

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

SEPTEMBER 2026

OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING OR SUPPORT

In every edition we seek to share other sources of funding and sources of support for local voluntary and community organisations.

North West Leicestershire District Council's new Legacy Fund

Launched July 2026, the Legacy Fund will provide grants to support projects that:

- Bring communities together
- Improve health, wellbeing and inclusion
- Enhance local facilities and spaces
- Support environmental and climate improvements
- Create opportunities for people of all ages

Supporting both revenue (up to £25,000) and capital applications (up to £250,000). For more information visit [Legacy Grant Fund - North West Leicestershire District Council](#)

Samworth Brothers Community Opportunity Fund

For groups seeking to help disadvantaged young people (up to 18 years) to become more active. Examples of the types of activities they prefer to fund include projects to get more people qualified or trained, the ability to put on new events or new sessions for different age groups/gender/ethnicity, plans to extend to new locations to reach more young people and other schemes to improve young people's experience of actively taking part in either sport and recreation, or learning about and being engaged in, food, nutrition and cooking.

For more information visit [Community Opportunity Fund | Samworth Brothers](#)

AVAILABLE FUNDS

NEW EEM Community Spaces

We are delighted to launch a new £100,000 grant programme supporting our essential community spaces across Leicester, Leicestershire, Rutland, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, Derby & Derbyshire.

Grants up to £5,000 are available for:

1. Decarbonisation and energy efficiency improvements
2. Accessibility improvements that enable more people to use the building
3. Building improvements or adaptations that increase inclusion and help the venue better meet community needs
4. Capital works or equipment that strengthen the long-term sustainability of the venue

Closing date 9am Monday 19th October 2026. Grant decisions made by 26th November 2026.

For more information click [HERE](#)

Q&A

How do I calculate my organisation's turnover?

Your organisation's turnover is the total income it receives from its normal activities during your financial year, before any costs or expenses are deducted. For example, this could include income from grants, contracts, trading activities, membership fees, subscriptions, donations and other fundraising, depending on the nature of your organisation and how your accounts are prepared.

The easiest way to check your turnover is to look at your organisation's most recent annual accounts. If you're unsure which figure to use, check your accounts for the total income figure or speak to the person who manages your organisation's finances.

If your organisation has been operating for less than a full financial year, or your circumstances have changed significantly since your latest accounts, please contact us if you're unsure which figure to provide.

Why does the Community Foundation prioritise organisations with a turnover under £1,000,000?

The Community Foundation aims to direct funding towards organisations where grants can make a meaningful difference to their ability to deliver work in their communities.

We recognise that smaller charities and community organisations can face particular challenges in securing funding and often have limited access to unrestricted income and reserves. By prioritising organisations with a turnover below £1,000,000, we can help ensure that our funding reaches a broad range of smaller and locally rooted organisations.

The £1,000,000 threshold is therefore a way of helping us target our resources and support organisations that may have fewer alternative sources of funding. It does not mean that larger organisations are not important or that their work is not valued.

Please always check the specific guidance for the fund you are applying to, as eligibility criteria and priorities can vary between funding programmes.

NEW CRM

The Community Foundation has adopted a new CRM to better manage grant applications, assessments and grant monitoring.

All users will need to register and create a new log-in when starting a new application.

For existing grantees, you will be invited to report on your current grant using the original monitoring form link. The system will automatically remind you when the time is right.

We will transfer any recently submitted applications to the new system. You don't need to take any action.

If you have started an application, but haven't yet submitted it, you have until the 31st December to submit it on the original CRM system. Your work won't be wasted.

CASE STUDY

Grantee: Fosse Mutual Aid
Fund: Making Local Life Better
Grant awarded: £2,960

The project funded training for 10 volunteers to deliver quick, responsive advice and support to foodbank users and others in need, alongside providing essential equipment like laptops. This strengthened local capacity to offer accessible, community-based support.

The project helped people, particularly older adults, access benefits and maximise their income, reducing reliance on foodbanks and financial stress. It also eased pressure on overwhelmed advice services while making support more accessible in the community.

FIND MORE INFORMATION [HERE](#)

Making Local Life Better

Making Local Life Better continues to support groups across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland with grants up to £3,000. Themes include:

- 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. Current success rate is 30%.

Please submit by 30th September in time for the next panel date: 10th November 2026.

For more information click [HERE](#)