



Community Support Grants – FAQ

All Grants	
Q1	I am thinking of a partnership project involving a local school - would that be allowed under Com Engagement criteria?
A1	Applications from partnerships are acceptable, however one organisation will need to submit and be responsible for the application, Grant agreement, payment and subsequent monitoring & performance reporting requirement.
Q2	How many grants are you expecting to award for each fund?
A2	In 2025, Nottingham City Council was awarded an extension to our UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Programme and has been allocated £4.6m to deliver an additional 12-months of activity. The programme will run until 31 March 2026. Individual project budgets for the three grant schemes are still being finalised. The number of grants awarded in each scheme will be dependent on the available budget and the grants requested in the highest scoring applications.
Q3	Can we match fund any of these?
A3	Yes, match funding is welcome and can be highlighted in your application.
Q4	Would new organisations or existing organisations who are looking to begin providing community support activities in 2025 be eligible to apply for any of these grant schemes?
A4	<p>In each Grant Scheme Applicant Guidance document, there is a section on General Eligibility Criteria. All applicants are encouraged to read the whole of the guidance document, including this section of the before completing an application.</p> <p>To be eligible for any of the Grant Schemes the organisation must have been in operation for at least 12 months.</p> <p>Each scheme has a list of the types of organisations that are eligible to receive a grant.</p> <p>To be eligible for the Community Engagement scheme the organisation must have delivered similar community engagement activities in Nottingham City in the last 12 months.</p> <p>In their application organisations would need to demonstrate that they met all of the relevant criteria included in this section.</p>
Q5	What does this mean? - Not have an outstanding debt with Nottingham City Council
A5	This refers to unpaid invoices, rent arrears, etc. and organisation will be checked as part of the eligibility gateway process, ahead of scoring.
Q6	Is it ok to include an image in the body of the application when relevant?
A6	You are able to include images in your application, however if these images contain text, these will count towards the word limit given for the question.
Q7	Can one organisations apply for more than one UKSPF grants scheme?
A7	Yes, you can apply for more than one different grant scheme, as long as you meet the eligibility for each
Q8	Do I need to have 3 written quotes for any capital works?
A8	No, you need to have evidence that you asked for 3 or more quotes, but have at least one written quote showing costs for the funding.



Community Venues and Spaces Grant	
Q1	For the capital funding grant, do the activities delivered have to be new, or can it be used for renovating existing buildings that already deliver essential services?
A1	The funds can be used for improvements to existing facilities and amenities, however one of the key outcomes for this scheme is to increase users of the facilities/amenities. The application must demonstrate that the improvements would result in more people attending the venue.
Q2	Our heating system requires renewal, but the overall quote is more than £25k but particular parts i.e. the gym/hall are less so can we apply for the part area as long as I have three quotes for that area?
A2	<p>Applicants are able to apply for a grant to contribute to the costs of improving one part of a larger project.</p> <p>Where the total cost of improvements (including any match funding) exceeded £24,999, and the amount of grant funding to be paid to a single supplier was between £2,500 and £24,999, details of 3 suppliers' quotes would need to be included in the application, along with the rationale for selecting the preferred supplier.</p>
Q3	If the building is leased from NCC, can the Planning permission be considered as the landlord's approval?
A3	<p>If planning permission or building control is needed, this needs to be applied separately. Planning permission approval and the confirmation of support from the appropriate NCC service would need to be included with the application.</p> <p>Please note - for NCC leased buildings, applicants will also need to provide confirmation that there will be at least 3 years left on the lease after the improvements have been completed.</p>
Q4	Can we make an application to the Venues & Spaces grant without having our planning application granted?
A4	<p>If you need planning permission for the proposed works, then an application without planning approval would be considered ineligible.</p> <p>The current UKSPF funding has to be spent after 1st April 2025 and before the 31st March 2026, as we have to ensure that any funded projects have the best chance of being delivered within certain timescales, for Venues & Spaces, this is works complete by 31st December 2025. Therefore, projects need to have planning approval and/or building control consent as part of their application.</p>
Q5	Can lease agreements detailing works to be carried out by the lease holder, be considered approval by the owner?
A5	Yes, this can be considered permission for works to be carried out to the property.
Q6	Venues and Spaces - the amount that some community gardens need is lower than the minimum amount. Is it possible for one organisation to apply and then distribute the funds to each garden?
A6	Yes. We would consider multiple gardens as part of one venue or space and therefore as long as the total is over £10,000.
Q7	If we were to apply for funding under the community spaces, could we include a Defibrillator in the costs?



