

East Devon Action on Poverty Fund

Overview

The fund provides one-off grants of up to £5,000 to support community-led ideas and initiatives across the area of East Devon administered by East Devon District Council. Applications must work towards the aims within the council's Poverty Strategy. Properly constituted not for profit organisations can apply. A minimum of 50% of the total funding for the project must come from elsewhere.

What we will fund

- Community led ideas and initiatives that will benefit East Devon's communities.
- We can give grants of between £500 and £5,000.
- We would prefer to fund medium sized projects, rather than be contributing a small percentage of big costly projects.
- Projects where a minimum of 50% of the total funding for the project / activity comes from elsewhere.

Projects must help achieve one or more of the priorities / actions listed in our Poverty Strategy. Please see our website for more details about what is included and so whether your application would be eligible: www.eastdevon.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-business/poverty-reduction-strategy/poverty-reduction-strategy-action-plan Action Plan: www.eastdevon.gov.uk/media/3723416/poverty-strategy-action-plan-v7.pdf

Just a few examples of what might be funded:

These are just examples and NOT a complete list. Please see out Poverty Strategy and Action Plan to see the full extent of what might be funded.

- Projects that tackle hidden poverty, those who are struggling but aren't currently seeking help.
- Providing recognised and qualified advice on budgeting, money and debt issues to residents.
- Helping people access support from the council and others to see if they are entitled to welfare benefits and other financial help and support.
- Supporting low income residents to access the internet and develop digital skills.
- Increasing the number of people volunteering for local voluntary and community groups within East Devon.
- Supporting residents experiencing economic hardship and poverty as a result of the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic.
- Projects that seek to understand and address the causes of food poverty.
- Sustainable support to residents in fuel or water poverty, helping them to reduce their energy and water costs.
- Environmental improvement projects in our more deprived Wards such as Littleham in Exmouth and St Pauls in Honiton.
- Free events that celebrate diversity and promote community cohesion, in partnership with local equality and diversity organisations.
- Supporting young people in reaching their employment potential.
- Improving health outcomes for people on low incomes, including access to good diet, health care and ill health prevention.
- Advice and support for residents experiencing stress and anxiety due to low income and debt.

Who can apply

Applications are accepted from properly constituted and not-for-private-profit:

- Voluntary and community sector groups and organisations
- Parish Councils
- Charities
- Others such as Community Interest Companies

Or a combination of such groups working together.

You must have at least two unrelated signatories / trustees.

Applications from town councils are not eligible; Axminster Town Council, Budleigh Salterton Town Council, Cranbrook Town Council, Exmouth Town Council, Honiton Town Council, Seaton Town Council, Sidmouth Town Council.

Those applying must:

- Have the permission of all relevant organisations to carry out their project.
- Take responsibility for delivering their project.
- Be able to deliver their project.
- If relevant, commit to maintaining the project and keeping it going.
- Be willing to agree to and sign a legal grant agreement and relevant terms and conditions for the funding.

Although we will pay the grants upfront, we do require copies of invoices / receipts to be sent to us.

Whilst you may be applying for an individual project or group, it is always good to indicate in your application, whether you have involved the wider community or other local groups in the development of your idea.

What we can't fund

Generally speaking, the following will not be eligible:

- Projects where you haven't got at least 70% of any match funding for the whole activity / project in place already. You must also have a plan for how you will get any shortfall in funding.
- Projects where less than 50% of the total costs come from elsewhere.
- Ongoing costs including ongoing rent costs, ongoing salaries, costs for the day to day running of an organisation, unless this is during a transition phase with documented evidence of how the project will become sustainable post transition, or as part of a pilot project. This also includes repeated costs such as the costs of running an annual event, or replacing equipment that needs to be replaced every 6 months or so – unless it is making the project / activity sustainable this time.
- Projects that promote or support a particular politics, faith or belief (including repairs to buildings used solely or mainly for these activities).
- Individuals or projects that result in direct cash payments or awards to the end beneficiaries, or to ongoing staff salaries.
- Project sponsorship and fundraising events.
- Projects from purely commercial or for- "private-profit" organisations.
- Projects considered likely to create a new or displaced dependency on other public and voluntary services.
- Regular highways-related activity such as but not limited to grass cutting, ditch and drainage work or other associated 'lengthsman' duties and tasks.
- Projects benefitting one individual recipient, e.g. an individual carer.

- Projects where more than 25% of the people benefiting from the project live outside of East Devon.
- Animal welfare projects where the sole/majority of beneficiaries are animals (i.e. charity, rescue or therapy).
- Projects seeking a commitment to ongoing support.
- Projects that have already taken place.
- Projects where work has already started before we've confirmed you've been successful in your application.
- Organisations or groups that do not have a bank account in their name with at least two unrelated signatories and/or do not have a management committee comprising at least three unrelated members.
- Unsustainable projects. For example, projects that need to continue beyond the life of the funding but are unlikely to be able to.
- Projects working with vulnerable people where there isn't a Safeguarding Policy and appropriately trained staff / volunteers.
- Projects where planning permission is required but hasn't yet been given.
- Funds that are required to help pay off debts.
- Projects that directly benefit individuals or for profit organisations.
- Work that a statutory organisation has to do by law, for example Devon County Council, the Church or the NHS, unless this is over and above what they would ever provide.
- Projects that have a negative effect on one or more of the priorities listed in our Poverty Strategy.
- Projects / activities in schools unless you can clearly demonstrate that the project is additional to what has to be provided, and that it would not happen without external grant funding.
- Projects / activities that have already been funded by us. This could for example be through our Small Community Grants, Coronavirus Community Food Fund, Crowdfund East Devon.

