

# LiveWest Small Grant Guidance for Community Spaces funding for groups

The following grant programme focusing on Community Spaces is open to application in two rounds. The first in autumn 2020 and the second in spring 2021.

## Timetable – Autumn 2020 - Round 1

Round opens	5 October
Submission Closure date	13 November
Assessment and clarification period	16 – 27 November
Funding award	30 November
Release of funding	7 December

## Timetable – Spring 2021 - Round 2

Round opens	11 January
Submission Closure date	12 February
Assessment and clarification period	15- 26 February
Funding award	1 March
Release of funding	8 March

### **Background**

Coronavirus (Covid-19) has had a dramatic impact on our customers and the communities they live in. Alongside the crisis and hardship support LiveWest offers for its customers, LiveWest is offering funding for organisations or community groups to help communities following lockdown.

We are specifically seeking applications which target Community Spaces. We are defining Community Spaces as community centres, communal rooms or other managed spaces used by the community and providing direct benefit to LiveWest residents.

LiveWest works in partnership with a wide range of community organisations to maintain or develop new viable community spaces. Many existing community spaces have been hit hard by Coronavirus (Covid-19) and are now reconfiguring and changing what they do, and how they deliver.

**The aim of the funding** is to support sustainable Community Spaces that will benefit LiveWest residents and the broader community. We recognise that Community Spaces are an important asset to the community, and we want to help them continue to operate and deliver projects and activities that make a real difference to the wellbeing of our customers.

**We have a total grant pot of £25,000 from which to support a selection of diverse Community Spaces across our geography. We anticipate grants to be for amounts between £2,000 and £5,000.**

## **Examples of what the funding could cover**

### **Coronavirus (Covid-19)**

We are keen to focus support on Community Spaces that have been affected by Coronavirus (Covid-19) where measures have been identified to help them get up and running again.

### **Changes to the building**

Practical changes needed to allow a space to be used to benefit the community. This could include signage, changes to layout, sanitising or PPE. We are unable to fund retrospective works.

### **Projects or services that have been postponed**

Specific costs needed to allow current or postponed community activities or projects linked to a community space to operate.

### **Adapting for sustainability**

We recognise that some Community Spaces have had a fall in income or funding since the onset of Coronavirus (Covid-19). Effective and robust business planning is important during this time of uncertainty. This funding could help with specific costs to support organisational change and adaptation to allow community spaces with a demonstrable fall in income or funding (and a clear plan outlining how they plan to operate sustainably in the future) to continue to operate and deliver community outcomes and projects. Funding could also relate to support for business planning, upskilling staff or volunteers, or capacity building of an organisation.

### **New spaces**

We are keen to support new Community Spaces that provide a clear benefit to LiveWest residents and can demonstrate a sustainable plan of how they will operate in a Coronavirus (Covid-19) context.

### **Other costs**

Funding to cover other costs will be considered where there is a clear and demonstrable direct benefit to LiveWest residents, and where costs specifically relate to a Community Space.

## **Who can apply?**

- Existing Community Spaces, facilities or hubs that are used to deliver community focused outcomes or projects.
- New Community Spaces.
- Formal and informal groups or organisations that utilise a specific community space.

## **Additional guidance points**

- ✓ Projects and outcomes delivered from Community Spaces must directly benefit LiveWest customers and may also benefit the wider community.
- ✓ Applicants should demonstrate how they will provide specific benefits or services for LiveWest residents.
- ✓ Specific items and costings need to be identified.

## **General notes**

All funding awards are made on a discretionary basis and an application does not guarantee funding will be given or that it will be given at the requested amount. All applications will be judged on a case by case basis.

All applicants will be expected to measure the impact of their work and report on how the grant has specifically benefited LiveWest customers. This may include providing feedback on the number of LiveWest customers are accessing the Community Space or specific projects or activities.

We will normally respond to a grant request within 10 working days, but any further clarifications or questions may delay this process so please ensure you include as much information as possible.

Please include any additional information that will support your application including any maps, diagrams or other materials that helps us understand how the need was identified, the response and how it will benefit LiveWest customers.

We are unable to fund retrospective works.

**Work outside of the above priorities will be considered under our small grants programme which limits awards to under £1,000.**

We will not normally award grants for speculative work from established organisations where there is not demonstrable need within communities from residents and it cannot be demonstrated that residents have been consulted or engaged in the co-design of projects/initiatives or activities.

Community social inclusion initiatives that demonstrate compliance with LiveWest and Government social distancing advice will be considered but at this stage we will not consider mass gatherings or events, or celebrations including fun days.

Please email grant applications to: [grants@livewest.co.uk](mailto:grants@livewest.co.uk) by the closing date.