



North Yorkshire
County Council

Stronger Communities



Food for the Future

Guidance for Applicants

BACKGROUND

The Government made provision for an emergency fund of £63 million to be distributed to local authorities in England to help those who are facing financial hardship and as a result were struggling to afford food and other essentials due to COVID-19. North Yorkshire was allocated £530k, which was spent across four themes: food providers and supply; individual hardship payments; benefits advice and support; and volunteer support.

In 2020/21, £277,000 of this funding was awarded to 48 groups and / or projects to support and expand the direct provision of food for those people and families experiencing financial hardship, through two rounds of the Food Banks and Community Food Projects Support Fund.

FOOD FOR THE FUTURE - AIMS

Monitoring and evaluation of the 48 projects supported through the Food Banks and Community Food Projects Support Fund has now taken place.

It is clear that as we move out of emergency response and look towards recovery, that there is;

- A need to explore how the new and emerging local food support options can be retained and / or developed in a sustainable way on a longer term basis;
- Whilst supporting people to improve their confidence and increase their levels of independence.

In light of this, further funding has been secured, and £120,000 is available for the Food for the Future Grants Fund. This fund will be managed, administered and monitored by the Stronger Communities Team at North Yorkshire County Council.

GRANTS AVAILABLE

Voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector groups and organisations will be able to bid for a one off grant of up to £5,000.

ELIGIBILITY & CRITERIA

1. Funding applications will be considered from VCSE groups and organisations that demonstrate they can deliver, maintain and sustain a local food support offer, whilst supporting people to improve their confidence, and increase their levels of independence.
2. Projects must demonstrate that they will contribute to at least one of the following outcomes:

Outcome 1: Reduced Inequalities

- Reduced health inequalities.
- Improved access to services and / or activities.
- Increased levels of independence and confidence for those accessing services and / or activities.
- Reduce risk factors, including poor nutrition.
- Increased levels of trust, choice and control (individuals and communities).

Outcome 2: Improved Social Connectedness

- Reduced loneliness and isolation.
- Reduced stigma in relation to accessing food support options.
- Improved individual and community health and wellbeing (emotional, physical and social).
- Increased community resilience.
- Increased levels employment, skills and / or volunteering.

Outcome 3: Improved Wellbeing

- Improved emotional, physical and social wellbeing.

3. Priority will be given to the following applications:

- Projects that demonstrate a clear commitment to a strengths based approach and promote partnership, collaboration or networking across existing provision – for example, working with other key voluntary organisations, statutory services, or collaborating with local businesses.
 - Projects that address identified unmet needs or demand and / or fill gaps in existing provision.
 - Projects that can demonstrate that further to Food for the Future investment, the project can be sustained on a longer-term basis. This could be achieved through the creation of reasonable charges for services, or embedding educational or training elements in to the project.
 - Projects that are inclusive and equitable, as well as flexible and adaptable - for example, able to adapt to varying levels of Covid19 restrictions as required or fluctuations in demand.
 - Projects that are rooted in social action, and value the inclusion of volunteers in their delivery model.
4. Funding applications will be considered from applicants who were awarded grants through the Food Banks and Community Food Projects Support Fund, where it can be demonstrated that further investment will enable the project to be developed in to a longer term, sustainable food support option.
 5. Where there is existing provision in a locality, joint applications promoting partnership working would be welcomed (please note that a lead organisation will need to be identified).
 6. Only one application per organisation will be considered unless exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated; this must be agreed with the Stronger Communities Team in advance of submission.
 7. Applications from unincorporated organisations will also be considered, however they must have access to an accountable body to hold the funds on their behalf.
 8. All funding applications must be submitted electronically on the Food for the Future application form (word format), alongside the supporting information requested.

Closing date is **5pm on Tuesday 31 August 2021**

All funding to be expended by no later than 31 March 2022. Applicants will be notified of the outcome by **Friday 10 September 2021**.

Please submit your funding applications electronically to amber.graver@northyorks.gov.uk.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like further information or would like to discuss your application in more detail, please contact:

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APPLICATION FORM GUIDANCE

Please complete the application form whilst taking account of the guidance below. Please note the word count for each question.

Section One: Tell us about your organisation

Guidance Note 1: Please complete the contact details of the organisation that is applying for the grant, including an appropriate named contact person who we will liaise with throughout the grant application process.

Guidance Note 2: Applications are open to a range of organisations including voluntary and community groups, social enterprises, faith groups and parish/town Councils. Please note that faith groups are welcome to apply but activities which evangelise or proselytise religious beliefs will not be eligible.

