ROTHSCHILD
FOUNDATION

Community Fund

Guidance

Aims of the Fund

The Rothschild Foundation's Community Grants Programme aims to respond to local need in Buckinghamshire communities. In particular, we aim to address the issues and concerns of communities experiencing disadvantage and inequality. We want to increase well-being and access to opportunity, and support the local organisations, charities and groups which are best placed to help. We wish to build on local assets and encourage collaboration for the greatest benefit to Buckinghamshire residents.

The Community Programme will support organisations which can provide evidence of need and demand for their service. We're particularly keen to support communities in Buckinghamshire to recover from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Eligibility Criteria

Organisations - Funding is prioritised for not-for-profit organisations which deliver activity that is legally charitable and for public benefit. Eligible entities include; Registered Charities, Community Interest Companies with an asset lock, Charitable Incorporated Organisations, non-profit making Limited Companies, Incorporated Community Groups and Community Amateur Sports Clubs. All applicants will be expected to provide a governing document or constitution for their organisation. If you wish to make an application from another type of organisation in the non-profit sector then please contact grants@rothschildfoundation.org.uk to discuss eligibility.

Please note that organisations which are formally constituted but not registered with a regulator, such as the Charity Commission or Companies House, will only be able to apply for smaller grants of up to £4,9999 for a grant period of one year . Further information about grant size can be found below in Fund Details.

Geography - Only organisations providing a service to residents in the county of Buckinghamshire are able to apply. This does not include Milton Keynes as it is a separate unitary authority, or neighbouring counties. If your organisation is not based in Buckinghamshire but provides a service in the county as well as other areas, we would expect to see a significant proportion of your operation in Buckinghamshire to be relevant for funding. Organisations based outside of the county may also apply if they are able to demonstrate working in partnership with Buckinghamshire-based entities. We are interested in supporting organisations which can demonstrate understanding of the needs of Buckinghamshire communities and provide evidence of impact in the county already.

Financial - Priority will be given to small and medium sized organisations with income of under £1 million annually. Applicants must hold a bank account in the name of the organisation applying to the programme.

Funding Type - Applicants may apply for funding to support a specific project or for organisational core costs. Applications for funding to support service re-design and re-location, evaluation, restructure and staff training are welcome. We actively encourage applications which cultivate collaboration, such as consortia bids, and are interested in collaborating with statutory providers, subject to a pre-application conversation. We are not able to make grants to replace lost income or for reimbursement of activity which has already taken place.

Capital Funding – Capital grants are available, though the Rothschild Foundation is unlikely to be the sole contributor to a capital project. For capital requests greater than £15,000 evidence of match-funding will be required.

Funding Themes – The Community Programme will fund services responding to a broad range of needs in Buckinghamshire communities. We encourage applications from organisations addressing homelessness, financial hardship, social welfare, physical and learning disabilities, mental health, and other areas not addressed through the Foundation's strategic funding for young people, sustainable food and farming, and culture. A detailed list of exclusions to the programme can be found below. We encourage all those applying to consider their contribution to environmental sustainability.

Grantees - Existing holders of Covid-19 Support Fund grants may apply for funding through the Community Programme so long as the grant applied for does not duplicate support from the Foundation. Organisations may only hold one grant from the Community Programme at any time. Terms of grants from our planned Strategic Programme may vary and will be published later.

Decision Timescale – Applications may be submitted on an ongoing basis and there is no deadline for submissions. We will endeavour to process applications promptly with no longer than eight weeks between submission of application and notification of decision. Please note, a high volume of applications will mean that the decision timescale will take longer.

Pre-application Conversation – We welcome discussion about your plans prior to application. Organisations that have been in operation for under 12 months or do not have a complete set of annual accounts must have a pre-application conversation which can be arranged by emailing grants@rothschildfoundation.org.uk

Fund Details

Grant size – Funding is offered flexibly so applicants can apply for what they need. Funding is available for one, two or three year periods. Please note that the level of information required at application and reporting stage will be dependent on the level of funding requested.

