

CRITERIA

ANGLIAN WATER POSITIVE DIFFERENCE FUND- PHASE 2



A FUND MANAGED BY
BEDFORDSHIRE AND LUTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

INTRODUCTION

Anglian Water operates at the heart of the community, and its employees live locally too, so they're committed to making this region a great place to live and work.

The coronavirus pandemic has shown that community has never been more important, and that's why Anglian Water created The Anglian Water Positive Difference Fund. It is providing grants to support projects which have a positive impact on the people and communities it serves, allowing it to provide help and connecting people with the practical and essential support they need.

Cambridgeshire Community Foundation (CCF) is leading on this programme and is working with Community Foundations across the Anglian Water Region, including BLCF. The second part of the fund is open to constituted community organisations in **Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire**, which are supporting vulnerable, isolated and older people at this time.

It will provide community organisations with funding to deal with continuing issues in the community as a result of the impact of coronavirus, and the need for self-isolation, and potential worsening of loneliness and isolation. This will include; financial hardship, potential for hunger, lack of shelter, access to education, further exacerbation of health issues, loneliness and isolation.

Grants up to £10,000 will be considered (larger grants may be available for groups working in partnership, or in exceptional circumstances). Projects/initiatives must be finished by March 2022.

AIMS

To be eligible for funding, your project must support those in vulnerable circumstances, or those who are considered high risk (including those with pre-existing medical conditions and older people over 60) and help to:

- 1) Meet emerging needs resulting from the pandemic, especially for people who are at higher risk or find themselves in vulnerable circumstances as a result.
- 2) Support projects that have a positive impact on people and communities in the region Anglian Water serves.
- 3) Connect people, especially the most vulnerable, with the practical and essential support they need.
- 4) Support communities to recover from the impact of the pandemic.
- 5) Support community assets, local charities and community groups to adapt and (re)build, empowering communities from the ground up.

WHAT CAN BE SUPPORTED WITHIN THE FUND THEMES?

- Running costs for organisations to provide support in line with the eligibility criteria, including volunteer expenses, staff costs, and transport; providing the organisation is focusing its attention on providing support to both existing, and any potential new beneficiaries.
- Capital costs, providing the capital item will address the priorities of the fund, and is linked to keeping older people or those in vulnerable circumstances connected to the outside world.
- Repeat applications under the same fund for continuation of projects that are proving to work well.
- Applications from groups which already have live projects or pending applications are eligible.

ELIGIBILITY

We are only able to consider applications from not-for-profit constituted groups that have clear charitable aims. Organisations that are **based in Bedford Borough & Central Beds** can apply. Please use the postcode checker to ensure you fit this criteria **BEFORE** applying (see website for link).

Applications are invited from constituted not-for-profit groups with an associated bank account into which funds can be transferred. If the applicant is an unincorporated voluntary body or not-for-profit Limited Company with an annual income over £5,000, in order to be eligible for a grant, it will need to be one of the recognised not-for-profit structures listed below:

1. Registered, exempt, and excepted charities
2. Parish and Town Councils, Village Halls, and Parochial Church Councils (if the activity is not deemed part of their statutory duties)
3. Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs)
4. Constituted organisations and non-registered charities such as:
 - Community Interest Companies (CICs) – BLCF has its own guidance around CIC's/Social enterprises, please read this BEFORE applying.
 - Social Enterprises which have the Social Enterprise Mark
5. Co-Operatives
6. Community Benefit Societies (formerly Industrial and Provident Societies)
7. Churches and other religious organisations (if the activity is not deemed to be proselytising)

*Partnerships or organisations working collaboratively can apply. However, the lead applicant would need to be one of the above.

