

Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation

Local Focus. Lasting Change.

Community Trust Fund

Greener Future Fund

Near Neighbours Fund

Small Grants Fund

Whitbread Plc. Chairman's Fund

What is a Community Foundation?



Community Foundations are charitable organisations supporting a defined geographical area.

They manage grant-making programmes.

These programmes may be funded by:

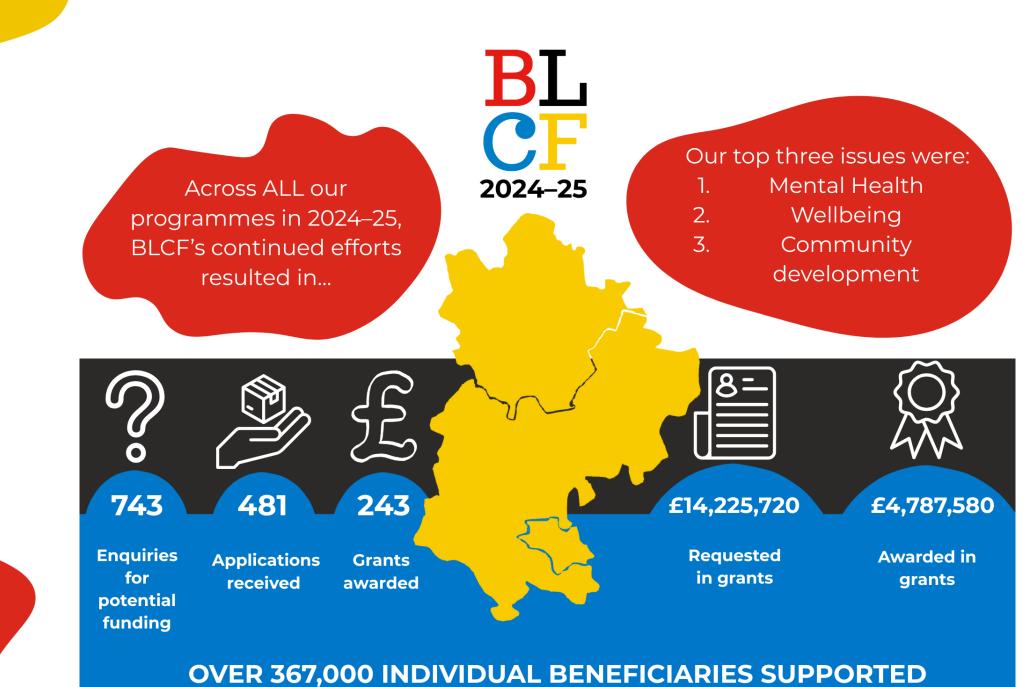
- Donations from individuals or families.
- Donations from businesses.
- Operating funds on behalf of businesses.
- Local Authority grant-making programmes.
- National or Government funded programmes.

Local Focus. Lasting Change.

About BLCF

- ► Charity registered in 2001.
- ▶ Based at Wrest Park in Silsoe, Bedfordshire.
- ▶ Small, dedicated team.
- ▶ Part of national networks.
- ► Strategic plan:

<u>Strategic Plan - Bedfordshire & Luton Community</u> <u>Foundation (blcf.org.uk)</u>



Initiatives & Networks

- Vital Signs.
- Meet the Funder events.
- ▶ INSIGHT.
- Funders Network.
- Luton Fairness Taskforce.
- FREA.
- ► IVAR.
- ▶ 360Giving.









Applying for funding

Basic eligibility

www.blcf.org.uk

We fund **registered charities** and other **not-for-profit groups** with charitable aims and objectives.

We **do not fund** Private Limited Companies except CICs (Community Interest Companies) which are limited by guarantee.

Applicants must have:

- ✓ A constitution or other governing document.
- ✓ A committee of at least 3 unrelated Trustees / Directors (no-one with 'significant control').
- ✓ Good financial management and health, without large free /
 unrestricted funds (no more than 6 months').
- ✓ Have comprehensive safeguarding and equal opportunities policies.
- ✓ Have sought funds from a range of sources and have a clear funding strategy.

