



RCF GRANT PROGRAMME FAQs

WHAT DO YOU FUND? WHAT DON'T YOU FUND?

Applicants must be from properly constituted, not-for-profit organisations with an income of less than £500,000. We support projects taking places in villages and towns in rurally isolated areas, where access to service is poor. Projects must be community led, pursuing solutions that improve the viability and resilience of their community.

Types of organisation that we are unable to fund. These include (but are not limited to):

- Care Farms or similar projects where the beneficiaries are drawn from a larger area than just the local community.
- Local Authorities, including Town and Parish Councils.
- Hospitals and Schools.
- Private companies and individuals.
- Youth clubs.
- Uniformed groups such as scouts, guides and sea cadets.
- Sports clubs and associations.

Project types we cannot fund (this is not an exhaustive list):

- Purchase of buildings or land.
- Planning permission/ building regulations.
- Building projects where planning permission is not yet in place.
- Projects taking place in a location where the purchase/ rent agreement is not complete.
- Statutory requirements.
- Technical energy projects where a specialist funder might be more appropriate.
- Projects where our contribution makes up less than 10% of the total cost of the project.
- Projects that aim to promote a religion.
- The purchase of food or refreshments.
- Working capital.
- Re-granting – where the funds will be transferred from you to other organisations or individuals.
- Loans.
- Projects where there may be other, more appropriate funders with a better understanding of the issue. For example, those dealing with:
 - domestic violence
 - migration
 - dementia or elderly care
 - healthcare or mental healthcare provision.

While we can consider applications for village hall and other community asset renovation projects, you will need to clearly demonstrate why this project is needed; that there is no similar provision provided by other assets in your community; and that there is demand from the local community to

have this work done. The evidence required here must be from the wider community, not just from the applicant themselves.

If you are applying for funding for an asset on council owned land, you will need to demonstrate support from the council for the project and a commitment from them to provide long-term maintenance.

RURALITY & POPULATION SIZE

While the RCF does not impose strict limits on population size, we focus our support on remote rural areas, where the project is required due to a lack of alternative services in that locality. Therefore, applications from small villages and towns, or rurally dispersed areas, will likely be prioritised over those from larger towns, which may be better served.

COMMUNITY NEED AND DEPRIVATION

As a rural funder, the RCF recognises that deprivation is often hard to quantify through the usual statistical measures. However, we want to direct funding where it is needed most. Therefore, applications from areas of deprivation, or those that can show how the project will benefit those most in need within an area of wealth disparity, will likely be prioritised over those from more affluent areas.

IF MY PROJECT REQUIRES PERMISSIONS SUCH AS PLANNING CONSENT, DO YOU NEED TO SEE PROOF THAT IT HAS BEEN SECURED?

Whilst we do not need to see proof at the application stage, we may ask to see evidence at a later date - we will be in touch if this is the case. We do not accept projects where planning permission has not already been secured.

WOULD THE RCF FUND ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS?

Yes, if the project aligns with the aims of this grant programme it would be eligible. However, you will need to demonstrate strong demand for this project from the local community and how it will benefit them. If you cannot do so, we recommend looking at other, more closely aligned funders.

WOULD THE RCF FUND WORK LIKE PAINTING, PARKING SPACES OR BUILDING FENCES?

Yes, if there is evidence of need, it would be eligible. However, you will need to demonstrate strong demand for this work from the local community and how it will benefit them.

CAN I APPLY IF I ALREADY HAVE AN ACTIVE GRANT?

You may have two active grants at once. However, there should be no adverse risks relating to the delivery of the first grant. You will need to be able to demonstrate this when asked.

HOW SOON CAN I REAPPLY?

We do not insist on a gap between applications from the same organisation.

DO YOU HAVE APPLICATION DEADLINES?

We have deadlines twice a year, one in spring and one in the Autumn. Dates for these will be announced at least four weeks prior to the opening date, if not before. Check our website or sign up to the RCF newsletter to keep up to date with announcements.

CAN I DISCUSS AN APPLICATION WITH YOU BEFORE I APPLY?

Yes, we are happy to talk through your project beforehand. However, we ask that you have a project ready to discuss, rather than contacting us to help you come up with a suitable idea.

You can get in touch with us via the form on our website where you will be asked to submit a short overview of what you hope to achieve through your project.

DO I HAVE TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM IN ONE SITTING?

No, once you have started your application you will be able to make changes until you are ready to click submit. Just remember to save your application before you leave the page. We also recommend drafting your application on a separate document, just in case.

HOW DO I KNOW THAT MY APPLICATION HAS BEEN SUBMITTED?

Once your application is submitted, you will be redirected to a page confirming submission and explaining the next steps.

CAN I EDIT MY APPLICATION ONCE IT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED?

We are very sorry but we are unable to amend applications once they have been submitted. Please check your application thoroughly prior to submission. Once submitted, you will no longer be able to view your application, so please save a copy for your records.

CAN I SEE EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS THAT HAVE RECEIVED FUNDING?

You can find examples of past and present beneficiaries on our [website](#).

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AS AN APPLICANT/GRANTEE AND HOW DO YOU MAKE DECISIONS?

We prioritise those that fit most closely with the RCF's aim to enhance the viability and sustainability of rural communities. We look for applicants that make a credible case for need and demand in their proposed rural locality, demonstrate their ability to achieve the outcomes intended, and that the project represents value for money.

You must demonstrate demand for the project from the community it will be serving. Grants are heavily assessed on this factor, so if you cannot demonstrate this effectively, we recommend spending time gathering this information before applying. Applications which cannot evidence widespread community support will not be progressed

Applications are initially assessed by the staff team and a long list is presented to our Grants Sub-committee for evaluation and approval. If we decide not to take an application forward, we will let you know as soon as possible.