Section 2 – Tell us about the grant you are requesting

Please tell us about the level of grant you are requesting up to a maximum of **£5,000**, ensuring that the level of detail given correlates with the level of grant that you are requesting (i.e. more detail will be required for a larger grant). Where possible, please cover the following areas:

Guidance Note 3: Q8a - This is where you can tell us about why you need the grant and what you will spend the funding on, please include as much detail as you can, including the following (as appropriate):

- What the funding will be used for
NB: core costs and items of equipment are considered eligible costs.
- The range and types of services you will offer.
- The number of people who will benefit. As well as including the number of beneficiaries, please include any specific communities you intend to work with; this could be a named geography or place but could equally include schools, targeted families, low-income households etc.
- The geographic area of benefit and the proposed location(s) for your project.
- How you have identified needs – including any enduring or unmet need identified, or gaps in existing provision. Please provide examples of evidence of need where possible.
- Who will deliver the project – including partners.
- How many volunteers and volunteer hours will be involved in project delivery.
- The timescale for project delivery.
- If the funding is for core costs, please let us know how you will cover these beyond the funding period and how you plan to make the service and / or activity sustainable in the longer term.

Guidance Note 4: The fund is looking to support a range of community or volunteer led activities that will continue to support and expand local food support options on a longer-term basis. Applications should also consider how you might support people to increase their confidence and independence, examples of this may include:

- Working in partnership to signpost to information, advice or guidance that will provide people with access to longer-term support they may need, such as benefits advice or emotional wellbeing support.
- Building in an educational and / or training element to the project, for example cooking classes for exchange of food skills and knowledge, production of nutritional literature, peer support groups.

Q8b – Please clearly outline how many direct beneficiaries there will be as a result of this project. This should include the number of individuals, as well as the number of contacts you anticipate there will be (for example, one individual may access services

four times over the timescale of the project). Please also include any specific communities you intend to work with; this could be a named geography or place but could equally include schools, targeted families, low-income households etc.

You should also include the number of volunteers that you anticipate will be engaged with the delivery of the project, and the number of volunteer hours that will be achieved. Please see guidance note 10 for a definition of volunteer.

Guidance Note 5: Q9 - Please list items of expenditure for this project.

Please note that all funding must be claimed by 31 March 2022 and should not duplicate any other alternative funding secured for the purposes of your project.

Guidance Note 6: Q9 - **Eligible Expenditure.**

- Administration costs should be kept to a minimum although core costs are permitted expenditure.
- Volunteer expenses.
- Travel costs are permitted where it is necessary.
- Materials and small items of equipment.
- Transport.
- Promotion and marketing.
- Venue hire.
- Equipment.

Ineligible Expenditure

- Schemes where pre-existing support is in place and can be sought (for example any continuation of free school meals during holiday periods, food provision for those who are self-isolating via the NYLAF Covid19 Self-Isolation Grant).

Guidance Note 7: Q10 - This should show the total cost of the project for the timescale outlined.

Guidance Note 8: Q11 – If the total cost of the project exceeds the grant being requested, please provide details of any additional funding sources. This can include your own funds, earned income and any additional grants or donations you have or intend to apply for.

NB: Match funding is not an essential requirement.

Guidance Note 9: Q12 - Please state the total amount of grant being requested from the Fund – up to a maximum of £5,000.

Section 3: How your project relates to the aims of the fund

This section will allow you to demonstrate how your proposed project will contribute to the aims of the fund.

Guidance Note 10: Q13a&b - Please demonstrate how the specific activities you are proposing will meet the fund's aims. Please note that applications should demonstrate a clear commitment to **both aims**.

Q13c – Please demonstrate how you are working in partnership with other organisations and / or projects in your area, including statutory services and local businesses where appropriate. This should include other food banks and / or community food projects, as well as complementary services such as mental health, and debt, welfare and benefits advice provision.

Q14 - You should ensure that you have embedded appropriate processes and monitoring systems in place in order to allow for monitoring and possible evaluation. This will include being able to provide management information about beneficiary numbers. You will not be required to share any personal or sensitive data on an individual basis.

You should consider collecting information about:

- Financial expenditure relating to this grant.
- Number of direct beneficiaries including age, gender and location.
- Number of activities delivered (for example number of food parcels, hot meals distributed, number of individuals signposted for specialist advice and where to).
- Number of volunteers engaged (this can include Trustees and / or management committee members, those who prepare food parcels or hot meals, and those who deliver activity).
- Case study information as appropriate.

Section 4 Supporting Information

If you are unsure about any of the supporting information requested and whether you meet the requirements – such as Covid 19 safe practice or safeguarding - please let us know as we may be able to help you with guidance and advice on safe practices or training.

GENERAL TERMS & CONDITIONS

All grants will be managed through a funding agreement, administered and monitored by the Stronger Communities Team at North Yorkshire County Council. Please note that if successful, organisations will be required to register with Buy Local, North Yorkshire's market place linking businesses with customers to help people shop locally and North Yorkshire Connect, North Yorkshire's community directory.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

All projects will be subject to monitoring and verification that is appropriate to the level of the grant; this is to ensure that the project has been delivered as anticipated. The details of this will be outlined in your offer of grant and associated agreement; North Yorkshire County Council retains the right to reclaim grant funding should the applicant fail to meet the terms and conditions of the offer of grant.