

CRF - Community Grants Scheme

Tackling Poverty and financial hardship in Nottingham 2026-27



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Application Guidance and Criteria

Nottingham is an exciting, vibrant city. We have a fascinating history including rebels, like Robin Hood; an amazing industrial legacy, from lacemaking to bicycles and fashion; and world-changing new ideas in science and healthcare.

We want everyone in Nottingham to thrive - to have the best chance to be healthy, have a good job, live in a good house. For some people, life in Nottingham can be harder and this can be because of deprivation caused by poverty.

Deprivation means not having the things you need to live a healthy, comfortable life. It's when people don't have enough money, or can't get good food, or don't live in a safe, warm home, or can't easily get healthcare, education, or good jobs. You can think of deprivation as life being harder because important things are missing. Deprivation can mean that it is harder for people to live healthy lives, have good jobs or good housing.

Across Nottingham, there are differences in people's lives that can have a huge impact. Nottingham is the 20th most deprived area in the country. About half of the population live in the most deprived areas in the country. We want to support people who are struggling in poverty, we want to stop people from slipping into poverty and we want to create a City where everyone plays a role in tackling poverty and deprivation.

The Council will invest through the Crisis Resilience Fund to provide timely support, measurable financial resilience improvements, and stronger community partnerships. The aim will be to provide immediate crisis support while building long-term financial stability for vulnerable households.

People will be able to get support through crisis payments but more importantly there will be longer term housing support and help to become better able to cope with financial challenges. People will be able to get help online or by a phonenumber and there will be an improved 'apply once' service, so that people don't have to tell their story multiple times or fill in lots of different form. There will also be a 'Better Off Calculator' available through the council or other local organisations to help people plan their finances and access the support they need.

You can apply by completing the [online application form](#) and submitting no later than 9:00am on Monday 6th July 2026

SECTION 1. FUNDING

1.1 FUND OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of the funding are identified below. Whilst it is likely that activity may contribute to more than one of the three areas below, applicants **MUST** identify which **ONE** of the three is their primary delivery objective as determined by the activity for which funding is requested.

Successful organisations will be required to measure and report on this primary objective as part of the monitoring and reporting requirements set by the DWP. This monitoring will include both data in the form of outputs and a narrative that identifies the outcomes achieved.

Applications that support vulnerable groups with protected characteristics will be given additional consideration. Some households with protected characteristics are more likely to experience low income, insecure employment, higher risks of poverty and homelessness, family breakdown, higher living costs or avoid statutory services due to previous negative experiences. Applicants are expected to be able to demonstrate cultural competence in delivering projects with these groups.

1. **Crisis Support** – To provide a safety net for those on low incomes who encounter a financial shock. Examples of the types of activities that can be supported include:
 - Foodbanks and community pantry's
 - White goods support (eg washing machine, fridge freezer)
 - Furnishing support for those moving into empty properties (eg beds, carpets)
 - Breakage of an essential item (eg boiler, medical equipment)
 - Clothing banks

2. **Improving Financial Resilience** - To invest in building local support to enable individuals and communities to better deal with crises in the long term, reducing urgent need. Examples of the types of activities that can be supported include:
 - Income, savings and debt advice
 - Housing insecurity advice and support
 - Support for those with a physical disability, learning disability, mental health condition or wellbeing
 - Support for those with caring responsibilities
 - Financial literacy
 - Digital exclusion
 - Community support and social networks
 - Access to income smoothing tools, such as affordable credit and insurance

3. **VCS coordination networks** – To create coordinated VCS infrastructure networks that support VCS organisations to support people in local communities. Examples of the types of activities that can be supported include:
 - Co-ordinating resilience services
 - Ensuring clear referral pathways between resilience and crisis support
 - Creating local networks
 - Creating a city-wide forum for all funded organisations to connect with

