

Together we CAN Fund Guidance Notes

South Yorkshire's Community Foundation are delighted to launch this new fund on behalf of Citizen's Advice Doncaster and the Community Advice Network for 2026/2027.

This programme looks to support groups based, and for the benefit of residents and communities, in Doncaster to support with more resilient communities and the cost of living.

How much can I apply for?

Grants can be up to £3,500. The programme will support a minimum of 4 projects per round.

When can I apply?

Applications to this first round will open at 9am, Wednesday 9th September and will close 9am, Monday 12th October 2026.

Decisions will be made by a local and expert panel of individuals from Doncaster. The panel will meet at in early December, and decisions will be communicated by via email soon after.

Activities and expenditure should start no earlier than 4th January 2027 for projects lasting up to 12months.

A second round will open in late November, for projects starting no earlier than 1st April 2027. Guidance notes will be refreshed at that point to accommodate any learning.

Groups are welcome to apply to the round best suited to them but can only hold one grant through this programme.

Who can apply?

This fund is open to not-for-profit groups based in Doncaster, and for projects that benefit the residents and communities of Doncaster. Groups must also be registered network members. Other eligibility criteria includes:

- Applications can only be considered from registered Community Advice Network members. For more information, please see here: <https://www.cadoncasterborough.org/doncaster-advice-network/>. And/or to register if you are not a current member, please see here: <https://forms.gle/eTvSExVEbPKSEypQ7>
- Maximum turnover of £500,000 in the latest financial year.



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- If groups are a CIC; they should have
 - at least three unrelated Trustees/Directors with nobody in a position of significant control, (if there are set rights, they should be equal across all Directors)
 - have a clear asset lock or distribution clause,
 - have clear finances showing income and expenditure,
 - and have a bank account with two unrelated signatories, in the name of the group.

Please see SYCF's Due Diligence Guidelines for more information or contact us to discuss.

What can I apply for?

This fund encourages small not-for-profit groups to be creative and consider community-led ideas rather than delivering standard services. Applications should meet one of the following fund outcomes:

- People feel less isolated and more connected.
- Young people are more confident, skilled and optimistic about their future.
- Communities are stronger, kinder and more resilient.
- Residents actively contribute to improving their neighbourhoods.
- People from different backgrounds come together and build relationships.

And therefore, wants to support projects that:

- Build connections
- Reduce loneliness
- Create opportunities for young people
- Strengthen neighbourhoods
- Bring communities together

Successful projects will need to engage with the Community Advice Network and with Citizens Advice Doncaster through their Community Engagement Lead, with the option to host a free community-based advice workshop (topic to be agreed at a later date).

This detail should be outlined in your application.



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What cannot be funded?

The Together We CAN Fund cannot be used for/by:

- Groups based outside Doncaster and/or with the majority of beneficiaries resident outside the city.
- Retrospective funding I.E. activity and costs that have already taken place or repayment of money which has already been spent.
- Grant-making to other organisations and/or individuals
- Activities primarily for the benefit of animals rather than people
- Activity that promotes a particular political or religious point of view

How do I apply and what information do I need to supply?

Individuals should complete the online application form linked on our website, and requested evidential documentation which will include:

- Your governing document (if you have not applied to SYCF within the last 12-months)
- Your latest set of accounts showing us your income and expenditure for your most recent financial year.
- A redacted bank statement showing the name and account details for payment, if your application is successful.
- Link to or attachment of your safeguarding policy

Applications are via our online application system. We can arrange to provide these to you in another format if required, please contact us to discuss.

Please see our use of AI policy on our website to see more information about how we use AI tools, and advice we provide if your group are considering using these tools to support your application.

What happens after I apply?

The Grants Team at South Yorkshire's Community Foundation (SYCF) will read all applications, received before the deadline. Your application will be assessed against the criteria, aims and priorities noted above and we may contact you to ask some additional questions or for missing information, so we fully understand everything that has been sent in. Please ensure you attach or email the essential requested additional documentation when you submit your application to prevent delays to this process. If we do not receive everything we need, we will not be able to put your application forward for a decision.



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Sometimes we read or see an application that does not meet the fund criteria, and we will have to withdraw that application for the fund. We will feed back if we have had to do that, with clear reasons why.

All applications that are eligible will be sent to our panel of independent volunteers who will spend dedicated time together to discuss and consider each application and to decide where the money should be spent. They will do their best to make sure the money is spent as fairly as possible across Doncaster, and a range of different activities. We anticipate that we will have more applications to read than we will have money for so we will have to turn down some applications.

The Grants Team at SYCF will contact every group who applied before deadline, to communicate our decision and provide feedback if the application has not been successful. Please note that the panel's decision is final.

Monitoring and Reporting

If your application is successful, we will be in touch with the good news and when payment can be expected. Successful applicants will need to send a thank you letter and agree to the grant terms and conditions.

A short end of grant monitoring form will be shared with an award letter so you can share and celebrate your achievements with the grant with Citizen's Advice Doncaster, Community Advice Network and SYCF.

Contact us.

If you would like more information or to discuss your application, please contact the Grants Team via grants@sycf.org.uk. We can chat on the phone, come, and meet you or meet online – whatever suits you best.

We also offer an open drop-in session every Wednesday on Teams between 4pm – 5pm. You are welcome to join any of these to ask questions or discuss your application. [The link to join is here.](#)



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