costs or mid-year project starts)
- 18 October 2019 (for final quarter running costs or end of year project starts)

An *engaging* model works with local people and communities in neighbourhoods and across the city. You will be able to tell us about your service users, beneficiaries, volunteers and staff.

As well as later demonstrating how you have achieved your chosen outcome, you'll have the opportunity to document how engagement funding may have helped you build towards a *resilient* model for future work.

The Resilience Fund

The Resilience Fund recognises the capacity of local community groups & voluntary organisations to achieve an enabling & resilient model for work of benefit to local residents.

Applicant Income: usually up to £100,000 pa.

Maximum Grant: usually up to £10,000

Application Deadlines:

- 24 May 2019 (for full year running costs or early project starts)
- 26 July 2019 (for half year running costs or mid-year project starts)
- 18 October 2019 (for final quarter running costs or end of year project starts)

A *resilient* model works with local people & communities from a strong base. You will be able to tell us about your track record for delivery, your networks, experience of need and any secured monies you have in place.

As well as later demonstrating how you have achieved your chosen outcome you'll have the opportunity to document how resilience funding may have helped you build towards a *collaborative* model for future work.

The Collaboration Fund

The Collaboration Fund recognises the role of local community groups, voluntary organisations & not-for-profit social enterprise in forming operational and strategic partnerships to support the city's most vulnerable residents.

Applicant Income: n/a (partnership required)

Maximum Grant: usually up to £20,000

Application Deadlines:

- Any time during 2019-20 with approved expression of interest

Collaboration funding will support the building of partnership practice across broad themes that address strategic priorities for the city. It is anticipated that there will be a wide range of potential partnership proposals. Thus before making a bid applicants will be asked to complete & submit a simple 'expression of interest' pro-forma.

All expressions of interest will require a named third sector lead plus supporting partners - as well as identified advocacy and support from specialist officers at council. Partnerships invited to submit a full bid for collaboration funding will be provided with additional support & guidance as appropriate at that stage.

As well as later demonstrating how you have achieved your chosen outcome you'll be asked to document how collaboration funding has helped your partnership build a *sustainable* model for future delivery.

Making an application

There is a simple on-line bidding platform for all applications.

To begin your application you'll be asked to select one of the three Communities Fund schemes:

- Engagement Fund
- Resilience Fund
- Collaboration Fund

You'll then be asked questions that you can answer in any order.

As you progress your application will be automatically saved (you can also save at your discretion) and you'll be emailed a link so you can continue the bid at any time.

Your progress

You will be asked a number of questions about your:

- Organisation
- Activities
- Money

You can tell us here about how your work will address one of three outcomes around well-being, cohesion & fairness. You will also be asked to explain why you are requesting funding & how you will measure your success.

As you progress each screen will be "green lighted" as follows:

Your progress

- ✓ Fund choice
- ✓ Contact details
- ✓ Address
- ✓ Organisation type
- 5** Organisation activities
- 6 Staff and volunteers
- 7 Project details
- 8 Equalities
- 9 Bank details
- 10 Last year's finances
- 11 This year's finances
- 12 Budget and payments
- 13 Reserves
- 14 Evidence
- 15 Declaration

Declaration and sign-off

You will have told us about your organisation, activities and money. You'll now simply need to provide the required supporting documentation, such as a constitution and a bank statement. Then complete the final declaration and your application will be acknowledged by email soon after.

You can apply for **Engagement** or **Resilience** funding now by following this link:

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/communitiesfund

If you would like to submit an expression of interest for **Collaboration** funding, or have queries on any of the above, please call BHCC Communities, Equality & Third Sector Team on: 01273 291114 or email: jonathan.best@brighton-hove.gov.uk

... and please do remember that we like to talk. Why not introduce yourselves before bidding?