

The National Lottery Community Fund



Jaymie-Lee Tapsell
Witham
28/04/2026



Session Content

- Who we are
- The difference we want to make
- What funding is available & how to apply
- Questions



The National Lottery Community Fund



- National Lottery players contribute around £30 million to good causes every week
- The National Lottery Community Fund distributes over **£700m a year** to communities across the UK
- Largest single source of funding for community activities in the UK
- In the London, South East and East region we have 4,285 live grants totalling £473million pounds



Our funding in your area – Essex & Herts

**430 live grants
totalling £55.4m**

- **Reaching Communities** funds £51m across 168 organisations
- **Awards for All** funds £4.4m across 262 organisations



It starts with community



Visit the website
to see:

[Our Strategy](#)

[Our ambitions for
our funding in
England](#)

Our community led-missions



Funding Available

National Lottery Awards for All
(£300-£20,000)

Reaching Communities
(Above £20,001)

All applications should go through the website unless you have specific communication or accessibility requirements.



Who can apply?

You can apply if your organisation is a:

- registered charity
- constituted voluntary or community group/organisation
- not-for-profit company or Community Interest Company
- statutory body such as a local authority, council or school.

We can't accept applications from:

- Individuals or sole traders
- Organisations that don't have at least two trustees who aren't married / in a civil partnership / long-term relationship, living at the same address, or related by blood.

If not listed, please check our website to see if your organisation is eligible - www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk



What can you spend the money on?

- Organisation running costs
- Equipment & materials
- One-off events
- Staff costs
- Training costs
- Transport
- Utilities
- Volunteer expenses
- Land, building or refurbishment projects



On Reaching Communities we also fund organisational development costs, including cost to help you become more environmentally sustainable



National Lottery Awards for All

(£300 - £20,000)



National Lottery Awards for All



- Grants from £300 up to £20,000 for up to two years
- Can only hold one grant at a time and for a maximum of £20,000 within a 12-month period
- Prioritises groups with lower incomes
- One-stage online application process - apply at any time

Please note, Awards for All is one of our busiest programmes and we are currently experiencing very high levels of demand



We can fund projects that do at least one of these things:

- Bringing people together to build strong relationships in and across communities
- 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 facing more demands and challenges because of the cost-of-living crisis



- 1. What would you like to do?**
(50 - 300 words)
- 2. How does your project meet our funding priorities?**
(50-150 words)
- 3. How does your project involve your community?**
(50-200 words)



Reaching Communities (over £20,001)



Reaching Communities

- Grants over £20,001, running for up to 5 years
- Two-stage application process
- Applications are online with other formats available
- Requests should be proportionate to organisation's income and experience





We will fund projects that:

1. Support places, people or communities experiencing poverty, disadvantage or discrimination
2. Support people and communities to shape the decisions that affect their lives
3. Align strongly with at least one of our missions



Priority 1

Supporting those most in need



To do this we will prioritise:

- Places with higher levels of poverty, disadvantage or discrimination
- Communities that are least set up to help and support people
- Projects or organisations supporting people or communities experiencing poverty, disadvantage or discrimination.
- Projects that work to address barriers to participation



Priority 2

Supporting communities to shape the decisions that affect their lives

To do this we will prioritise projects that involve your community. For example:

- Meaningfully involving the community in designing, developing and delivering your project
- Your organisation being run and led by people with personal experience of the issues you help deal with
- Supporting people to influence decisions that affect them
- Communities having real control over things that are important to them



Priority 3

Our Missions

We will also prioritise projects that fit best with at least one of our missions

Come together

by providing inclusive places, spaces and activities. Especially for communities where people are least able to come together

Help Children & Young People to Thrive

by developing positive social and emotional skills

Be healthier

by addressing health inequalities. And helping prevent poor health

Be Environmentally Sustainable

by engaging with climate issues and having a positive environmental impact. And improving access to quality natural spaces



Priority 3

Our Missions



We will prioritise projects that fit best with at least one of our missions.

We're more likely to fund work that achieves one or two of these missions really well.



Come together

- Providing inclusive places, spaces and activities (either physical or virtual)
- Especially in communities where people are least able to come together



Help children and young people thrive

- Developing positive social and emotional skills.
- Providing safe spaces and relationships they can trust.
- Involving them, and their families, in the decisions that affect their lives
- Helping prevent issues before they happen

Be healthier

- Supporting people most affected by health inequalities
- Supporting people who've experienced health inequalities to influence the health system
- Helping prevent issues before they happen

Be environmentally sustainable

- Empowering people to engage with climate issues and adapt to the impacts of a changing climate
- Taking part in activities to make a positive environmental impact. Like reducing carbon emissions or creating space for wildlife
- Helping communities to have access to quality nature. By increasing the amount and quality of natural space for wildlife. Meaning that people can experience nature around them, and that more varieties of wildlife can thrive

There are four questions, each with a word limit of 750 words

1. What would you like to do?
2. Who will benefit from your project?
3. How does your project support people and communities to shape the decisions that affect their lives?
4. Why are you the right organisation to do this work?





If your proposal is invited to the next stage, we will ask you to submit the following:

- A more detailed project plan
- Financial information about your organisation
- A project budget

A member of our funding team will work with you make sure we have all the information we need to make a decision.

On average it takes around 9 months to get our funding.

Grant set up

- Return your offer letter and recent bank statement within one month
- Start your grant within six months
- Grant induction meeting, explaining our terms & conditions.

End of year & grant reporting

- How you've involved people from your community
- What difference the funding has made
- What you're learning
- How you're spending the money

[Find out more about managing your grant](#)



Other Funding in England



- We will be launching other funding programmes in the future. These are all detailed in [our vision for funding in England](#)
- We will also be developing a [new Partnership Approach](#) in England to help deliver our strategy
- To get updates please visit [News](#)

Questions

Contact us

Jaymie-Lee.Tapsell@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk

Advice Line: 0345 4 10 20 30, or
general.enquiries@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk
<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/>