Community Project Fund

Supporting communities with the things that are important to them

Community project fund: We're here to support communities with the things that are important to them and have depending on size and type of project and size of community it serves.

Community Hubs and Grants

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Introduction

Quickline recognises the importance of local groups, and organisations in delivering on priorities in local communities, which in turn help to make your communities an excellent place to live, work and play.

We're here to support communities with the things that are important to them and have a fund of up to ££££ depending on size and type of project and size of community it serves.

You can apply for funding to deliver new or existing community projects that support your communities.

Quickline has funding available to:

1. Encourage and support communities who wish to strengthen their local community through the provision of facilities, events, activities or services to local children and young people, families, and adults of all ages
2. Encourage and support voluntary groups to run existing facilities, services, and activities
3. Encourage town and parish councils to run existing and new services
4. Support and enable talented people to progress their development and realise their full potential in the field of sport, arts and culture
5. Digital inclusion and upskilling through technology
6. Activities that improve educational attainment (PHSE, STEM, English, Maths)

Our aim

At Quickline we thrive for the communities we engage and connect with

Through the projects we support, we aim to:

- build strong relationships in and across communities
- support communities to thrive
- help to improve the places and spaces that matter to communities
- help more people to reach their potential, by supporting them at the earliest possible stage
- support people, communities and organisations that are facing increased demands and challenges as a direct result of the cost-of-living crisis by identify key projects and offer support
- support and deliver on social values

Who can apply for the fund?

Although we would love to support every project, we are only able to accept those applications from areas we are building. If you are not sure, please contact us or check our website for more details. www.quickline.co.uk/

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Organisations

The fund will support the following organisations if they are non-profit making and have social aims:

You can apply if your organisation is a:

- Community hubs (inc Village / Town halls)
- voluntary and community organisation
- constituted group or club
- registered charity
- charitable incorporated organisation (CIO)
- not-for-profit company
- community interest company (CIC)
- community benefit society
- junior and youth groups / teams
- charitable bodies
- trusts
- co-operatives
- industrial and provident societies
- not for profit constituted organisations
- town and parish councils.

Schools

We are happy for schools to apply as long as your project benefits and involves the communities around the school or help and improve educational attainment learning new skills and development that would not normally be covered by school curriculum. An example of the sort of school project we could fund:

- Things that would be seen as extras to the school's normal curriculum activities that involves and benefits the wider community
- Activities that improve educational attainment
- Encourages teamwork and development

Any profits made from such projects must go back to the school to help fund other projects and or enables extra upskilling and social value to the project and stakeholders involved. If you're not sure please contact us for further details and a chat.

Your project should involve your community

People understand what's needed in their communities better than anyone, especially during these unprecedented times. This is why we want to work with you to understand what is needed and support projects that:

- involve people and communities from the start
- build on people's strengths
- are connected in their community.

Think about what you can do to find out what's important to people in your community. For example, surveys, meetings, telephone calls, conversations with helper agencies and engaging with stakeholders.

You should also think about encouraging people who benefit from your project to get more involved. For example, they could become trustees or volunteers, or you could find ways to employ them.

Your project focuses

When we assess all projects, we're looking for projects where the aim is to strengthen your community in some way, be an enabler to offer something to all in your area.

What we mean by strengthening your community

We know most projects are good for communities generally. But we're looking for projects that do a little more, by bringing your community together.

For example, Dance is good exercise, so it promotes health (which is great). But we're looking at how that activity strengthens the community too.

- Maybe your project helps the community with social isolation. Or the project might aim to move young people away from anti-social behaviour, upskill and develop for later life employment.
- Digital skills for life and how to use technology such as APPs
- It could be as simple as a community orchard
- Maybe your local football team needs a new sponsor. Or maybe your local foodbank needs donations.

Ask how does it help your community?

Social values

Our work with communities will also feed in to our overall Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) policies and priorities around our Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) as well as our Social Value strategy.

The Public Services (Social Value) Act came into force on 31 January 2013. It requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic, and environmental benefits.

So, what is Social Value; in simple terms, Social Value is the value an organisation contributes to society beyond a reported profit. Where profit is measured in standard accounting terms, Social Value is measured by actions. Social Value is not just a check box it creates real impact and change.

Social value themes:

- Tackling Economic Inequality Create New Businesses, new Jobs and New skills and increase supply chain resilience & capacity
- Fighting Climate Change Effective stewardship of the environment
- Equal Opportunity Reduce the disability employment gap and Tackle workforce inequality
- Wellbeing Improve health and Wellbeing

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- Covid 19 Recovery Help local communities to manage and recover from the impact of COVID-19

Community project fund

Selecting the right project will be assessed case by case via the completed application form that will be placed on our community webpages – links and copies can also be emailed out as part of our engagement.

A form will be created to enable Quickline to understand the project and to ascertain the vital information needed to measure the value for money and Social Value each identified and applied for project gives, we will do this by entering the details into our Social Value engine which will give a rated score.

A certain criterion will be set and must be reached by the applicant to be accepted for a grant.

Criteria

The criteria used should be fair and achievable, but Quickline must search for best practice and value for money and projects that yield the best social value score possible.

- Value for money – how much the community get for the value of grant given
- Is the project needed and will it help with community
- Is aligned to one or more social value themes
- Size of community that benefits the project
- ESG and SDG markers give added weight to the project (internal)

Validation

All applicants must be validated as a true agreed eligible organisation. Bank accounts must be validated and not sole use. Headed paper or email. Grants cannot be released until Quickline are satisfied and checks have been completed and validated.

- A breakdown of project costs and invoices and receipts provided
- Validated email address
- Charity number if applicable

Application process

It is important that we have sound governance around the application process initial introduction to the scheme will be announced within the engagement introductions to the local governing bodies such as Parish and Town councils. A short description and link will be provided to enable first generation of awareness.

1. **Application:** Interested parties must complete an application form via our website or by contacting our community engagement team who will direct all applicants to the website or if required ensure they get a paper copy to fill out. The application form will require details about the community hub's location, contact details and information regarding the hub's current usage and the intended use of the full fibre connection.

Applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and acceptance into the program will be at our sole discretion, **all decisions are final**.

2. **Selection:** Applications will be reviewed and assessed based on a number of criteria, including the number of people served by the project, the projects community impact, and the quality of its proposed use, and the overall suitability of the community project as a participant.

3. **Acceptance:** The acceptance of the community project fund scheme will be based on the application and selection process and agreement to Quicklines monitoring of growth and success via annual reporting, increase of community usage and promotion of the project.

Monitoring and assessing success

It is vital we monitor the success of our Community Hub connection scheme; this can be monitored at local level and can be assessed on the following criteria:

The Community project fund scheme feeds in to our overall EGS strategy and policies and is aligned to the priorities for both internal and external stakeholders within Local public and private sectors:

It is essential the project committee report success in an annual report to Quickline, these reports will be used to assess the impact our fund has had. And ongoing availability of potential further funding schemes.