

# LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

MAY 2026

## AVAILABLE FUNDS

### Making Local Life Better

Open all year round, Making Local Life Better does what it says on the tin! It supports locally run and managed groups across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to make local lives better, with a focus on:

- Arts, Culture & Heritage
- Education, training, and employment
- Environment, wildlife, and biodiversity
- Equity, inclusion, and fairness
- Health (physical and mental) including social isolation, addiction issues and caring responsibilities
- Poverty and disadvantage, including homelessness, housing, food and fuel poverty, debt advice.
- Sport and recreation
- Stronger communities and cohesion, including refugee support

Although it should be noted that during the current economic climate projects focused on poverty & disadvantage, health, and inclusion are prioritised.

Grants up to £3,000

Assessment takes on average 12 weeks.

Next panel dates 11th August and 10th November 2026.

## OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING OR SUPPORT

### Martin Trust for Young People

Founded in 1995, the Trust seeks to support individual young people and those organisations who provide activities and learning opportunities across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

Young people may apply to the trust for grants between £100 and £250 (exceptionally £500). They must be aged 12-21 years, or up to 25 years for individuals with additional support needs. They must:

- live in Leicester, Leicestershire or Rutland
- have an outstanding skill or talent
- have an opportunity to gain an experience
- are disadvantaged
- have disabilities, learning difficulties, special educational needs or mental health issues

Voluntary organisations may be awarded grants up to £2,000 to support their work with young people aged 12 and 21 years (up to 25 years for individuals with additional support needs). They must be operating in Leicester, Leicestershire or Rutland and be making a significant contribution to benefit young people.

Activities might include music, dance, drama or sports.

<https://www.martintrust.org/>

### Active Together

Active Together have a great Funding Finder resource on their website designed to help clubs, groups, organisations and individuals across Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland search for funding for physical activity and sport. You can use the filters to narrow down your search and find the most suitable funding depending on your needs.

<https://www.active-together.org/fundingfinder>

## Q&A

**Each fund managed by the Community Foundation will have tailored grant guidance documents available at <https://www.llrcommunityfoundation.org.uk/our-grants/apply-for-a-grant/>**

**Responses to questions below relate to the Community Foundations flagship Making Local Life Better programme.**

### Can we apply for a small contribution to a much larger project?

Yes, although please note Making Local Life Better is unlikely to support request of a contribution to a project costing £15,000+. You are better to ask us for something specific, so if you are asking for staffing core funding don't ask us to contribute £3,000 towards a total bill of £30,000+ - instead ask us for x number of days to organise something specific.

### What do you mean by 'significant control'?

The Community Foundation does not fund organisations where an individual holds 50+ significant control. Please check your record at Companies House before submitting your application.

The term "Significant Influence or Control" applies if someone is regularly involved in running the company, can direct the board, or whose recommendations are consistently followed. In Private Limited Companies an individual with significant control would hold the majority of shares.

Companies House will ask CICs, CIOs, and companies limited by guarantee to make a statement as to 'significant control', options include

- **Ownership of Shares:** Holds more than 25% (up to 50%, more than 50% but less than 75%, or 75% or more) of the shares
- **Voting Rights:** Holds more than 25% of the voting rights (up to 50%)
- **Board Control:** Holds the right to appoint or remove the majority of the board of directors.

To be eligible for the Community Foundation funding your Companies House record should either state:

- That no individual has significant control, or
- Director holds more than 25%, but less than 50% voting rights

If you are unsure, please ask before spending time writing and submitting an application.

Share any questions you want answering with [grants@llrcommunityfoundation.org.uk](mailto:grants@llrcommunityfoundation.org.uk)

## FIND MORE INFORMATION [HERE](#)

### SWEF Enterprise Fund

Open all year round, targeted support to young people aged 18-30 years who are looking to set up or develop their own business. Funding can support training, equipment, new materials and products.

Grants from £500-£2,000.

Assessment takes on average 2 weeks.

## CASE STUDY

**Grantee:** The Cooke Foundation

**Donor:** Anchor Foundation through the Making Local Life Better Programme

**Grant awarded:** £3,000

The project used grant funding to maintain a community pantry, combining surplus food from FareShare with top-up purchases to ensure access to essential and fresh items. It also funded staff co-ordination and equipment, enabling smooth operations and a well-managed, welcoming space.

A quote from one of the service users demonstrates the impact of a small grant "People think it's just tins and bread. It's not. It's hope, it's dignity, it's connection. If this place wasn't here, I don't know what we'd do. It's kept me going."

## TOP TIPS

### Top tips for writing a budget

An unclear budget is one of the quickest ways to raise concerns and reduce your chances of grant success. So do take some time to consider exactly what you need and what you are asking for. Please remember, Making Local Life Better does fund running costs, project costs, and small capital costs - New and existing activity. However, Making Local Life Better is currently oversubscribed so we are prioritising funding projects where:

- We are funding a minimum of 50% of the request
- There is a clear plan to raise any additional funds, or those funds have already been secured
- The applicant has less than 9 months free reserves
- The applicant has a turnover below £1,000,000

When submitting your budget application, please make sure:

- It adds up!
- You list the real costs of delivering your activity, either using quotes or your previous experience. If you are too vague and roughly round up figures it will reduce confidence during the assessment process.
- Break things down, explain how you worked out the figures. It is much better to say 10 x 2hr sessions @ £150 than just put a total.
- If you are only asking for part funding, be clear how you will raise other money and whether or not this is confirmed.