



Community Support Grants – FAQ

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	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?
A3	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.
Q4	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's been successful in engaging learners furthest away from qualification/employment and driving learners onto your existing provision. It's a train the trainer approach so I wanted to check if this would this be something you'd fund under the essential skills grant?
A4	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
Q5	Can community engagement grants fund kids clubs for specific age groups or does it have to be open to all
A5	Age limited activities are acceptable, however attendance can not be dependent on the kids (or parents) being members of an specific group or organisation. Activities must be open to all that meet the target criteria (e.g. under 16)
Q6	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
A6	Applicants are able to apply for a grant to contribute to the costs of improving one part of a larger project. 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 £2500 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.



Q7	For essential skills is the eligibility for learners the same as People and Skills? Does everyone need to be Economically Inactive to claim outputs and outcomes?
A7	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.
Q8	Can the essential skills grant fund venue hire?
A8	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.
Q9	Can we match fund any of these?
A9	Yes, match funding is welcome and can be highlighted in your application
Q10	If the building is leased from NCC, can the Planning permission be considered as the landlord's approval?!
A10	<p>If planning permission or building control is needed, this need 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>
Q11	Can community gardens be included in Essential Skills grants, if they work towards employability and social inclusion and include pathways to and from CFL
A11	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.
Q12	With essential skills, will you only consider (or prioritise) ESOL, digital and numeracy skills?
A12	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
Q13	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?
A13	<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>



	In their application organisations would need to demonstrate that they met all of the relevant criteria included in this section.				
Q14	Can we make an application to the Venues & Spaces grant without having our planning application granted.				
A14	<p>If you need planning permission for the proposed works, then an application without planning approval would be considered in eligible.</p> <p>The current UKSPF funding has to spent between 1st April 2025 and before the 31st March 2026, as such 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>				
Q15	Can lease agreements detailing works to be carried out by the lease holder, be considered approval by the owner.				
A15	Yes, this can be considered permission for works to be carried out to the property.				
Q16	Can I use the Essential Skills Grant to pay for course accreditation?				
A16	Yes, the amount would go in the Section 4 - Other materials and resources required for delivery of the activities of the application				
Q17	Venues and Spaces - the amount that some community gardens needs is lower than the minimum amount. Is it possible for one organisation to apply and then distribute the funds to each garden.				
A17	Yes. We would consider multiple gardens as part of one venue or space and therefore as long as the total is over £10,000.				
Q18	What does this mean? - Not have an outstanding debt with Nottingham City Council				
A18	This refers to unpaid invoices, rent arrears etc and organisation will be checked as part of the eligibility gateway process, ahead of scoring.				
Q19	Could you clarify what information you need in the last three columns of section Q2 on the application form?				
A19	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>