

Community Grants Scheme Guidelines 2021/22

Grants £501 to £5,000

Please read the following guidelines carefully before completing the application form.

If you have any queries regarding the application process, please contact Jenny Godfrey at the Council:

Call: 01732 227000

Email: grants@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Our Community Grant scheme exists to help voluntary organisations, which provide services, activities or projects that benefit Sevenoaks District residents, focusing on those in greatest need.

In particular, we wish to support services, activities or projects that are delivered with the help of volunteers and that support Sevenoaks District Community Plan priorities set out below.

Please note: We can only accept one application per organisation.

What are the scheme's priorities?

Volunteering:

- Promote, encourage or support volunteers and volunteering as part of a project, service or activity.

Social Inclusion:

- Improve opportunities for vulnerable or elderly people;
- Encourage community participation of excluded or vulnerable groups;
- Improve the wellbeing of local residents.

Community Safety:

- Reduce crime or anti-social behaviour.

Information, Advice, Advocacy and Counselling:

- Provide information, advice, advocacy or counselling to residents when they are in particular need.

Young People:

- Projects, services and activities that encourage participation in local communities or provide positive activities or opportunities for young people.

Who can apply?

You can apply if you deliver services to Sevenoaks District residents in two or more parishes and are one of the following:

- “Not for profit” registered charity
- Youth organisation
- Voluntary organisation
- Community Interest Company.

If your organisation works with children, young people or vulnerable adults, you should have a Safeguarding Policy and staff and volunteers must have enhanced level Disclosure & Barring Service checks and appropriate training.

How much and what can I apply for?

The minimum you can apply for is £501. The most we will award for any one application using this application form is £5,000. If you are looking for less than £501, please refer to the criteria and guidelines for grants up to £500.

The grant can be spent on project costs such as support for volunteers, equipment or premises hire. In addition, you can apply for core running costs that are commensurate with the project, service or activity applied for.

What are the main conditions?

By applying, you are confirming that you comply with the terms and conditions. The main conditions include:

- Your organisation has a constitution
- Your organisation has a bank account with at least two authorised signatories
- Your organisation has an equalities policy in place and is prepared to sign our Equalities Statement
- All appropriate legal agreements, insurances and processes needed to deliver the project are in place, including safeguarding arrangements for children and vulnerable adults
- Any grant you are awarded will be used only for the project set out in your application and will be ring-fenced to help Sevenoaks District residents. It must not be used for any other purpose
- You will be required to submit monitoring for your project with supporting evidence
- All publicity materials and annual reports must acknowledge our support
- Your organisation can only submit one application in any financial year
- Any grant unspent at the year end will be refunded to Sevenoaks District Council.

What we will not fund

We will not fund:

- Projects, services or activities that serve only one parish
- Projects that are primarily the responsibility of another agency or funder, such as the Sevenoaks District Sports Council & Sevenoaks District Arts Council respectively
- Costs for projects, services or activities that your organisation is already delivering in the District as part of an existing contract or service level agreement with another funder
- Costs for projects that have already started or been delivered
- Projects where the beneficiaries are not Sevenoaks District residents
- Private concerns operated as a business
- Organisations seeking to add capital to their reserves
- Local organisations seeking funding for a central HQ
- Religious or political organisations
- Individuals
- Work that should be provided by statutory, educational, health organisations or social services
- Schools or parent/teacher organisations.

How will we assess your project?

The appraisal process will look at:

- Your eligibility to apply;
- The extent to which your project meets the Scheme's priorities;
- How many people will benefit from your project;
- The level of need for the project;
- The level of benefit to Sevenoaks District residents;
- The level of reserves held by your organisation.

When will you know if your application is successful?

The deadline for submitting your completed application form online is 5pm on Friday 13 November 2020. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

During March 2021, we will decide who will receive funding. We will write to you during April 2021 to let you know if your application has been successful.

If you require any assistance, please contact Jenny Godfrey, Community Projects & Funding Officer, on 01732 227000 or by email at grants@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Applications must be completed by the applicant on behalf of the organisation online.

Deadline for completed applications 5pm on Friday 13 November 2020.