WHO CANNOT APPLY

- Organisations that are not based in the areas of benefit
- Groups that do not have **at least 3 unrelated** Trustees/directors/committee members (with the balance of power resting in the unrelated members) & who have no financial/conflict of interest.
- Individuals
- Private Businesses
- National organisations and their affiliates

WORK THAT CANNOT BE SUPPORTED

- Work which does not directly benefit people living in the Anglian Water area
- Organisational structures not listed above, or projects which are not charitable in focus
- Work normally funded from statutory sources or on behalf of statutory bodies
- Work undertaken by/ on behalf of schools, colleges or universities as part of their statutory curricular activities
- Work for the advancement of religion or for projects promoting political activities, lobbying for causes, or projects whose main purpose is to promote religion (as distinct from religious organisations)
- Overseas holidays or trips
- Retrospective grants i.e. for items already purchased or activity that has already started
- Purchase of vehicles
- Holiday schemes
- Events, parties, trips and initiatives based upon mass gatherings
- Sponsored events, fundraising activities, or grant-making activities or bodies
- Improvements to land/buildings that are not open to the general public at convenient hours
- Non-constituted or recently established organisations that cannot be endorsed by a statutory body
- General appeals or sponsorship
- Animal welfare projects or overseas aid
- Individuals

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

As a minimum we always ask organisations applying to us for several supporting documents, which must be uploaded with your application alongside a **copy of the full budget breakdown for the project/activity**. Please also check whether any other documentation is required, as listed within the application form.



If you do not have an Equal Opportunity or Safeguarding policy, please get in touch before applying.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Successful organisations will be required to complete interim progress reports as well as a monitoring report at the end of the project. We will be asking how the grant was spent, outcomes achieved or not, as well as the difference the project has made, any key issues and lessons learnt. Funded organisations should so be willing to discuss the progress of the project over the phone as and when necessary and to host visits that will assist with learning and best practice.

Before beginning the project, we suggest you consider:

- Who will write the interim progress reports and end of grant monitoring form report
- What your aims and objectives are and how will you track progress against these
- What information you will collect and how you will collect this:
 - Quantitative data (numbers) – how many people are taking part or using the service, achieved goals (e.g. employment, improved health)
 - Qualitative data (stories/case studies) – feedback from users and volunteers, observed increase in skills, confidence etc.
 - Learning – feedback from project participants, what went well, what would you do differently etc.
 - Feedback from partner organisations

ADDITIONAL INFO

All applications will be reviewed and are subject to a thorough assessment and relevant due diligence checks by BLCF. [Find out more here](#). Applications will be checked against the fund's criteria and only those that clearly meet those criteria will be presented to a panel made up of local individuals. We reserve the right to decline or accept any application according to the decision of the grants panel.

We would encourage all applicants to investigate other sources of funding and where possible see match funding, this could be through their own fundraising efforts or via Grants from other charitable trusts and organisations. Your local CVS will be able to provide advice and guidance around alternative funding available, for Bedfordshire based organisations please visit www.cvsbeds.org.uk

Only requests for funding made via the official online application form will be considered. The form can be accessed via our website under the appropriate grants tab: www.blcf.org.uk

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

We are committed to promoting equal opportunities and to valuing diversity regardless of age, gender, race, ethnic origin, nationality, religion/belief, culture, language, disability, learning difficulty, sexual orientation, marital status, economic status, health status, or any other discriminatory grounds.

Should you have any queries about this criteria or applying to this fund please contact a member of the BLCF team who will be able to help either by phone: 01582 522422 or email administrator@blcf.org.uk

****This fund is only open to organisations who are based or working in certain key areas covered by Anglian Water. PLEASE USE THE POSTCODE CHECKER TO ENSURE YOU MEET THE GEOGRAPHICAL RESTRICTIONS BEFORE APPLYING****

DECISIONS

Anglian Water are establishing a decision making panel at which all applications will be considered. Decisions will be relayed to all organisations that have applied by the end of March 2021.

An assessor will contact you to obtain further information and we will contact you by email to let you know the outcome.

If you require any assistance with the completion of your application, please contact BLCF on administrator@blcf.org.uk