Grants of up to £4,999 for a minimum of 1 year - Available for incorporated associations, such as groups and societies and organisations not registered with a regulator, such as the Charity Commission or Companies House.

Grants of up to £10,000 per year for up to 3 years - Available for organisations which are registered with a regulating body such as the Charity Commission or Companies House.

Application Form - Applications are made online through the portal reached through the Rothschild Foundation website. Applicants will be required to select an application form based on the total value of their grant regardless of timescale. Please see Application Details.

Consortia Applications – We welcome applications for collaborative projects. Applications must have a designated lead organisation which meets all eligibility criteria and is able to coordinate funding to partners. Organisations named as part of consortia applications will also be able to apply individually so long as there is no duplication of funding or activity.

Application Details

The online application process begins with a brief eligibility quiz which confirms you are able to meet the criteria of the Community Programme.

We ask applicants to provide more information if they are requesting a larger sum of funding. This approach is designed to be proportionate with your request and your organisation's capacity. Please select the form which is relevant to your total grant whether it is planned to be spent over one, two or three years. Note that you will be expected to provide the information requested at the lower grant levels too.

Applications up to £4,999 - Open to incorporated associations, such as groups and societies, and organisations not registered with a regulator. Applicants will be asked questions about their organisation's purpose, team and the service they provide for communities in Buckinghamshire. It is essential to upload a copy of your organisation's governing document.

You will be asked to detail the total amount of funding you would like to request, the type and duration of funding. The application will ask you to describe the activity you wish to deliver with our funding and the the local need or particular issue it is addressing.

Applications over £5,000 - As above plus, applicants will be asked to upload their most recent annual accounts and describe their key achievements in the past year. They will also describe in more detail the need or issues the project will address and how the proposed activity will be effective in doing this. A project or organisation budget (if applying for core funding) will need to be provided.

Applicants will provide more detail about how they have identified particular needs of the local community, share evidence of these needs and how their project will address them. Other funders contributing to your organisation or proposed project should be detailed too.

All Applicants will be asked to confirm they have the following policies in place:

- Safeguarding
- Health and Safety
- Equality
- GDPR

Funding Exclusions

- Activity that involves breaking any UK laws or public health guidance related to the Covid-19 outbreak.
- For-profit organisations and businesses. Community Interest Companies may apply, but only those limited by guarantee.
- Organisations lacking a demonstrable track-record of working in Buckinghamshire.
- Projects that benefit people living outside the county of Buckinghamshire.
- Projects with budgets detailing more than 50% capital costs, including restoration or refurbishment of buildings.
- Projects with budgets detailing more than 50% costs for procurement of equipment, including IT equipment.
- Reimbursement for work that has already been delivered.
- Proposals that are only for the benefit of one individual including academic research, scholarships, bursaries, or any kind of student fees.
- Proselytizing organisations and the promotion of religion.
- Overseas travel, expeditions, adventure and residential courses, and respite breaks unless they are based in Buckinghamshire.
- Repayment of loans or debt.
- Statutory bodies including schools, prisons and hospitals. Town and Parish Councils or Community Boards may be considered as part of wider strategic initiatives on a case by case basis in discussion with the Grants Team.
- Organisations providing medical care or with the sole purpose of distributing medical equipment, even when related to protection from Covid-19.
- Animal welfare charities and campaigns.
- Schools should consider applying to the Schools Access Fund. In some exceptional circumstances we will accept applications from schools for non-statutory provision and projects. A pre-application conversation is recommended and can be arranged by emailing grants@rothschildfoundation.org.uk

Reporting

All organisations awarded a Community grant will be asked to report to the Foundation at the end of the agreed funding period. Reports will include reflections on how your organisation has addressed needs of Buckinghamshire communities, important learning and a breakdown of expenditure. Organisations in receipt of larger grants will be asked to identify emerging needs. This information provides valued reflection on our grant-making priorities.

Acknowledging your grant

If you wish to publically acknowledge the support of the Rothschild Foundation our logo can be downloaded from our website once you have been awarded a grant. We ask to approve all use of our logo prior to publication. The Rothschild Foundation will also connect with and share information about grant holders on the news section of our website and on social media platforms.