



## PCF GRANT PROGRAMME FAQS

### WHAT DO YOU FUND? WHAT DON'T YOU FUND?

Applications are encouraged from properly constituted, community-led organisations with a turnover under £500,000 per year, which can demonstrate how beneficiaries will be drawn directly from the local rural community.

There are some types of organisation that we are unable to fund. They include (but are not limited to):

- Care Farms or similar projects where the beneficiaries are drawn from a larger area than just the local community
- Local Authorities, including Town and Parish Councils
- Hospitals and Schools
- Private companies and individuals.

Please note that there are some things we cannot fund (this is not an exhaustive list):

- Purchase of buildings or land
- Planning permission/building regulations
- Statutory requirements
- Technical energy projects where a specialist funder might be more appropriate
- Projects where our contribution makes up less than 10% of the total cost of the project
- Food.

While we can consider applications for village hall and other community asset renovation projects, you will need to clearly demonstrate why this project is needed and that there is strong demand from the local community to have this work carried out.

### IF MY PROJECT REQUIRES PERMISSIONS SUCH AS PLANNING CONSENT, DO YOU NEED TO SEE PROOF THAT IT HAS BEEN SECURED?

Whilst we do not need to see proof at the application stage, we may ask to see evidence at a later date - we will be in touch if this is the case. We do not accept projects where planning permission has not already been secured.

### WOULD THE PCF FUND ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS?

Yes, if the project aligns with the aims of this grant programme it would be eligible. However, you will need to demonstrate strong demand for this project from the local community and how it will benefit them.

### WOULD THE PCF FUND WORK LIKE PAINTING, PARKING SPACES OR BUILDING FENCES?

Yes, if there is evidence of need, it would be eligible. However, you will need to demonstrate strong demand for this work from the local community and how it will benefit them.

**CAN I APPLY IF I ALREADY HAVE AN ACTIVE GRANT?**

You may have two active grants at once. However, there should be no adverse risks relating to the delivery of the first grant. You will need to be able to demonstrate this when asked.

**HOW SOON CAN I REAPPLY?**

We do not insist on a gap between applications from the same organisation.

**DO YOU HAVE APPLICATION DEADLINES?**

We have deadlines twice a year, one in spring and one in late summer. Dates for these will be announced at least four weeks prior to the opening date, if not before. Check our website or sign up to the PCF newsletter to keep up to date with announcements.

**CAN I DISCUSS AN APPLICATION WITH YOU BEFORE I APPLY?**

Yes, we are happy to talk through your project beforehand. However, we ask that you have a project ready to discuss, rather than contacting us to help you come up with a suitable idea.

You can get in touch with us via the form on our website where you will be asked to submit a short overview of what you hope to achieve through your project.

**DO I HAVE TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM IN ONE SITTING?**

No, once you have started your application you will be able to make changes until you are ready to click submit. Just remember to save your application before you leave the page. We also recommend drafting your application on a separate document, just in case.

**HOW DO I KNOW THAT MY APPLICATION HAS BEEN SUBMITTED?**

You should receive an automated email confirming that it has been received. If not, please email [grants@countrysidefund.org.uk](mailto:grants@countrysidefund.org.uk) and we will be happy to check.

**CAN I EDIT MY APPLICATION ONCE IT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED?**

We are very sorry but we are unable to amend applications once they have been submitted. Please check your application thoroughly prior to submission. Once submitted, you will no longer be able to view your application, so please save a copy for your records.

**CAN I SEE EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS THAT HAVE RECEIVED FUNDING?**

You can find examples of past and present beneficiaries on our [website](#).

**WHAT CAN I EXPECT AS AN APPLICANT/GRAANTEE AND HOW DO YOU MAKE DECISIONS?**

We prioritise those that fit most closely with the PCF's aim to enhance the viability and sustainability of rural communities. We look for applicants that make a credible case for need and demand in their proposed rural locality, demonstrate their ability to achieve the outcomes intended, and that the project represents value for money.

You must demonstrate demand for the project from the community it will be serving. Grants are heavily assessed on this factor, so if you cannot demonstrate this effectively, we recommend spending time gathering this information before applying. Applications which cannot evidence widespread community support will not be progressed

Applications are initially assessed by the staff team and a long list is presented to our Grants Subcommittee for evaluation and approval. If we decide not to take an application forward, we will let you know as soon as possible. Unfortunately, due to the high number of applications received, we are unable to provide specific feedback.