



Supporting Rural Communities

Top tips for writing your application

- **Read the Guidance.** We provide an explanation of exactly how you should be approaching each section of the application form.
- **Get evidence.** Our grant assessment is heavily weighted on how well you can evidence community demand for your project. If you can't provide adequate data here, we don't recommend applying yet.
 - o A strong response might include:
 - A brief outline of the community, the demographic being targeted and why they require support.
 - A survey of the community with questions and responses that outline why the project or intervention is being proposed, that it is supported by the community, and that it addresses a community issue. Make sure you include how many people took part in the survey, or the data won't be considered usable.
 - Two or three very short testimonials from significant figures in the community (e.g. business owners, voluntary groups, or service users) stating why they support the project.
- **Make sure your risks and activities are well thought through.** Ensure they relate to the project you are describing in your application.
- **Consider if you are ready to apply.** Our programme is extremely oversubscribed, if you think you could gather more information, we recommend waiting and applying at a later date. We know it takes time to complete funding applications, so we want you to be in the strongest position possible when you do so.
- **Speak to the team.** If you are unsure if your project is eligible, or you're wondering whether a particular section of your application could be better, complete the form on our [website](#) to speak to one of the team

Successful projects from Spring 2023

Project	What we liked about it
Countryside Learning Scotland, Highland <i>Increasing awareness of rural career opportunities for young people through rural work experience and training.</i>	This organisation clearly outlined how they are responding to current and emerging need, while providing a scalable initiative. They had a clear delivery plan, with measurable activities and outcomes.



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Chopwell Regeneration CIO ("CRG"), Tyne and Wear <i>Establishing a 'front of house' and 'administration' apprenticeship programme for 2 apprentices, increasing skills, employability and confidence in young people and low skilled adults.</i>	This project demonstrated strong demand from the local community, which was clearly articulated in the evidence section of the application. They also outlined a wide range of additional benefits that would occur, as indirect outcomes of the work they were doing in the local community.
Wingfield Barns Community Interest Company, Suffolk <i>Creating a community shop for everyday essentials and good quality local produce. Operating a cashless trading system where excess produce can be exchanged for shop credit, reducing food waste and encouraging community involvement.</i>	This organisation clearly outlined how important the community shop would be to the village. The project was very well-evidenced and they had made a demonstrable effort to consult local residents for their approval and input by conducting a survey of the community.
Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust, Highland <i>Creating a self-sustaining community enterprise supporting employment, sustaining native species, protecting biosecurity and helping to build a circular economy</i>	This was a particularly innovative project that clearly outlined how the initiative would be sustainable long-term through strong business planning. They also demonstrated additional economic, environmental and social benefits.
North Norfolk Community Transport, Norfolk <i>Combating social exclusion and isolation amongst the elderly living in North Norfolk</i>	This project had significant reach and impact, with strong quantitative and qualitative evidence of need in the form of survey results, monitoring & evaluation data and testimonials from current service users.
The Blackmore Vale Charity, The Vale Pantry, Dorset <i>An outreach programme of food delivery along with a range of help, support and mentoring to help people get back on their feet</i>	This organisation had impressive drive and leadership from a group of local volunteers. The project showed good development of existing services and they explained clearly how important the service was and why the funding was required.