**Community Grants Open Grant Rounds 2025**

**Please read the guidance below carefully.** To ensure you do not waste time on an application that is not eligible for funding we strongly recommend you read the grant guidance and application form before deciding to apply. If you are in any doubt that your organisation or project would be eligible or you have queries then please do contact us for a chat first. We are always happy to talk through ideas, answer queries, or signpost to support to write a funding application – please get in touch and we will do our best to help.

If you have not applied to the Woodsmith Foundation before please do give us a call. We would love to hear from you and learn more about your work. We may be able to help you with any questions you have or point you in the direction of additional support.

**1) Purpose of the Community Grants**

The Woodsmith Foundation is keen to support a wide range of organisations to deliver projects that will make positive change in their communities within our area of benefit (which is the Borough of Redcar and Cleveland, the Borough of Scarborough and the North York Moors National Park). We will award grants to projects that fit the Woodsmith Foundation’s priority of ***increasing opportunities and tackling disadvantage***. We will support projects that:

* Increase opportunities for better life chances
* Encourage positive changes by improving lives and places, or tackling issues that negatively impact on local people.
* Bring people together and enrich lives by ensuring there are local spaces, resources and activities that provide pleasure, learning, or community action.

Our Community Grants are popular so we have separated the funding available into 3 upper limits, with clear and specific categories based upon what we know is needed from past grant rounds (please see table below). We will also prioritise funding projects that support people most at disadvantage due to unfavourable circumstances or facing barriers that lead to inequality.

|  |
| --- |
| You can apply for **up to £1,500 revenue or capital\* costs** for projects that will: |
| * Support existing community groups, amateur sports clubs or primary schools **to purchase small items of equipment or kit**. If you are a sports club that has multiple teams we will accept on a first come first served basis of one application per year. Please ensure you have considered which team is a priority.
* Small items for a school that statutory funding does not cover or new extra-curricular activities.
* Support the start-up of **new sports clubs with set up costs including equipment and kit.**
* Support a new community group **to get started and purchase equipment** e.g. materials and room hire for a new art group run by volunteers.
* Deliver **a time limited series of activities or events** e.g. 3 or 4 community events that bring people together who are most at risk of feeling lonely or isolated.
* Allow organisations to fund coaching qualifications, essential employee or volunteer training or similar **that will allow them to maintain a service or extend their existing work to more sessions or to more people or to a new beneficiary group.**

**\* A capital item** is for something you can see and touch that is a lasting asset e.g. equipment, laptop or minibus. It can also be funding towards a new building or repairs/extension to an existing building. Revenue costs are where there is no lasting asset e.g. event costs, materials for a workshop, staff time etc. If you are your requesting **inclusive** equipment please call us before applying as we have the potential to increase the funding available for some projects. |
| You can apply for **up to £5,000\*\*** **capital\* costs** for projects that will: |
| * Support community venues and facilities to make repairs or purchases, refurbishments or extensions which will **enable them to keep open/re-open existing spaces or create new space.** Priority will be given to those projects that will allow additional services to be run or new beneficiary groups to be supported.
* Create, improve or extend the use of community outdoor space which can be **used by local people for activities that support health and wellbeing, education or community food production.**
* Encourage landscape improvements that are **delivered by the community and for the community**. Please note this need to be environmentally friendly projects e.g. we will not support funding for annual bedding plants that need large quantities of extra watering.

**Please Note -** For **capital projects** **over £15,000** we need evidence that you have 75% of the costs already secured.**Please Note** - If a **school is applying for over £1,500** this may only be towards a project that can show significant evidence that it will be used by a large number of people who are not pupils or teachers. **\* A capital item** is for something you can see and touch that is a lasting asset e.g. equipment, laptop or minibus. It can also be funding towards a new building or repairs/extension to an existing building. Revenue costs are where there is no lasting asset e.g. event costs, materials for a workshop, staff time etc.**\*\***If your **capital building** project is used by a wide range of different community organisations you could consider the Expression of Interest route for a higher contribution. Please read the EOI guidance on our website then contact Leah Swain for a conversation. |
| You can apply for **up to £10,000** **revenue or capital\* costs** for projects that will: |
| * Create opportunities to raise awareness or learn about the **impact of climate change.** Or **projects to adapt to, or mitigate the risks of, climate change**. This could include but is not limited to:
* Adding climate change focussed modules to existing education courses e.g. servicing electric cars to car mechanic training
* Energy audits or efficiency measures for community or charity owned buildings
* Feasibility studies on community renewable energy or other large climate change projects
* Electric vehicle charging points for community centres, community bikes or car share schemes
* Reducing, re-using and recycling initiatives
* Water management schemes
* Community carbon reduction or waste reduction projects
* Adapting or creating new wildlife friendly habitats
* Deliver a programme of activities/support for local people **that will do one or more of the following: have a lasting improvement to health and wellbeing; create meaningful relationships to tackle loneliness; alleviating hardship; provide education in a non-school setting; deliver skills training or offer employment support.** We would like to see that you are measuring the change in the health or wellbeing of the people you aim to support. If you have any questions on this, please give us a call. We would also like to understand within your application how you are ensuring you reach those who are unable to financially access this either elsewhere or from your organisation.
* Provide a sustainable transport solution **to support local people to access services and activities.** Please note we will not consider requests for just capital funding towards a vehicle that will only be used by one organisation for its own members/beneficiaries. We would consider a joint proposal e.g. a group of primary schools funding a shared minibus which would then be in use the majority of the time.

