Organisation eligibility

The following types of organisations can apply:

- Registered charities
- Non-profit companies limited by guarantee
- Constituted charitable organisations with no charity number

Organisations must be based and projects must be delivered in one of the following regions:

- East Midlands
- West Midlands
- South West England
- South Wales

The following funding limits are in place for applicants:

- Registered charities or non-profit companies limited by guarantee can apply for up to £10,000
- Constituted charitable organisations with no charity number can apply for up to £2000

Project eligibility

Applications must meet the following criteria to be considered for funding:

- Funding must be spent by 31st December 2023
- Project must be delivered by 31st December 2023
- The funding request must cover full project costs
- If the applying organisation has previously been funded via the Community Matters Fund, they must have completed their project and returned any outstanding monitoring reports. Applicants funded as part of the Green Spaces fund are not eligible for funding.

Applications must demonstrate a usage of sport or exercise which meets one of the following funding themes:

- Working with marginalised or vulnerable groups
- Positive life pathways for young people
- Addressing mental health issues
- Bringing diverse communities together
- Improving physical health conditions
What projects won’t be funded?

- Organisations based outside of the regions listed above
- Projects based outside of the regions listed above
- Private Limited Companies (PLCs)
- Organisations funded as part of Community Matters Fund’s 2023 Green Spaces Fund
- Individuals
- Applications from local government organisations or statutory bodies
- Existing core costs/general staffing costs
- Political parties or party-political activities
- The promotion of religion
- Applications from schools/PTAs where students are the only beneficiary
- Medical research, clinical treatment, medical staff and equipment
- One-off events without clear links to funding theme - travel/excursions/parties/picnics
- Applications involving sports considered dangerous or extreme, including but not limited to: boxing, martial arts. Non-contact activities where sparring is not involved (i.e. ‘boxercise’) may be considered.
- Primary focus is play/playground equipment
- Vehicles, including minibuses
- Land purchase/surveying/planning permission required
- Distribution of grants/funds to individuals or other organisations
- Costs already incurred - funding request must be for future purchases/spending

Applications for the Active Communities fund could include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Projects addressing barriers marginalised or vulnerable groups may face when trying to be active
- Projects using exercise sessions and life skills/awareness workshops to help outline positive life pathways for disadvantaged young people.
- Support for the setup of new active groups or new and extended activities within existing clubs/associations, aiming to bring diverse communities together
- Training programmes for volunteers to become coaches and mentors supporting people with mental or physical health conditions
- Marketing and communication efforts to encourage participation among identified marginalised groups.
- Minor facility alterations to remove accessibility barriers for people with mobility impairments.
- Innovative approaches to enhance participation and engagement with physical activity and exercise in your community.
Tips for a high-quality application:

- Your project overview should provide a detailed account of your proposed activities, the costs which need to be covered, and demonstrate how you will achieve your impact in line with your chosen project theme.
- You must clearly demonstrate how your proposed project provides a social outcome beyond participation in exercise aligned with one of the themes of the fund.
- You should aim to demonstrate that you have a clear idea of who will benefit from your project, alongside a plan to engage them, and a realistic estimate of the impact the work that you do will have on them.
- If your project has an innovative approach to using exercise to achieve social change, improve community cohesion, or address inequalities of opportunity/access to improving health, then please highlight this.
- You will be asked to list three outcomes of your project - make sure they are realistic and measurable numerically. For example:
  - Outcome A  20 young volunteers will be trained to coach walking football teams
  - Outcome B  100 people with mobility issues will take part in walking football sessions
  - Outcome C  80% of participants will report increased confidence and reduced feelings of isolation in post-project survey
- We will ask you how you plan to measure these outcomes and maintain any improvements made by this project in the long-term.
- When making your budget, please be specific in your itemisation and breakdown. For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description (250 characters)</th>
<th>Value (£)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Venue hire</td>
<td>70 hours pitch hire fees for walking football sessions @ £10/hr</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>10 footballs for training use @ £5</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>100 x bibs and shorts for football players = £5 each</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructor fees</td>
<td>Three 2-hour coaching lessons from FA-qualified coach</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venue hire</td>
<td>Hiring space in the local community hall for football coaching training £5/hr for 6 hours</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Delivery costs for all materials and equipment</td>
<td>45.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Project organiser’s salary - plans activities, co-ordinates and recruits volunteers delivering walking football sessions - 4 working days/28 hours @ £15/hr</td>
<td>420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>1985.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Frequently Asked Questions

How can I make sure that my organisation is based in an eligible area?

To be eligible for funding, your organisation and project must be based in National Grid’s electricity distribution area. Please double check you are eligible by entering your postcode [here](#).

Our charity covers several of National Grid’s electricity distribution network regions. Can we apply multiple times?

No - we are only able to fund an organisation once; however, your application can deliver activities and benefits across more than one eligible region.

We are based outside of National Grid’s electricity distribution network regions; however, we deliver services in one. Can we apply?

No - organisations must be based in an eligible region to apply to the fund.

Can my project involve infrastructure improvements or building work?

Small adaptations to remove barriers marginalised groups may face to participating are permitted. Any work requiring surveys or planning permission will not be approved. General facility repairs/improvements should not be the focus of an application.

We already have a sports team/exercise group. Can we apply for ongoing costs or a new set of kit/equipment for an existing project?

This grant aims to support the creation of new opportunities to create social change using physical activity as a delivery method. Applications for an expansion to existing projects may be eligible if a clear link to the social change funding themes can be demonstrated and the number of new participants that will be supported is clearly outlined.

Is there a limit on what annual income an organisation can have to be eligible?

There is no limit to the annual income an organisation must have to be eligible to receive funding. Registered charities or non-profit companies limited by guarantee can apply for up to £10,000; constituted charitable organisations with no charity number can apply for up to £2000.

When can I apply for funding?

Organisations will be able to apply for funding between Monday 10th and Friday 28th July.
When does my project need to start and end?

We are expecting some of your delivery to commence from late August onwards. There is no defined date that your project needs to start by; however, your entire project must be completed, with all funding spent, by 31st December 2023.

When will I find out about the outcome of my application?

You will hear the outcome of your application by the end of August 2023.

When do I need to return monitoring?

At the end of the funding period, you will be required to complete our monitoring form. This will include information about the delivery and the success of your project. We may also ask for less in-depth information from you as your project progresses to capture any short-term outcomes you have identified in your application.

We will also ask you to kindly supply a quote and a relevant photograph from your project so that the grant organisers can promote your organisation and the impact of the funded work. We would appreciate receiving this in a timely manner.

Can I use the funding for a ‘larger project’?

No - to receive funding from the Community Matters Fund, you will need to show how the funding request you are making covers all costs required to deliver activities and outcomes specifically related to the funding themes.

Can I apply for funding for core costs?

This fund is looking to deliver project funding. Therefore, applications looking solely for funding for core costs are not eligible.

How does the free membership with Localgiving work?

If you are not an existing or past member of Localgiving, and you are successful with your funding application, you will be provided with a complimentary annual membership with Localgiving. With the membership, you will be provided with access to Localgiving’s suite of online fundraising and crowdfunding tools, along with access to other funding opportunities.

How do I get help with my application if I have a question?

You can contact the Localgiving Help Desk via help@localgiving.org.