Community Trust Fund

Fund specific Community Trust Fund

www.blcf.org.uk



- ✓ Only for organisations delivering work in:
 - Central Bedfordshire, Dacorum, Eastern parts of Aylesbury District, Luton, North Herts District, St. Albans District, and Stevenage.
- ✓ Fund priorities:
 - Healthy Today (mental / physical health and wellbeing).
 - Skilled Tomorrow (upskilling young people up to the age of 30).
 - Alleviating Poverty (supporting people to support themselves).
- ✓ Grants of up to £10,000.

BL CF

Fund Specific Community Trust Fund

www.blcf.org.uk

We do not fund:

- Groups who have received London Luton Airport funding in the last 12 months.
- Groups who have provided low quality monitoring on previous grants.
- National organisations (unless clear local benefits).
- Private Limited Companies (except Community Interest Companies - CICs - limited by guarantee).
- Organisations or activities that promote political parties or religion.
- Retrospective costs.
- Trips (excluding respite care) and / or fundraising events.

Greener Future Fund

Fund Specific Greener Future Fund

www.blcf.org.uk



- ✓ Only for organisations based and working within 5-mile radius of airport.
- ✓ Fund priorities:
 - Increasing biodiversity.
 - Environmental education.
 - Carbon reduction initiatives.
- ✓ Grants of up to £10,000.
- ✓ Max 15% for core costs / overheads, such as rent and utilities.

Fund

Fund specific Greener Future

www.blcf.org.uk

We do not fund:

- Groups who have provided low quality monitoring on previous grants.
- National organisations (unless clear local benefits).
- Private Limited Companies (except Community Interest Companies - CICs - limited by guarantee).
- Organisations or activities that promote political parties or religion.
- Professional marketing / advertising (unless you can demonstrate that this is only to publicise the funded work to engage beneficiaries).
- Retrospective costs.
- Trips (excluding respite care) and / or fundraising events.

Near Neighbours Fund

Fund specific

Near Neighbours Fund

www.blcf.org.uk



- ✓ Only for organisations delivering work in:
 - Central Bedfordshire, Dacorum, Eastern parts of Aylesbury District, Luton, North Herts District, St. Albans District, and Stevenage.
- ✓ Fund priorities:
 - Securing a strong economic recovery
 - Protecting the most disadvantaged in our town
 - Making a child-friendly town
 - Becoming greener and more sustainable town
 - A strong and empowered community
- ✓ Grants of up to £5,000.

BL CF

Fund specific

Near Neighbours Fund

www.blcf.org.uk

We do not fund:

- Groups who have provided low quality monitoring on previous grants.
- National organisations (unless clear local benefits).
- Private Limited Companies (except Community Interest Companies - CICs - limited by guarantee).
- Organisations or activities that promote political parties or religion.
- Professional marketing / advertising (unless you can demonstrate that this is only to publicise the funded work to engage beneficiaries).
- Retrospective costs.
- Trips (excluding respite care) and / or fundraising events.

Small Grants Fund

Fund specific Small Grants Fund

www.blcf.org.uk



- ✓ Only for organisations delivering work in Luton.
- ✓ Fund priorities:
 - Securing a strong economic recovery
 - Protecting the most disadvantaged in our town
 - Making a child-friendly town
 - Becoming greener and more sustainable town
 - A strong and empowered community
- ✓ Grants of up to £10,000.
- ✓ Max 15% for core costs / overheads, such as rent and utilities.

BL CF

Fund specific Small Grants Fund

www.blcf.org.uk

We do not fund:

- Groups who have provided low quality monitoring on previous grants.
- National organisations (unless clear local benefits).
- Private Limited Companies (except Community Interest Companies - CICs - limited by guarantee).
- Organisations or activities that promote political parties or religion.
- Professional marketing / advertising (unless you can demonstrate that this is only to publicise the funded work to engage beneficiaries).
- Retrospective costs.
- Trips (excluding respite care) and / or fundraising events.

