

Essex Community Foundation

Meet the Funder

Mid Essex

28 April 2026



Who we are

- We are a place-based funder supporting community groups and organisations in Essex, Southend and Thurrock.
- We support a wide variety of organisations with a particular interest in grassroots groups, responding to social welfare needs within their communities.
- We manage over 200 funds on behalf of individuals, companies, charitable trusts and statutory organisations.



What we do

- Grantmaking – provide grants community organisations working across Essex
- Thrive Programme – a programme supporting strategic development of organisations through mentoring, groups sessions and consultancy support
- Amplifying Voices – Community Listening Projects and collaborative work with the VCS and statutory partners to champion and highlight the value of the voluntary sector
- Foundation Hub – A free to hire workspace in Chelmsford for charities and community groups that we have supported

What we fund

- Core and project costs (some funds will support capital work)
- Locally based organisations working within the communities. National organisations if they can demonstrate strong links to the local community.
- On average grants are £5,000 - £7,000
- We have limited funding available for individuals. If you work with disadvantaged children and young people we would be happy to discuss this with you.



Our Funds

- General / Rolling Programme

- An application is made to ECF and we match your application to the most suitable fund(s).
- An application can be made at anytime
- One grant at a time from our rolling programme

- Specific Funds / Programmes

- Has additional criteria above ECF's standard eligibility
- There will be a deadline for applications
- May have additional requirements or monitoring in place
- Funds with deadlines to apply are advertised on our website, social media and E-Newsletter.

e.g. High Sheriffs' Fund - Open for applications in October with Deadline to apply 1 December. Applications must demonstrate a link to community safety.

Eligibility

- Be delivering work in Essex
- Be a non-profit organisation
- Have at least 3 unrelated trustees or directors with no significant control held by an individual.
- Be able to provide the following documents:
 - Governing Document
 - Equal Opportunities Policy
 - Safeguarding Policy
 - Latest annual accounts (management accounts or first year's budget if you are a new organisation)
 - Recent bank statement or paying in slip



Funding Request Journey



Speak to a member of the team



Submit an application and supporting documents



Assessment completed by a grant's assessor



Assessment peer reviewed



Considered by a fundholder or panel



Offer email sent, detailing any conditions



Grant paid to organisation



Complete grant report once monies fully spent (standard deadline 13 months after payment)

Assessment Categories

Organisation

- Governance
- Financial Management
- Policy suitability
- Capacity

Project/Service

- Evidence of need
- Community Benefit
- Community involvement
- Duplication of services



Find out more

For more information about our work, or to apply to ECF, please visit:

Website: essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk

Facebook: [@EssexFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/EssexFoundation)

LinkedIn: [Essex Community Foundation](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Essex-Community-Foundation)

Instagram: [@Essex_CF](https://www.instagram.com/Essex_CF)

Grants Team Contact Details:

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[Book a call with a grants officer](#)