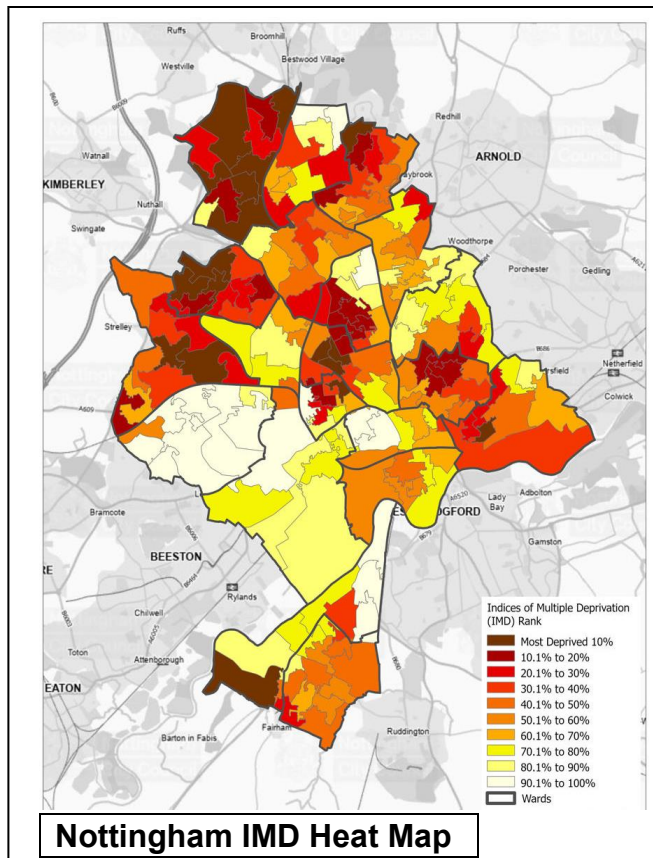
1.2 DELIVERY AREAS

CRF funding must cover all areas of the city but there are areas that have a higher amount of poverty and deprivation, a higher proportion of funding will be awarded in these areas. These areas are identified using the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), a national tool that measures deprivation based on income, employment, education, health, crime housing and living environment.

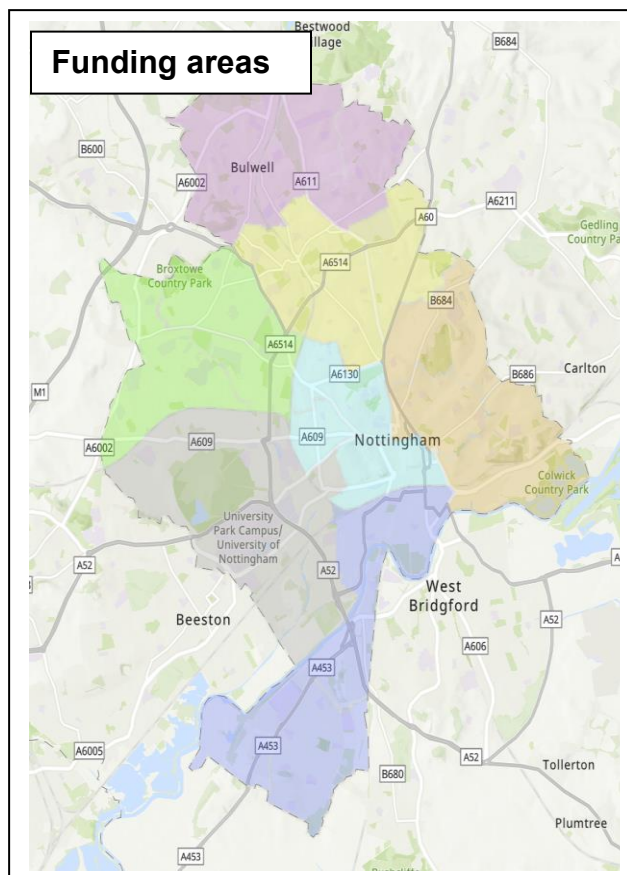
The heat map right identifies hot spots for consideration.

Funding will be awarded in two ways, city wide and across areas and localities as identified in the map and table below. Applications should make clear which method of funding is being applied for and why.

City wide funding - Applicants can apply to deliver activity across the city, they should be able to evidence how they will engage with local communities and where their delivery will be based. A track record of city-wide delivery would be beneficial. Decisions will be made after assessment by the Crisis Resilience Fund Programme Board.



Nottingham IMD Heat Map



Area funding - Applicants can apply to deliver in an area of the city. Applicants should have experience of delivering in this area and a track record of local engagement and delivery. Decisions will be made after assessment by local representative boards including local Councillors and stakeholders. Applicants can also apply to deliver across two neighboring areas or across a locality.

See table below for details of areas and localities.

AREA	WARD	LOCALITY
1	Bulwell, Bulwell Forest, Bestwood	North
2	Basford, Sherwood, Berridge	North
3	Aspley, Bilborough, Leen Valley	Central
4	Mapperley, St Ann's, Dales	South
5	Castle, Hyson Green & Arboretum, Radford	Central
6	Wollaton West, Lenton and Wollaton East	Central
7	Clifton East, Clifton West, Meadows	South

1.3 FUNDING PERIODS

CRF funding has been awarded nationally for a three-year period until March 2029. The application process will open twice a year for new bids, except in 2026-27 where there will be one bidding period. Applicants can apply to run a discreet project for a fixed time period or across the life of the programme.

