

## Quickline QFutures

### Brief summary

Grants of up to £15,000, up to £5k per year over 3 years, for community organisations supporting people aged 14-30 years, in South Yorkshire. The focus for grants will be for those groups working specifically with vulnerable and marginalised people in removing barriers into, and remaining in, employment.

### How much can I apply for?

Up to £5,000 to be spent within one year of grant award or £15,000 multiyear funding over 3 years.

### When can I apply?

Applications are open now. Please submit your application by 9am, Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026. Grants will be paid from mid-March onwards.

### Aims and priorities:

The aim of this funding is to help community organisations support people in South Yorkshire from pre-employability through to established pathways into employment.

QFutures will focus on people aged over 30. If your group works with younger people, please see the details for our sister fund; Moving on Up.

Based on consultation with local employers, partners and community organisations, we understand that supporting people into productive and rewarding employment needs a range of approaches, from pre-employability skills, through to pathways into work, and support to remain in work, so we are looking to fund activity across all three of the approaches below.

(NB each grant is only expected to fund one of the approaches below, but throughout this round we hope to fund a range of grants which between them cover all three approaches).

#### **1. Pre employability skills – engagement, soft skills development**

Under this heading we expect to fund activity focused on engaging people, raising aspirations, and ensuring they have the soft skills and the confidence to continue their journey towards work.

Applications will be expected to demonstrate that they are reaching those that are furthest away from work: vulnerable, underrepresented and marginalised.

#### **2. Pre employment and establishing pathways to employment – interview techniques, access to support centres, mentoring, skills training**

Under this heading, we expect to fund activity to get people ready for work. This might include providing work-ready skills training or supporting people to gain qualifications which link to employment. It could also include CV writing, interview practice, job coaching or mentoring.



**3. Pathways to Employment – offering apprenticeships, kickstart programmes, graduate schemes, work experience, remaining in employment**

Under this heading, we expect to fund activity which completes the pathway into employment and supports those to remain in work where possible. We anticipate this will include supported work experience placements or engaging with apprenticeships or kickstart programmes. Under this heading we also hope to fund the wrap-around support which can help people to secure a good employment, and to stay and progress in employment.

**Priority groups:**

Across all three approaches, priority will be given to organisations working specifically with vulnerable and marginalised people, including the following:

- People suffering mental health and isolation issues
- People with a history of drug and alcohol abuse
- Ex-offenders or those at risk of offending
- People from minoritised Ethnic groups
- People suffering inequalities including gender, race, disabilities, sexual orientation, or health
- People living in workless households
- People living in geographical areas of high unemployment

**Linking Employers with people, and engaging vulnerable and marginalised groups**

This funding also aims to support people to connect and engage with local employer and donor Quickline. This support could include job coaches, workplace visits and interview workshops.

Where possible, SYCF aims to facilitate a link between Quickline, other employers and those working with people in order for mutually beneficial partnerships to develop. In this way we hope to align needs of people to plans and outcomes expected from an employer.

**Who can apply?**

QFutures grants are for community organisations in South Yorkshire. This includes charities, community groups, and not-for-profit social enterprises. To be eligible for a grant you must:

- Have a governing document (e.g., a constitution or memorandum of association),
- Have a board or management committee of at least three unrelated people,
- Have a bank account in the name of the group requiring at least two unrelated signatories, and
- Have beneficiaries who live in South Yorkshire and be locally led and run.

We will only fund local offices or branches of a national charity if they have their own local management committee and manage their own local finances.



A partnership approach is particularly encouraged, because we believe that community organisations can achieve more by working together with other community groups, businesses and statutory partners. One organisation will need to submit the proposal as the lead applicant, meeting the eligibility criteria above, taking responsibility for the application as a whole and ensuring that roles and responsibilities of all partners are clearly set out within the application. It will be expected that the lead applicant has previous experience and expertise to deliver the project, working alongside other organisations.

### **What can be funded?**

The grant funding is focused on project costs including operating and revenue costs.

If your application includes staff costs, we encourage you to pay at least the real Living Wage.

Don't forget to include a fair share of overheads like rent or room hire, utilities, and admin or management costs needed to support your project.

For more information about how to develop a project budget, see this [SYFAB information sheet](#).

Where relevant, we expect you to shop around to find the best value for money. For any individual items costing over £200 we'll expect you to attach a quote to your application.

### **What cannot be funded?**

Grants cannot be awarded to fund:

- For-profit organisations, statutory organisations (e.g., schools and hospitals) or overseas organisations
- Retrospective funding (activity and costs that have already taken place or repayment of money which has already been spent)
- Overseas trips or expeditions
- Grant-making to other organisations and/or individuals
- Organisations or activities primarily for the benefit of animals rather than people
- Activity that promotes a particular political or religious point of view

We can fund religious organisations (like a church, mosque or gurdwara) delivering activity which benefits the community (like running interview skills sessions), but we cannot fund religious services or activity intended to promote a particular religion.

If activity is intended to target a particular group of people (ethnicity, gender, religion, etc.) there should be a good reason for this, for example if this is the best way to redress an existing inequality or to ensure services reach a group which would otherwise be underserved or marginalised.



### **Reporting and Evaluation**

Requirements for this will focus on the collection of case studies (photographs and feedback), proof that the grant has been spent as agreed and any information you would like to share.

Please note that if you are applying for multi-year funding, you will need to complete a report at the end of each year before the next year funding is released. Further information will be supplied if you are successful.

### **What happens after I apply?**

On receipt of the application forms, we will check the eligibility and supporting documents, and assess your application against the aims and priorities above. We may contact you to ask some additional questions.

Our panel of independent volunteers will consider the applications and decide which to fund. The panel's decision is final.

If your application does not meet our criteria, or if the panel decide it is not a priority for funding, we will contact you to let you know.

Please note that we expect to receive more applications than we are able to fund, so not every eligible application will be funded.

### **Contact us**

If you would like more information or to discuss your application please get in touch with the Grants Team via [grants@sycf.org.uk](mailto:grants@sycf.org.uk).

If you are based in Barnsley or Sheffield, and you would like more support to make an application, please contact our colleagues at [SYFAB](#) who will be happy to help you.

