South Yorkshire's Community Foundation

**President**
Professor Dame Hilary A Chapman DBE RN
H.M. Lord Lieutenant of South Yorkshire

**Chair**
Professor Chris Booth-Mayblin

**Chief Executive**
Martin Singer

# Doncaster Community Connectivity: Guidance Notes

## Connected Communities Programme; supporting better digital access for residents across Doncaster

The Doncaster Community Connectivity Fund is part of the Connected Communities Programme, delivered by Citizens Advice Doncaster Borough in partnership with South Yorkshire's Community Foundation. The fund aims to improve residents' access to reliable, affordable and accessible Wi-Fi through trusted community organisations and spaces across Doncaster. We recognise that digital exclusion isn't simply about having an internet connection. Poor Wi-Fi coverage, unreliable connections and rising broadband costs can all prevent residents from accessing essential services, developing digital skills and participating in everyday opportunities. This fund is about improving connectivity for residents, whether that means establishing a new connection, strengthening an existing one or helping an organisation maintain the digital access it already provides.

How much can I apply for and what could the fund support?

Grants of up to £500 per organisation can support a range of activities that directly improve digital accessibility for residents, including:

- New connections: Installing broadband or Wi-Fi in community spaces where residents currently have limited or no access.
- Improving existing Wi-Fi: Purchasing boosters, extenders, routers or other equipment to improve connection quality, reliability and coverage.
- Maintaining connectivity: Contributing towards existing broadband costs for up to two months where an organisation can demonstrate financial difficulty maintaining its connection.
- Enhancing digital access: Supporting other practical improvements to an organisation's digital offer where reliable broadband is already in place.

Organisations do not need to be without Wi-Fi to apply. We welcome applications from those looking to improve, extend or sustain existing provision. Where broadband is already established and affordable, applicants may propose alternative digital inclusion activities or equipment that will directly improve residents' access to technology and online services.

Applications should briefly explain:

- Current provision: What Wi-Fi or digital access is already available, and what needs improving?

- Community benefit: Who will benefit, and how will the funding make digital access easier, more reliable or affordable?
- Proposed expenditure: What will the grant purchase or contribute towards?
- Sustainability: How will the improvement continue to benefit residents beyond the funded period?

For applications requesting support with existing broadband bills, we will ask for a brief explanation of the financial pressures affecting continued provision.

Who can apply?

The fund is open to voluntary, community and charitable organisations operating in Doncaster that provide accessible services or facilities for local residents. We particularly welcome applications from organisations supporting communities experiencing digital exclusion, financial hardship, health inequalities or barriers to accessing essential services. Access may be provided through open community facilities, organised activities or supported sessions for particular groups.

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

When can I apply?

**Applications will open on Monday 23rd November and will close 5pm, Friday 11th December.**

Decisions will be made in January so any quotes supplied should be valid until mid-January (where possible) so costs do not change between application and decisions.

What cannot be funded?

The Doncaster Community Connectivity Fund cannot be used for:

- Groups whose governance does not match that outlined in our Due Diligence documentation.
- Groups based outside Doncaster.
- 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
- Activity that promotes a particular political or religious point of view

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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
- Relevant quotes for costs
- Written permission by a landlord if appropriate.

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.

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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