Projects that deliver across more than one financial year (April-March) will be reviewed in January and February at the end of each financial year to assess successful delivery before the following years funding is approved. Funding awards for future years may be reduced or terminated if the review finds the project has not met the delivery targets agreed.

FUNDING PERIODS	Year One	Year Two		Year Three	
Round	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
Application window opens	May 2026	January 2027	July 2027	January 2028	July 2028
Delivery period of award	August 2026 onward	April 2027 onward	October 2027 onward	April 2028 onward	October 2028 onward

SECTION 2 – BUDGET

Applicants will be required to submit a spreadsheet (template supplied) for each financial year in which they will be delivering activity funded by a CRF grant. This completed budget should be emailed to: crfgrants@nottinghamcity.gov.uk before the application deadline.

2.1 FUNDING AMOUNTS

Funding is split into three bands and the level of monitoring and governance required will be reflected in the sums awarded. Information included within a grant application should reflect the level of funding requested, much greater detail would be expected for a request of £60,000 than that of £6,000.

For 12 months of delivery the following maximum amounts are available:

- Small Grants** - £5,000 to £20,000 (Open grant programme)
- Medium Grants** - £20,001 to £100,000 (Open grant programme)
- Large Grants** - £100,001 and over (City wide projects by invitation only)

OPEN GRANT PROGRAMME	Year One	Year Two		Year Three	
Round	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
Max funding amount small grants	13,000	20,000	10,000	20,000	10,000
Max funding amount medium grants	66,000	100,000	50,000	100,000	50,000

2.2 ELIGIBLE FUNDING

The fund will support costs like the examples below. In all cases the costs must relate directly to the activity you are providing.

Rent	The cost of using premises to deliver your project or to hire a venue for an event
Equipment	Purchase of materials and / or hire of equipment to deliver your project / event
Publicity	Production of a leaflet or newsletter to advertise the activities you are undertaking
Expenses	Travel / parking for staff and volunteers delivering activities (specified pence per mile)
Training	Necessary Courses that you intend to offer volunteers and / or staff
Admin costs	Insurance and membership costs, general stationery for running the activity
Salaries	Staffing costs for <u>additional hours / new posts</u> to deliver the activity (inc. recruitment)
Support	Additional specific support that may be needed (e.g. translation costs)

The fund cannot be used to support;

- Activities where making profit is a primary aim
- Statutory organisations or private businesses
- Activities where people are excluded on religious grounds. **We can fund** religious organisations to work with others towards the objectives of the fund.
- Political groups
- Charitable or fund-raising activities
- Activities that take place outside the City Council boundary
- Activities that do not meet one of the objectives of the CRF
- Costs you owed or promised to pay before your application was approved (retrospective costs)
- General running costs that are not related to the direct delivery of CRF activities or are not commensurate with the sum of funding being requested (See below)

2.3 RUNNING COSTS

In recognition of the costs incurred by providers that are not directly related to session delivery, a budget for running costs has been included. This budget can include costs like those identified below but must relate directly to CRF provision. Examples of some of the costs that can be included are:

General Admin	To cover telephone calls to encourage participation
Monitoring	To cover staff time in completing monitoring information
Overheads	Generic costs such as finance time, a small contribution to utility bills etc
Promotional materials	Production of a leaflet / newsletter / social media to advertise the activities you are undertaking

SECTION 3. ELIGIBILITY

Most voluntary and community organisations and groups within the city boundary are eligible to apply for funding. We may fund organisations based outside Nottingham if they have a history of successful delivery within the city.

If you are a locally managed branch of a national organisation, you can apply as long as you have your own local management committee and accounts.

You must have the following in place;

Governance –

- A constitution, memorandum and articles of association, or set of written rules which set out your aims and objectives. This must also contain a dissolution clause or asset lock that states any assets purchased with grant funding will be kept for community use should your group come to an end or close and any unspent grant funding returned to the funding body.

Policies –

- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policy (or similar)
- Safeguarding policy (if working directly with children and young people).
- Vulnerable Adults policy.

Finance –

- A bank or building society account in the groups name with at least two unrelated signatories.
- Annual examined accounts for groups over 12 months old.

