General eligibility criteria

Criteria that apply to all OCF grant programmes

To be eligible to apply for funding from Oxfordshire Community Foundation (OCF), your group **must**:

- Be a **registered charity**, **constituted group** or **social enterprise/CIC**
- Be **based in Oxfordshire** and/or have **majority of beneficiaries in Oxfordshire**
- Have at least **three trustees** or **committee members** who are not related to each other
- Have a **bank account in its own name** with at least two unrelated signatories, open for three months or more
- Be open to people of **all religions** and political affiliations, and must not proselytise

The following types of group/project are **NOT** eligible:

- National charities (or financially integrated branches)
- Public bodies or statutory organisations (including parish/town councils)
- Charities where the beneficiaries are solely animals
- Individuals
- Projects that are the purchase of buses or other vehicles
- Large-scale construction projects (including fixed structures e.g. playgrounds)
- Projects where the costs have already been incurred

If the above criteria do not apply to your project, unfortunately you are not eligible to apply for funding from OCF.

If you are eligible, you will need to select from the following grants programmes:

£500-£10,000	£10,000–£50,000
Isolation & Loneliness	*Step Change*
Comprehensive online application	Two-stage application process
• For projects that will help combat isolation and loneliness and recover from the adverse consequences of the pandemic and lockdowns • Core costs, project, or programme work • Part of our Community Resilience Funding	• Transformational change for organisations with strong leadership • Medium to long term • Focus on boosting internal infrastructure or mergers • Systems/premises upgrades or training • Marketing or research

Criteria by grant programme

	Isolation & Loneliness	Step Change Fund
Grant size	£500-£10,000	£10,000–£50,000
Annual group income	Under £1,000,000	£75,000–£750,000
Group established	Minimum 12 months	Three years or more
Types of work funded	Core costs, project or programme work	Mergers, systems/premises upgrades, training, marketing or research
Next closing date	Tuesday 2nd November 2021 at midday	Thursday 16th September 2021 at midday
What to do now	Find out more at oxfordshire.org/ isolation-loneliness	Read the application guidelines at oxfordshire.org/ step-change

Notes

Additional programmes

Alongside our core programmes outlined above, OCF also occasionally supports additional grants programmes on behalf of other funders, such as the Big Lottery or the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. For information about these programmes, please **sign up to our updates** via the form on our website.

Running costs

Staff/running costs can be funded from any of these grant programmes, as long as you can demonstrate a clear budget, how the costs match the programme's objectives and your plan for how these costs will be funded after the life of the OCF grant. Sessional costs for leaders or trainers can be factored into a project budget.

Tips and hints

The panel will assess more favourably grant applications where:

- The project is in an area of **deprivation** or specifically tackles problems identified in one of OCF's **Needs Analysis Reports**
- There is evidence of **stability** and good governance
- The **outcomes** are clear
- The **budget** is well thought through and itemised
- **Other funding** has been secured
- **Volunteers** are being used to deliver impact
- The group is **collaborating** with other organisations and stakeholders, or there is **no other provider** of the work.

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