Whitbread Plc. Chairman's Fund

Fund specific

Whitbread Plc.
Chairman's Fund

www.blcf.org.uk

WHITBREAD PLC

- ✓ Only for organisations delivering work in South Bedfordshire, including; Dunstable, Houghton Regis, Leighton Buzzard, and the surrounding rural communities, as far as the County Boundary to the South West.
- ✓ Fund priorities:
 - Skills and inclusion.
 - The reduction of rural social isolation.
 - Community cohesion.
- ✓ Grants of up to £5,000.

Fund specific Whitbread Plc. Chairman's Fund

www.blcf.org.uk

We do not fund:

- Groups who have provided low quality monitoring on previous grants.
- National organisations (unless clear local benefits).
- Private Limited Companies (except Community Interest Companies - CICs - limited by guarantee).
- Organisations or activities that promote political parties or religion.
- Professional marketing / advertising (unless you can demonstrate that this is only to publicise the funded work to engage beneficiaries).
- Retrospective costs.
- Trips (excluding respite care) and / or fundraising events.



BLCF Website

www.blcf.org.uk



Home News - About Us - Our Impact - Partnerships - Apply





- 1. Read <u>all</u> of the Criteria Document.
- 2. Complete
 Expression of
 Interest (EOI)
 form online.
- 3. Submit by 12pm midday Monday 14th July 2025.

Greener Future Fund

This fund is currently open.





Greener Future Fund

PLEASE NOTE, we reserve the right to close applications early should the fund be heavily subscribed. Please submit your application as soon as you can.

Please read the criteria document here before applying.

LLACE has a goal of achieving net zero for emissions by 2040. As part of their new Greener Future' grant funding they are seeking applications that demonstrate how they can support blodiversity and carbon reduction, through education, innovation programmes and initiatives.

Grants of up to £10,000 are available and will only be considered for those organisations delivering work and operating within a 5-mile radius of the airport.

Higher bids may be considered for exceptional one-off innovation projects.

For more information, please read the criteria document here

Fund Priorities

Please read the criteria document carefully before submitting your Expression of Interest.

The main objectives (summarised) for this fund are:

- · Increasing budgeralty
- Environmental aducation.
- · Reduce carbon emissions.

Applicants will need to demonstrate that their project meets





- 4. EOI applications shortlisted.
- 5. Online meetings.
- 6. Organisations invited to full application by end of Friday 25th July 2025.

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This fund is currently open.





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For more information, please read the criteria document here.

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- 7. Full
 Application
 deadline
 Monday 11th
 Aug 2025.
- 8. Panel meets end Sept.
- 9. Organisations notified of decisions by 30th Sept 2025.

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- In the EOI, present what you do as clearly and simply as you can, and what you need the funding for.
- Do you have a strong case for support or evidence of need?
- READ the criteria most silly mistakes arise here.
- Do a governance MOT get the basics rights (legal structure, trustees / directors, constitution, bank account, safeguarding & equality policies).
- Ask an expert to critically review your finances are they appropriately presented, have you pre-empted any questions?
- Meaningfully engage people with lived experience of the issues your organisation is tackling.

What makes a good application?



- Prioritise partnership working silo working is inefficient and a big red flag for funders.
- Engage with causes of systemic injustice, not just delivery i.e.
 how are you engaging strategically (locally, regionally, nationally)?
- Show your working for every budget line make sure it all adds
 up (literally and metaphorically).
- Develop a convincing project plan follow best practice to show you know what you're doing.
- Ask a 'critical friend' to review your application pre-empt questions and proactively address possible concerns.

What makes a good application?

Wider networks and support available

Bedfordshire CVS www.cvsbeds.org.uk

Luton Council Social Justice Unit www.luton.gov.uk

EOI Deadline

www.blcf.org.uk

12pm midday Monday 14th July 2025.

NO SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS REQUIRED AT EXPRESSION OF INTEREST STAGE.

PLEASE NOTE, we reserve the right to close applications early should the fund be heavily subscribed.

Please complete your application as soon as you can.

Questions?

grants@blcf.org.uk