Connecting You Seed Fund Guidance Notes

What is the purpose of the fund?

With a focus on improving health and wellbeing in the broadest sense, the Connecting You Seed Funding aims to make a difference right down at street level within our communities in the Rochdale Borough.

The funding pot has been termed a ‘seed fund’ because we see this funding as the seed from which activities and communities grow. The term seed suggests that this is a very early investment, meant to support the project until it can become self-sustaining.

What is the fund criteria?

Your application to the fund must demonstrate how it will meet all 5 key criteria:

Enabling– working with our current or new community groups to quickly and easily support them  
Responding– to opportunities and gaps identified within our communities  
Connecting– reaching and involving more community members as a result of the funding  
Targeting– specific groups such as, long term conditions, or areas agreed at neighbourhood level  
Building– adding value to your community though an essential ‘trade’ criteria where the receiving group are asked to offer a give-back in a community contribution.

There are 5 priorities to bid against focused on fun, connecting people and ultimately improving lifestyles. These priorities have also been identified because they are centred on evidence based approaches which impact on the seed funding theme of improving wellbeing and reduce pressure on services:

* Arts and culture
* Walking and physical activity
* Growing and cooking
* Connect 5 / mental wellbeing
* Self-care / people supporting people around health conditions

Completing the application form

* Please ensure that ALL boxes on this form are completed.
* Guidance notes are included with the questions.
* A number of questions state a specific word count, please keep within the word count.
* To avoid any delays in processing your application we ask you to include all the additional information that is requested in the checklist at the end of this form. Incomplete applications or those which do not include the correct supporting documentation will not be submitted to the panel.

What we will fund:

We will fund revenue and activity costs, equipment and building costs. We’ll also fund staff costs if they are essential to the delivery of the project, for example seated exercise instructor costs.

Our maximum community grant is £2,000 but due to increased demands for our funds it is unlikely we will be able to meet your application in full.

Who is the funding for:

The funding is for grassroots organisations, particularly emerging local groups as well as charities and other not-for-profit organisations whose focus is on local work (annual income under £100,000).

Only one application for seed funding (either the up to £500 or up to £2,000 - not both) will be accepted per organisation.

Organisations or groups could look to collaborate with others if this would be beneficial to the community and would prevent duplication / competition with existing activity.

We encourage completely new groups or individuals to apply for funding up to £500. We encourage established, grassroots groups with a turnover of less than £50,000, who may be working on a new project to apply for between £501 and £2,000.

If you have any queries about the application form or application process, please contact Hayley on:

Telephone: 0161 339 2345 Email: [hayley.tomlinson@actiontogether.org.uk](mailto:hayley.tomlinson@actiontogether.org.uk)

When your application form has been completed, please send it to [grants@actiontogether.org.uk](mailto:grants@actiontogether.org.uk) or post it to 104-106 Drake Street, Rochdale, OL16 1PQ.