

Strategic Partnership Grants - (Single or Multi-Year Grants above £15,000 per annum)

Grant Guidance

MK Community Foundation is looking to partner with organisations that have deep local knowledge, operate at scale, and play a key role in tackling the city's most complex issues.

Each year, our Strategic Partnership Grants focus on key themes highlighted by our Vital Signs MK report and your proposal must demonstrate the need for your project and how it will address issues relating to one or more of those themes.

- Before committing to an application, please make sure that your organisation and project are eligible for funding and that you have read [our grants policy](#) in full.
- We recommend that you speak to a member of the Philanthropy Team before submitting an expression of interest.
- Please make sure that you submit an expression of interest at **least 6 months** in advance of your project start date.

Grant Size

Single or multi-year grants above £15,000.

Strategic Partnership Grants can part fund or fully fund projects.

Grant Deadlines and Process

There are no deadlines for Strategic Partnership Grants. Organisations applying must follow this process:

- 1) To express interest, email applications@mkcommunityfoundation.co.uk with a short summary of your project and why you think a Strategic Partnership could be the right fit.

- 2) Your EOI will be reviewed by the MKCF team and if successful at this stage, you will be invited to submit a full proposal with an agreed submission deadline.
- 3) Alongside your proposal, you must also provide an organisation business/project plan, full project budget and financial plan.
- 4) Proposals are then taken to a quarterly 'Philanthropy and Grants Committee' meeting who will decide on whether your proposal is successful and any bespoke partnership grant conditions.
- 5) Successful proposals are then presented to the MKCF Trustee Board for approval.

What Types of Projects Can It Support?

To apply for a Strategic Partnership Grant your project must be addressing issues relating to one or more of the following areas:

- Violence Against Women and Girls
- Arts & Heritage
- Serious Youth Crime Prevention
- Or any of the areas supported by our Margaret Powell Fund:
 - Supporting older people living with frailty
 - Working with disabled people of all ages
 - Fostering integration and social connection
 - Supporting people of all ages experiencing mental health challenges

Please refer to how your project will address issues highlighted in your application.

Who Can Apply?

We can accept applications from constituted, not-for-profit organisations supporting beneficiaries from Milton Keynes:

- Unincorporated associations
- Registered charities
- Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs)
- Sports clubs
- Faith groups - *where the primary project activity is community-focussed and not for the promotion of religion. Beneficiaries must not be required to take part in religious activities, and no individual may be excluded from benefiting on the grounds of faith, religion or lack of belief.*

- Community Interest Companies (CICs) – *where the funding supports the community aspect of the CIC, not the commercial aspect. This must be pre-agreed with the Philanthropy Team before the Expression of Interest is submitted.*

Finances

- If your organisation's income is over £5,000 at the time of application, your organisation must be registered with The Charity Commission or the relevant regulator (e.g. Companies House, CIC regulator or Financial Conduct Authority) or be in the process of registration. Evidence of this must be submitted with your application. Guidance on setting up a charitable organisation can be found at www.gov.uk/setting-up-charity
- Organisations with over six months' free reserves should be prepared to explain why they need to hold this level. ("Free reserves" do not include designated or restricted funds).

Governance

All applicants must provide the following documentation:

- A governing document/constitution that details the name and purpose of the organisation. It must also include an appropriate asset lock and confirmation that the organisation is not for profit. (The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) has advice on [writing a constitution](#). GOV.UK also provides information on [how to write your charity's governing document](#).)
- Trustee/Management Committee details – a list of names and addresses of your management (governing) committee; we require a minimum of three contacts.
- Most recent Annual Accounts/Financial records covering a minimum of past 12 month (For organisations that have existed for under a year, a bank statement will suffice).
- A recent bank statement to show the bank account is in the organisation's name (as written in your constitution/governing document). The account must have at least

two unrelated signatories.

- EDI/Equal Opportunities policy covering nine protected characteristics as outlined in the Equality Act 2010.
- Child and Adult Safeguarding Policies with details of the local lead person (including Vulnerable Adult Policy, if applicable)
- Evidence of expected cost such as quotes when requested by the Philanthropy Team.

What the Grant Will Not Cover

- Statutory activities, or purchase of equipment that will become the property of a statutory body.
- Animal welfare projects.
- Retrospective costs (anything that has already been bought or committed to). Rare exceptions may be made where deposits are required. (Must be agreed in advance by a member of the Philanthropy Team).
- Medical research or treatment.
- Deficit funding or repayment of loans.
- Unspecified expenditure.
- Contingencies and miscellaneous expenses.
- Events or activities where the primary purpose is to fundraise.
- Redistributing funds to other charitable organisations (except for specific partnership arrangements).
- Food and drink (unless vital to the project).
- Travel and accommodation (unless vital to the project).

Decision Making

- Successful proposals are presented to the MKCF Trustee Board for final sign off.
- MK Community Foundation Staff do not approve any Strategic Partnership Grants.

Strategic Partnership Grant Criteria

To be successful, applicants must address the **criteria** when providing project details and primary impact:

- **Need and Demand**

- The group has provided strong evidence that there is a need for this project.
- This need is not being satisfactorily met locally by other agencies, i.e. this is not a duplication of an existing service.
- This is the best way to meet this need.
- There are limited opportunities for these funds to be raised elsewhere and/or there are not more appropriate other avenues for this funding to be sought
- There is a need for this project to be supported by grant funding, e.g. the applicant organisation could not reasonably fund this from free reserves or other means.

- **Reach and Impact**

- The project and all associated costs and activities are relevant to the need it is trying to address.
- The applicant is properly qualified to deliver these services to the relevant individuals in the community and possesses the skill or established connections to ensure they are delivered effectively.
- The project will serve under-funded geographical areas and/or communities.
- The application shows an understanding of and plans for effective outreach.
- The group has addressed barriers to provision (e.g. cost, access, cultural divisions).
- The project will serve a hard to reach demographic and there is evidence that the group will be able to work well with this demographic.
- The project will build useful skills and resources for the local community.
- There are other long-term benefits to the community from this project.

- **Sustainability**

- The applicant can evidence that their group has begun to strategize / investigate long term funding options that will enable this project to continue past the end of this grant.
- There is a realistic expectation that long term funding can be secured following the end of this grant.
- If the project is not long term, the costs and financial projections offered are realistic and sustainable for this project. 'Good value for money.'

- **Diversity and Inclusion**

- The project is fully inclusive and has considered differing needs within Milton Keynes' diverse communities.
- Reflects an awareness of the nine protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation).

- **Partnerships**

- The project must show collaboration with other organisations where objectives are similar.
- The project brings together several groups to maximise expertise.
- The project is innovative and/or unique in the area and is it a creative approach to addressing a need.

How To Express Interest

To express your interest email applications@mkcommunityfoundation.co.uk with a short summary of your project, and why you think a Strategic Partnership could be the right fit.

It is advised that all previous grant monitoring is submitted before you make a new application to any programme.



Need More Help?

If after reading the guidelines, you have any questions or need some help completing your expression of interest, please get in touch with our team:

Email: applications@mkcommunityfoundation.co.uk