A7	<p>You could include a defibrillator in your application for the Venues and Spaces grant under the following circumstances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The amount of grant requested for it was at least £1,000 - It would be located within the community space that was being improved with the rest of the grant funding requested - There was a commitment that the applicant would promote its availability to the wider community - There was a commitment that the applicant would adhere to all the required training and access requirements
Q8	My group operates out of a NCC owned building, but we don't currently have a Lease agreement in place (common across the city), but we want to apply for the Venues and Spaces grant. Would you consider other evidence to make us eligible?
A8	<p>In response to the financial requirements of Community Buildings becoming more self-sufficient, a number of associations have already started applying for external funding. The Council is committed to supporting these efforts and will provide letters of intent to accompany funding applications wherever possible. Please use this email to seek advice and discuss letters of intent community.centres@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</p> <p><u>Please note that a letter of Intent from NCC, does not guarantee grant funding, however, it would allow your application to be appraised.</u></p>
Q9	Do I need to have 3 written quotes for any capital works?
A9	No, you need to have evidence that you asked for 3 or more quotes, but have at least one written quote showing costs for the funding.
Q10	<p>Our project will include the refurbishment of a disused space to a new community wellbeing garden. Within our costs we want to contract a local environmental landscape specialist to help with the development.</p> <p>Can we include fees to a specialist within our application please? And if over £2.5K would we need more than one quote?</p>
A10	Yes, fees are fine. If they are more than £2,499 then you would need to <u>seek</u> three quotes, but if there is a lack of available specialist, then you can state that and/or list two other inquiries you made.
Q11	We are a small community group and don't have the cash flow to pay for the building works and then claim the money back. Can we get some of all of the money up front?
A11	Yes. If you need to be paid the grant in advance in order to be able to purchase the goods and services please indicate this in Section 6 of the application form.



Community Engagement Grant	
Q1	Can Community Engagement Grant fund kids' clubs for specific age groups or does it have to be open to all?
A1	Age limited activities are acceptable; however, attendance cannot be dependent on the kids (or parents) being members of a specific group or organisation. Activities must be open to all that meet the target criteria (e.g. under 16).
Q2	Do projects have to be ongoing, or if seasonal or periodic projects would these also be eligible?
A2	Project can be either ongoing or seasonal or periodic projects, but must be delivered before the end of March 2026.
Q3	If an organisation received the Heritage and cultural events grant in 2024/25 can they still apply for the Community Engagement grant in 2025/26?
A3	If your organisation received the Culture Grant last year, you can apply for the Engagement grant, but you are not able to use this grant to purchase any equipment which costs more than £2,499.

Essential Skills Grant	
Q1	We deliver a Numeracy Champion training programme for intermediaries which gives them tips on supporting learners with maths anxiety to boost their confidence with numbers and progress onto accredited learning. It has been successful in engaging learners furthest away from qualification/employment and driving learners onto your existing provision. It is a 'train the trainer' approach so I wanted to check if this would this be something you would fund under the Essential Skills Grant?
A1	Applicants are able to propose their delivery model, however in the application, they would need to demonstrate how the proposed approach would enable the delivery of the proposed numbers of each relevant output/outcomes in the application.
Q2	For the Essential Skills Grant is the eligibility for learners the same as People and Skills? Does everyone need to be Economically Inactive to claim outputs and outcomes?
A2	No. Each grant has its own eligibility (see grant guidance). The Essential Skills Grant is aimed at people who are unemployed and / or economically inactive.
Q3	Can the Essential Skills Grant fund venue hire?
A3	Yes, this would be classed as 'other materials and resources required for delivery of the activities'. The maximum contribution to these costs is £2,499.
Q4	Can community gardens be included in the Essential Skills Grant, if they work towards employability and social inclusion and include pathways to and from CFL?
A4	Applicants are able to decide how and where the project's activities will be delivered. However, applicants will need to demonstrate how the proposed approach will enable the delivery of the proposed numbers of output/outcomes.



Q5	With the Essential Skills Grant, will you only consider (or prioritise) ESOL, digital and numeracy skills?				
A5	No, there is a fourth area: Activities which <i>'help participants to develop other skills which would help to reduce isolation or exclusion and to progress into employment'</i> . Applicants proposing to deliver skills activities in this area will need to clearly articulate what skills are being developed and how these fit into this category.				
Q6	Can I use the Essential Skills Grant to pay for course accreditation?				
A6	Yes, the amount would go in the Section 4 - Other materials and resources required for delivery of the activities of the application.				
Q7	Could you clarify what information you need in the last three columns of section Q2 on the application form?				
A7	The highlighted questions of section Q2 are clarified in blue below:				
	Activity i.e. ESOL, Digital, Numeracy, Other (state)	Delivery location	Course Duration (Total Hours) <i>What is the duration of each course in hours?</i>	Number of times to be delivered <i>What is the total number of times you are planning to run the course over the duration of the project?</i>	Total number of participants to be engaged <i>What is the total number of unique participants who will take the course over the duration of the project?</i>