These documents should be emailed to crfgrants@nottinghamcity.gov.uk as part of your application before the application deadline.

SECTION 4. APPLICATION AND AWARDING OF GRANTS

Applicants should complete the [online application form](#). The information contained in your application form may also be shared with appropriate partners or agencies; by submitting your form you agree to this information sharing. A list of the questions asked in the application form can be found in Appendix 1 at the end of this document.

4.1 SCORING AND ASSESSMENT

Using the information provided in your supporting information we will assess whether you are eligible to apply. Using the information from your application and in some cases a follow up email for further information or clarity, we will assess and score your project to see how it:

- Fits with the objectives of the fund
- Includes clear and practical support for Nottingham citizens
- Provides quality support (eg accredited advice)
- Considers how to move Nottingham citizens forward to a better situation
- Has inclusive/accessible provision and considers cultural sensitivities
- Has a clear plan of how to reach participants and encourage engagement
- Signposts to wider support such as foodbanks and financial advice
- Demonstrates value for money

4.2 PAYMENT OF GRANT

Small grants will be paid in total in advance, medium and large grants will be paid quarterly in advance on receipt of satisfactory monitoring and reporting. Payment will be made by bank transfer, invoices are not required.

SECTION 5. MONITORING AND REPORTING

In order to demonstrate the difference this fund makes we require you to evaluate your project, assessing the difference it makes to those involved, all successful applicants will be required to complete monitoring reports on a six-monthly basis. Monitoring will be required in October and April.

5.1 QUANTITATIVE MONITORING (OUTPUTS)

Applicants will be required to collect a wide variety of data including numbers of people supported broken down into types of support, demographics of the person supported, referral routes etc. A template will be sent to successful applicants at commencement of delivery to ensure the correct information is collected.

Applications that have identified they will deliver support to vulnerable people with protected characteristics will be required to report on outputs relating to these characteristics.

5.2 QUALITATIVE MONITORING (OUTCOMES)

We will send you a link to an online monitoring form which should include further evidence such as case studies, questionnaires, photo or video diaries as well as any other method you feel is appropriate to showcase your project.

5.3 QUALITY ASSURANCE (MONITORING VISITS)

We may also undertake a quality assurance visit, these will support us to improve the quality of future provision. We will tell you the date that we will be visiting you and will speak to staff and observe activities being delivered.

5.4 ANNUAL REVIEW

For projects lasting across more than one financial year a review will be undertaken in January/February to assess the success of the project up to the point of review. This will determine whether funding will be continued into the new financial year. This will take place in partnership between NCC Officers and staff from the successful organisation. If funding is awarded across the lifetime of the CRF programme, two reviews will take place for each subsequent years funding.

SECTION 6. THINGS TO CONSIDER

Please ensure you have read this information before you complete an application. Ensure you have thought your activity through and read through all the guidance notes and questions thoroughly, making a note of any concerns you may have or clarity you may require.

Bear in mind the level of funding you have requested and make sure you complete the application form and budget template appropriately.

Please only send us complete applications with all their supporting information. It is not helpful for us to receive partial information and instead of speeding applications as you might think, it only delays them as we have to match the information you may send later with the original submission of documents. Please answer each question on the form. We are unable to consider applications with **'see attached documents'** as answers to questions and will return such applications.

Common reasons for saying 'No' and causes of delays:

- Dissolution clause or asset lock is not acceptable from VCS organisations
- Governing documents are not included
- The budget is not clear
- We can't understand what you want to do!

SECTION 7. SUPPORT FOR APPLICANTS

We will be providing training and support sessions for potential applicants to understand what makes a good application and what types of activities we are looking to support. These will both be face to face in Nottingham and online via Microsoft Teams.

Details of these support sessions will be advertised on the Crisis Resilience Fund web pages.



Appendix 1 – Application questions

Section 1

ORGANISATION DETAILS

- 1.Name of organisation
- 2.Organisation address
- 3.Address for correspondence If different from question 2
- 4.Name of primary contact The main contact should be someone who can talk about your application in detail in case we need you to explain something.
- 5.Position in organisation of primary contact
- 6.Mobile phone number of primary contact
- 7.Email address of primary contact
- 8.Name of contact 2 in your organisation
- 9.Position of contact 2 in your organisation
- 10.Mobile phone number of contact 2
- 11.Email address of contact 2
- 12.What type of organisation are you? Charity, CIC, company limited by guarantee etc.
- 13.Tell us about your organisation. What sort of activities do you normally provide? Who do you normally work with?
- 14.Does your organisation currently operate within Nottingham City
- 15.If yes, which areas of Nottingham do you currently work in?