How to apply

Applications can be submitted at any point up until the cut-off date of 30 September 2022. There may be a second closing date on 30 January 2022. However, the amount of available funding is limited, once it runs out we'll close to applications, this may mean the second closing date doesn't happen.

We expect this grants scheme to be highly competitive. Make sure you have read the guidance in full, clearly stated which parts of the Poverty Action Plan it works towards, and that you fill in your application with as much information as you feel is necessary for us to fully understand and appreciate your proposal.

To apply:

- Complete a Small Community Grants form online.
- If you need to receive a printed copy of the application form in the post to fill in and send back to us then email jbuckley@eastdevon.gov.uk or call 01395 517569.

In addition you can send more details about your idea/initiative to go along with your application e.g. pictures, photos, video and audio:

- By email to jbuckley@eastdevon.gov.uk
- By post to Jamie Buckley, Community Engagement and Funding, East Devon District Council, Blackdown House, Border Road, Heathpark Industrial Estate, Honiton, EX14 1EJ.

Please clearly state which application they go with.

If you would like to discuss your application or have any further questions about the grant scheme, please email jbuckley@eastdevon.gov.uk or call 01395 517569.

What happens after you've applied

Once we've received your application:

1. We will make sure your application is eligible and that we have all the information we need to make a decision. We may contact you with queries. If we don't have replies to our queries by the deadlines we give you we can't take your application to the next stage.
2. We will present your application and accompanying documents to Councillors on our Community Grants Panel in a meeting at the end of November 2022 for decision: <https://democracy.eastdevon.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=207>
3. We'll contact you after your application has been considered to let you know whether your application has been successful. We expect this to be within 8 weeks of the closing date.
4. We will send you a grant offer letter in the post, which you'll need to sign and send back to us.
5. Once you have spent the grant, send us invoices and receipts for the project / activity and we will make the grant payment.

What happens if you get a grant

If you are successful in getting funding for your idea/initiative, the grant will need to be spent within 12 months of you receiving it.

We will ask you for some feedback after 12 months. We may also share your application and your evaluation outcomes publicly, to promote the grant scheme.

We will require:

- A completed feedback form, including a minimum of 150 words of free text feedback, which we can use in our communications, publicity materials and on our website and social media channels.
- At least two photos and / or videos that illustrate the activity / project that you have permission to share with us and permission for us to use on social media, send out with a press release, put on our website etc.
- Copies of invoices and receipts for the whole activity / project.
- Any publicity you generate must clearly acknowledge the contribution we have made to the project.

Generic terms and conditions

- You must confirm on the application that your project meets the respective eligibility criteria.
- The grant can only be used for the purposes specified in the application.
- Project applicants must confirm the project serves communities within East Devon, with at least 75% of the people benefiting from the project living in that area.
- There is no automatic right to a grant, we will consider all applications and decide on the applications we wish to grant fund. We reserve the right not to make a funding offer to a project.

- Grants will be awarded where they are deemed to be most needed and where they would have the greatest, long-lasting impact and outcomes.
- Grants will be awarded on a one-off basis and applications for continuation of 'business as usual' will not be supported. Any grant relating to an application does not commit us to ongoing future funding.
- For successful projects, our funding will only be released following the submission of evidence that the remainder of the match funding has been secured from other sources.
- Applicants have to accept in writing before any grants can be released.
- After 3 months any unspent / uncommitted monies will be returned to us, in line with the relevant terms and conditions applying.
- An evaluation of how the funding has benefited the organisation / local community will be provided; in line with the relevant terms and conditions applying.
- Any grant-funded projects will clearly acknowledge, in any related publicity materials the Small Community Grants scheme as an East Devon District Council initiative.
- Grant-funded projects accept that East Devon District Council will issue publicity about projects and activities that it supports, so may use such projects within its publicity materials and as promotional case studies, and may wish the project to evaluate further its project work and outcomes. Publicity may include digital images, video and other content.
- Three months after receiving the grant, projects receiving a grant will conduct a project evaluation and forward it to us.
- This grant cannot be used to: benefit individuals directly, (e.g. ongoing salary costs or cash payments), or for private profit businesses, reverse public sector policy or provide services which are the statutory responsibility of public sector agencies, support political activities and/or projects where most or all beneficiaries are animals (i.e. charity, rescue or therapy), fund and commit to ongoing support.
- Regular Highways-related activity such as grass cutting, ditch and drainage work and any other associated 'lengthsman' duties, are not eligible for these funding schemes.
- Repayment of East Devon District Council grant funds may be required at our sole discretion if a funded project supplies false information, fails to spend the money in any allotted time period, fails to return evaluation materials within the agreed time period, becomes insolvent and / or there are any other breaches of the conditions or eligibility criteria.
- We may request additional information and assurances; requiring additional terms and conditions to apply and will require you to confirm in writing your acceptance of any additional terms and conditions before agreeing to provide East Devon District Council grant funding.