**Please Note** - If a **school is applying for over £1,500** this may only be towards a project that can show significant evidence that it will be used by a large number of people who are not pupils or teachers. If you are intending to apply for more than £1,500 please call us first. **\* A capital item** is for something you can see and touch that is a lasting asset e.g. equipment, laptop or minibus. Revenue costs are where there is no lasting asset e.g. event costs, materials for a workshop, staff time etc. |

We are not always looking for new and different projects - we simply want to help fund those projects which are reaching those most in need, whether they be ongoing or new. If you are running a project or service that had been funded by other funders to date, and now need to seek new funding to keep it going, then you can apply to us. However, when we receive this type of application we seek to understand the following:-

* Has this project been evaluated?
* Can an improvement to people’s health or wellbeing be shown?
* Do you regularly ask people who attend if there are any changes which could be made to enhance or make the service more accessible for all it would benefit?
* Could you, or do you, ask those who are able to, to pay a charge or give a donation?

If you would like to check if your project or activity is eligible, or have a project idea that does not fit the criteria above but that you believe is increasing opportunities and tackling disadvantage, then please call us for a conversation or send us an email:

**grants@woodsmithfoundation.org.uk**

**Rebecca Wagner – Grants and Programmes Officer – 07756 395535**

**Leah Swain – Chief Executive – 07724 832982**

**2) Funding available**

Organisations can apply for grants between £200 and £10,000. Please see the table above for the maximum you can apply for in specific project categories. We encourage you to work on a detailed budget which is based on accurate quotes and costs and then apply for what is necessary not simply the maximum grant available. The total grant pot across the 3 grant rounds in 2025 is expected to be £180,000. An organisation may only submit one application in a 12 month period.

Funds must be spent within 12 months of your grant being awarded. If you require more time to spend the funding due to this being a contribution to a capital building project please state this on your application form.

We understand that things don’t always go to plan. We will try to be as flexible as possible when things change. If you are successful, your grant will be approved on the application we receive, so it is important we review any changes to your project before they are made. Send us an email or give us a call to discuss the planned changes.. We often only find out about these situations within the last month of a grant period which limits the support we can offer and in extreme cases could lead to grant funding being returned.

**3) Who can apply**

Please read the following criteria below carefully before you apply. If you are unsure about your eligibility, please contact us for advice on your application.

**We** **can support** the following types of organisation:

* Local, voluntary groups that are constituted. That means you have a brief, written set of rules explaining how you will run your organisation and are governed by a committee of at least three unrelated members. You will have a bank account (or a relationship with a community organisation that is willing to hold the grant money for you).
* Charities or Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs) registered with the Charity Commission.
* Community Interest Companies (CICs) limited by guarantee and with at least two unrelated bank signatories and three unrelated Directors. To be eligible for funding from the Foundation you will need to be able to provide evidence of trading activity/planned trading activity and a contribution to public benefit.
* Parish and Town Councils or Parish Meetings.
* Faith organisations for secular activity benefitting the wider community beyond the congregation.
* Schools or school parent led fundraising groups that are constituted voluntary groups.
* We may consider companies limited by guarantee with charitable objectives, but would only fund this type of organisation once and following a detailed due diligence. Please contact us to discuss your situation before applying.

**Please note -** If you are a new organisation with no financial track record, please consider a £1,000-£2,000 application in the first instance.

**We cannot support** applications from the following types of organisation:

* Individuals or private businesses
* CICs limited by shares
* Local Authorities (that are not a Parish Council, Town Council or Parish Meeting)
* Organisations that do not have at least two people on their board or committee who are not related.
* Organisations that do not have at least two unrelated bank signatories.

This grant round is open to organisations that have received grants from the Woodsmith Foundation before and organisations that have not yet received funding from us. If you have received funding from us previously this cannot be within the last 12 calendar months and we require all previous monitoring information returned before you make a new application. If there is a high demand for funding we may prioritise organisations who score highly and have not received funding from the Foundation before. We will also seek to ensure a good geographic spread of funding across our area of benefit.

We will only support national organisations when they can clearly demonstrate local need and have local staff on the ground. Our focus is to support local organisations so we suggest national organisations only approach us every 3-5 years.

**4) Types of activities we will NOT fund:**

Community Grants for small revenue and capital funding are always very popular. Please ensure your project clearly meets our priority to ***increase opportunities and tackle disadvantage***. Please also note the maximum grant you can apply for in the table at section one. Read the following bullet points carefully as they clearly state what we will not fund for this grant round.

