

One
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Fund



Economic
Inactivity
Trailblazer
Grants

Get
Oldham
Working



Oldham
Council



As part of
LIVE WELL
DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY WITH
GREATER MANCHESTER'S COMMUNITIES

One Oldham Fund

Economic Inactivity Trailblazer Grants

About this grant

The One Oldham Fund is a strategic single investment fund that uses pooled resources for the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector in Oldham.

This programme is looking to respond to high levels of economic inactivity in Oldham. It aims to strengthen the capacity of the VCFSE Sector in Oldham to deliver holistic, community led support that enables residents to improve their health, wellbeing, and economic activity.

Background

The Get Britain Working White Paper (Nov 2024) aims to achieve an 80% employment rate by transforming employment, support, reducing unemployment and addressing economic inactivity. It introduces Trailblazers which are one year test and learn programmes designed to build a more inclusive labour market and to increase employment.

On a local level this programme looks to respond to high levels of economic inactivity in Oldham, particularly among residents facing complex barriers such as long term health conditions, mental ill-health, caring responsibilities and low levels of confidence and skills. Aligning with [Oldham's Live Well](#) approach, with an investment from GMCA this programme aims to strengthen the capacity of the VCFSE Sector to deliver holistic, community led support that enables residents to improve their health, wellbeing and economic activity.

What do we mean by economically inactive?

People who are economically inactive are those who are not working and not actively seeking work. This is different from unemployed people who are actively seeking work.

- Some economically inactive people receive benefits, whilst others do not. Those who do receive benefits may be on older “legacy” benefits like Employment Support Allowance (ESA), Incapacity Benefit (IB) or Income Support (IS) or they may be on Universal Credit under specific conditions, such as being required to prepare for work or attend work focussed interviews.
- There is no minimum time someone must be inactive to be considered economically inactive

Key Dates

Deadline for applications:
Monday 20 October 2025

We will stop accepting applications at 12 noon on **Monday 20 October 2025**

The panel is expected to meet at the end of October 2025 and we aim to inform applicants of the panel's decisions within 5 working days after that.

Projects must be completed and any grant funding spent by no later than **31 May 2026**.



What can the funding be used for?

Applications for funding should be for activities that meet one or more of the following priorities:

- **Community led employment support** – building capacity to develop and deliver activity which supports progression into work in a culturally sensitive and a strengths based way. This can include activities like employability workshops, confidence and building, , employer engagement activities, peer / role modelling.
- **Volunteering into employment** – building capacity to develop volunteering programmes with a specific focus on strengths based approaches that provide opportunities to develop skills and experience to support progression into work

By “**strengths based**” we mean focussing on a person’s natural and existing talents and skills rather than concentrating on their weaknesses or lack of skills

The examples given above are not exhaustive, and this programme encourages a test-and-learn approach. Please contact us if you would like to discuss an idea with us before applying if you are unsure whether it fits with the priorities above.



How much can I apply for ?

- **Community Led Employment Support** – grants of up to **£10,000** are available – around 6-8 grants will be awarded
- **Volunteering into Employment** – grants of up to **£3,000** are available – around 8 grants will be awarded

Applicants can apply for a grant under more than one funding priority at the same time.

Who is the funding for?



You can apply for a grant if you:

- are a voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) group locally rooted or actively working in the borough of Oldham; *and*
- are a member of Action Together CIO (you can register for free to become a member [here](#)); *and*
- are formally constituted; *and*
- have at least three people on your board or committee who are not related; *and*
- have a bank account in your organisation's name requiring at least two unrelated signatories

Please note:

- You may not apply for a grant if you are an organisation that can pay profits to directors, shareholders or members.
- To receive this funding, any outstanding monitoring information required by us, relating to other grant funding must have been completed.
- Action Together is an accredited Living Wage Funder. This means we encourage organisations that employ staff to become an accredited Living Wage Employer.
- Although you can apply for multiple streams at the same time, you can only submit one application for a One Oldham Fund Economic Inactivity Trailblazer Grant.
- You may also apply for other grants within our One Oldham Fund Programme

What can you spend the money on?

We CAN fund:

The costs of the proposed activity on a full cost recovery basis including:

- equipment
- one-off events
- staff costs
- training costs
- organisation running costs
- transport
- volunteer expenses
- building repairs / alterations that are necessary to enable the activity to take place (up to a maximum of 20% of your overall budget)



What can't you spend the money on?

We
CANNOT
fund:

- contingency costs, loans, endowments or interest
- paying someone to write your bid for you.
- profit making or fundraising activities.
- VAT you can reclaim.
- statutory activities.
- expenses that have already been incurred – retrospective costs.

This list is not exhaustive, so if you are not sure please contact us (contact details below)



Completing and sending the Application Form

- Please ensure that ALL parts of the application form are completed.
- We have not included word count limits in the application form as we want you to be able to tell us about your ideas without having to worry about the amount of words you are using – as a general guide however we are only looking for a brief summary and 2 or 3 paragraphs for each answer should be enough for you to be able to tell us about your plans.
- We are happy for you to send photos or short videos to accompany your application. If you wish to send a video, please contact funding@actiontogether.org.uk and we will discuss the easiest way for you to do this.
- We have thought carefully about the questions in the application and only ask for information that we need to know. Please read the questions carefully and only provide the information that we have asked for. Don't be tempted to add lots of other information about your organisation – if we need to know anything else we will contact you.
- If you are using an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tool to help you to write your application, please be aware that whilst it can be a very useful tool, it often produces generic and inaccurate content. Using AI can be a helpful starting point, but please review content that has been generated using AI to ensure that it reflects your organisation's unique experiences, skills and community and that it is accurate.



What happens after your application is submitted?

- Eligible applications will be considered, and recommendations made by an online panel. We may contact you to
- offer support and to clarify aspects of your application further before submitting to the panel.
- The panel is expected to meet at the end of October 2025 and we aim to inform applicants of the panel's decisions within 5 working days after that.
- If your project involves the purchase of capital items, we may ask you for such further information as we feel is necessary such as quotes and, for example, if contributing towards the purchase of a vehicle we may ask to see evidence of an up-to-date MOT certificate and insurance.



If you are successful

To help us understand the impact of this funding, successful applicants will:

- be offered further support from one of our community development workers throughout and beyond the project,
- be asked to provide a report and case study to Action Together at the end of their project. You will receive an example of the questions that we will be asking with your grant agreement so that you can plan how to capture the story of your project as soon as it starts.; and
- be offered the opportunity to participate in networks of groups and organisations to be able to share expertise and experience.
- be expected to attend a community of practice with other successful applicants so that you can share your insight and experiences from your project.

If you do not already have an up-to-date [Quality in Action Award](#) from Action Together or have not yet worked through a [Health Check](#) with your community development worker you may be asked to work towards completing one with our support as a condition of your grant.



If you are unsuccessful

You will be offered further support from one of our community development workers and the funding team would be happy to discuss your application and give you feedback about your application.



Contact us

If you need help completing the application or [becoming a member](#) please contact your Community Development Worker. If you are not sure who that is please email development@actiontogether.org.uk or call 0161 339 2345 and ask to speak to a member of the Oldham Development Team.

If you have any questions about the application process or whether you are eligible to apply please contact funding@actiontogether.org.uk or call 0161 339 2345 and ask to speak to a member of the Oldham Funding Team.



Submitting your application

Please email your completed application to: funding@actiontogether.org.uk