

Coventry Building Society Cost of Living – Community Space Fund

The Coventry Building Society has announced they are donating £1 million to fund cost of living support in its home city of Coventry. Part of this is a new £100,000 fund to support Community Spaces across the city to stay open and be able to respond to rise in demand.

Fund Aims

The aim of the fund is to support community centres / community spaces in Coventry through the cost-of-living crisis where demand for support may increase but resources remain limited. Enabling community centres /spaces to deliver new or extend existing projects and activities that increase access to services and support for people facing financial hardship.

For example, are you looking to open for longer, open as a warm hub but need volunteers to support you? Would you like to provide additional support services during this time e.g. financial guidance, mental health support.

We can provide support for up to three months.

Available Funding

Grants of up to £5,000 are available. This is a one-off grant per organisation you cannot reapply.

Priority Area

Grants are available for spaces in Coventry only.

We Will Fund

Examples:

- Increases in running costs expected between December 2022 – March 2023 including rent and electricity costs.
- Additional volunteer or staffing costs to extend or cover additional services or support e.g. offering income maximisation advice, mental health support
- New or additional activities – e.g. offering space as warm hub/ welcome hub
- Refreshments/ consumables for activities

Eligibility

You can apply to this fund if you manage a community space or religious building, and you are one of the following:

- Registered charity

- Constituted Community groups
 - Companies Limited by Guarantee with charitable aims
 - Community Interest Companies
 - Co-operatives - registered Community Benefit Societies and registered Industrial and Provident Societies
 - Social Enterprises
- Additionally, your organisation/company income level must be equal to or less than £500,000, as shown in your most recent annual accounts.

Please note, we are unable to fund the following:

- Individuals or sole traders
- Companies Limited by Shares
- Capital Builds
- Direct replacement of statutory obligations and public funding
- Promotion of religious or political activities
- Groups with significant financial free reserves
- Retrospective grants
- National Charities
- Organisations or charities which are set up solely to promote any particular religion
- Organisations who have indicated poor management of any previous grants or who present poor financial health
- Contribution to endowment fund, payment of deficit funding or repayment of loans
- Animal welfare, unless the project benefits people (e.g. disabled riding schemes)
- Statutory work in educational institutions
- Overseas travel or expeditions
- Medical research and equipment for statutory or private healthcare
- General appeals
- Pure sponsorship purposes or funding purely for costs of fund-raising events.
- Schools, Churches, Parish Councils or PTA's unless community benefit is demonstrated

Additional Supporting Information

To be eligible to apply you must be able to provide proof of:

- Your organisation / company has a management committee / board of trustees / board of directors with at least 3 unrelated people as members, a list of those directors will be required showing who has bank authorisation.
- A written constitution / articles / set of rules.
- A copy of your most recent annual accounts or financial records showing your organisation's balance of funds, income and reserves.
- A bank account in the name of the organisation with at least two unrelated signatories
- A bank statement from the last 3 months.

- Copies of your safeguarding/policy (if you will be working with children or vulnerable adults)
- Equal opportunities policy.
- Quotes for capital items over £300.

For the Foundation's full eligibility criteria see our website.