Section 2

DELIVERY OBJECTIVES

- 16.Which of the three CRF primary objectives will you be delivering support/activities against?
17. Please provide an **overview** of your proposal stating how it will meet the aims of the CRF programme set out in the guidance document. (500 word limit)
- 18.What **specific support/activities** will you be providing using the funding requested? Please detail all the activities you intend to provide. (500 word limit)
- 19.If providing advice, what accreditation or training does your organisation have to ensure beneficiaries are given correct information?
- 20.How will you make sure provision is available for beneficiaries with additional needs such as translation, SEN, disabilities and how will you engage these individuals?
- 21.What signposting will you put in place to ensure beneficiaries have access to any further support they may need?

22. How long are you asking for funding from CRF for? Please tell us your start and end dates.
23. Which areas will you be delivering activities in? You may select either city wide, one locality or up to two areas.
24. At what venue(s) will your project take place? Have these been secured? Please include postcodes of all sites. If providing online support please tell us here.
25. When will these venues be open to beneficiaries? Please include days of the week and times.
26. How will you promote and market your activities across your delivery area? How will you ensure your provision is well attended?
27. Will your provision be aimed at a specific group of beneficiaries (eg age, race, disability)?
28. If you answered yes to Q27, please tell us who your provision will specifically benefit.
29. How many beneficiaries do you expect to support over the lifetime of the funding?
30. How many beneficiaries do you expect to support each month of your CRF funded delivery?
31. How will you know your project has made a difference? For example, What will you do to find out what beneficiaries thought? (200 word limit)
32. What do you see as the wider community benefits of your project? (200 word limit) What difference will your CRF provision make to your community?

Section 3 BUDGET and FUNDING

33. What is the total cost of your project?
34. How much money are you applying to Nottingham City Council for? Please ensure the breakdown in your budget spreadsheet(s) matches this figure
35. Is there any confirmed match/in-kind funding your organisation will contribute? If so, how much and what is the source of funding?
36. If you have additional information that you haven't included in the spreadsheet please include in the box below. We will not be able to consider your application if you haven't emailed the budget spreadsheet to us.

Section 4 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

37. Have you talked to any City Council officers about this application? If yes, who?
38. Have you talked to anyone else about this application? If yes, who?
39. Did you attend any of the CRF application support sessions provided by Nottingham City Council
40. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your organisation or your proposal?

SECTION 5 DECLARATION

41. We are authorised to submit this application on behalf of the group named in Section 1. We certify that the information enclosed is correct and undertake to provide clarification as may be needed by Nottingham City Council. We understand we will be expected to provide information on the progress of the project and to monitor expenditure. We agree that Nottingham City Council can use basic information about our application to show how public funding is being used. We also give permission for the information within this form to be recorded and shared within Nottingham City Council as needed to offer good public service and understand that personal information will be treated with the utmost care.

42. Our organisation complies with all prevailing and relevant DWP and government guidance at the time of provision. [Gov.uk CRF Guidance](#)

43. Our organisation complies with relevant health and safety law, including the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and associated regulations. A health and safety policy and recorded risk assessments are in place.

44. First aid, accident and emergency arrangements are in place.

45. All reasonable steps are taken to ensure staff are competent to fulfil the duties they are assigned to. This competence is monitored by our organisation.

46. Our organisation has never had a contract ended for poor performance.

. Our organisation has public liability insurance for at least £5 million with a clause giving 'indemnity to principal'

48. Our organisation has a governance document in place that includes a dissolution clause or asset lock.

49. Our organisation has a safeguarding policy in place suitable for vulnerable adults.

50. What is the name of your organisation's safeguarding lead?

51. All reasonable steps are taken to check staff/volunteers who are operating in 'Regulated Activity' for relevant criminal history and suitability to work with vulnerable or young people, adhering to Safer Recruitment practices. This will include, but is not limited to: application form completed, seeking references, Enhanced DBS checks with Children's Barred List, supervision and monitoring.

52. Our organisation has an equality and diversity policy in place.

53. All reasonable steps will be taken to provide an inclusive, accessible and non-discriminatory offer in compliance with the Equality Act 2010 and The Human Rights Act 1998. Required to answer.

54. Our organisation will comply with the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR.

55. Our organisation has a Privacy Policy which explains how any personal data collected will be shared, used, stored, secured and eventually deleted or returned.

56. Our organisation will meet branding and data collection requirements.