 **We will not fund** the following through our Community Grants:

* Projects that are not in our area of benefit or support people outside our area of benefit. Our area of benefit is the Borough of Redcar and Cleveland, the Borough of Scarborough and the North York Moors National Park.
* A contribution to a large capital project which does not have 75% of the costs already secured.
* Capital costs for a building you do not own where the lease is less than 5 years.
* One off events or contributions to festivals, fund raising days or similar.
* Projects where you intend to pass our funding on as grants, sponsorship or donations to other organisations/individuals.
* Disproportionate core organisational costs or ongoing running costs or contributions to overheads or management fees.
* General appeals or sponsorship or prizes for competitions or raffles.
* Heritage or conservation projects with no significant community involvement or benefit.
* Repairs to churches or other places of worship where there is no significant secular activity happening or benefit for the wider community beyond the congregation.
* Retrospective funding. Costs that you have already incurred.
* Activities which are funded by another organisation. If, having applied to the Foundation, you find that you have been successful with an alternative bid for the same work, please contact us to discuss your application.

**5) How to apply**

Our preference is for you to apply via the link on our website.

You may save and resume your application at any time by clicking on the link at the bottom of every page. You can copy the link or request to have it sent to you by entering your e-mail address.

**The link is valid for 30 days**. If you save and resume your application again, a new link will be generated. Please DO NOT reuse the old link.

Save and resume does not save file uploads. Files will need to be uploaded again before submission. We recommend uploading files last.

We understand that some people may be unable to complete the application form online and we would encourage you to contact us and we will work with you to find the best way for you to apply.

All applications received via our online application method will be sent a receipt to the email address provided.

We will soon be posting information on the application questions and what we are trying to understand for each question on the application form. If you would like to be updated when this goes live please email grants@woodsmithfoundation.org.uk

**6) How grant applications will be assessed**

We will award grants to projects that increase opportunities and tackle disadvantage. Priority will be given to projects that support people most at disadvantage due to unfavourable circumstances or facing barriers to equality. If we receive a high number of good quality applications we may prioritise organisations who have not received funding from the Foundation before or projects which give a good geographic spread across our area of benefit.

We may visit your project before making a recommendation to trustees. We may also contact your previous funders for a reference where applicable.

Unsuccessful applicants are always given feedback in writing and the opportunity to have a conversation with the Grant Officer or Chief Executive.

The Trustees’ decision is final and we are not obliged to enter into correspondence with regard to the funding decision.

**7) Monitoring your grant**

We will ask you to complete a simple form when you have finished spending your grant and will send a copy of this with your grant agreement. You will receive an email with a link to complete your form a month before it is due as a helpful reminder. We will be interested to hear about your work and what difference you have made for your community.

**8) Timescales for 2025**

|  |
| --- |
| **Round 1**  |
| Open for applications | 4th February 2025 to 10am on 26th March 2025 |
| Grants awarded by | End of April 2025 |
| Projects to be completed by | End of April 2026 |
| **Round 2**  |
| Open for applications | 27th March to 10am on 16th July 2025 |
| Grants awarded by | End of August 2025 |
| Projects to be completed by | End of August 2026 |
| **Round 3**  |
| Open for applications | 17th July to 10am on 5th November 2025 |
| Grants awarded by | End December 2025 |
| Projects to be completed by | End of December 2026 |

You may submit your application for any grant round but may only apply once in a 12 month period. Applications received after the Round 1 and Round 2 closing dates will be moved to the following grant round for assessment. Applications received after 10am on 5th November 2025 will not be considered for funding.

For projects which are tailored towards summer activities you must apply in Round 1. For projects which have a Christmas focus you must apply in Round 1 or Round 2 to enable you to have appropriate time to plan and deliver.

**9) Supporting Information**

The following documents will need to be uploaded with your completed application form when you make your submission.

* Accounts

-If your organisation is required to have an audited/examined statement of accounts please send us your most recent version. If your most recent accounts do not cover the last financial year, please also send your organisation’s income and expenditure for the last financial year and a copy of your most recent bank statement.

-If you are not required to have an audited/examined statement of accounts please send us your income and expenditure accounts and a copy of your most recent bank statement.

-If you are a new group and do not have either accounts or financial information for last year then please send a brief note about your financial position and your most recent bank statement.

* Quotes for any significant items/activities over £1,000.
* Your organisation’s terms of reference or constitution or governing document.
* CICs will need to send a statement signed by all Directors stating they agree to the application being submitted.
* If you are applying for a capital build project we require photographs of the building

**10) Contact**

If you need support to develop your project idea or write an application then please get in touch and we will signpost you to the appropriate help. **If you are unsure if your request for a grant meets the criteria please get in touch to discuss your application. If in doubt, please give us a call.**

Email us at**grants@woodsmithfoundation.org.uk**

Or Call us on:-

**Rebecca Wagner – Grants and Programmes Officer – 07756 395535**

**Leah Swain – Chief Executive – 07724 832982**

**Good luck with your application.**