

Community Regeneration Partnership

Capital Grants Programme

Guidance Notes

Capital Grants up to £75,000 and Capital Grants over
£75,000

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.

Oldham Council working with Action Together has set up the Community Regeneration Partnership Capital Grants Programme as part of Oldham's Levelling Up agreement with the government. It will support the sector's resilience to enable VCFSE organisations and Parish Councils that are locally rooted and active in Oldham to contribute to the delivery of the [Oldham Plan – Our Future Oldham a Shared Vision for 2030](#) and Oldham's District Plan priorities.

Grants of up to **£75,000** and **over £75,000** are available for capital expenditure on physical spaces in Oldham where people come together.



**Funded by
UK Government**

What can the funding be used for?

The aim of the fund is to support capital expenditure on physical community spaces in Oldham where people come together and that enable the lives of Oldham residents to be improved.

Applications should be for projects that meet one or more of the following [Oldham Plan](#) priorities:

- A great place to live
- Healthier, happier lives

Projects should also support the District Priority Plans for the area in which the project is based.



What do we mean by capital expenditure?

By capital expenditure we mean the costs associated with the purchase, refurbishment or development of land or buildings. Please note this Grant Programme excludes the purchase of vehicles and equipment not related to the purchase, refurbishment or development of land or buildings.

This can include the costs associated with such expenditure including:

- Professional fees
- Surveys
- Project planning
- Contingency fees up to 10% of the total project cost

For a more detailed explanation of what we mean please refer to our separate guide on capital expenditure which you can find [here](#)



Key Dates

**Deadline for applications:
Monday 19 January 2026**

We will stop accepting applications at **12 noon on Monday 19 January 2026.**

It is expected that decision making will take place in **late January 2026 – end February 2026.**

There is an expectation that projects will be completed by no later than **31 December 2027.**



Who is the funding for?



You can apply for a grant of up to **£75,000** or over **£75,000** 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; and
- are incorporated and registered at either Companies House or the Charities Commission.

You may also apply if you are a Parish Council based in Oldham.

Elected members (ward councillors) can work with the above groups and organisations to support and encourage their applications, but may not submit an application themselves.

All applications must be community led and all projects must be for the benefit of the local community.

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.
- You may only apply for to this Community Regeneration Partnership Capital Grants Programme once.
- You may however go on to apply for other revenue grants within our One Oldham Fund Programme if you are eligible.

What can't you spend the money on?

**We
CANNOT
fund:**

- 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
- vehicles
- other equipment not related to the purchase, refurbishment or development of land or buildings

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



What difference will your project make?

In your application we will ask you to explain what difference you think your project will make to residents in Oldham.
We will ask you to select a key outcome that your project will contribute to from the following:

Priority	Outcome
Great place to live	Improvement of a public space
	The creation of a strong local economy with vibrant communities that get on well
Healthier, happier lives	Building a community where everyone has access to the care, support and opportunities they need to live a good life
	Tackling poverty
	Improving health and well being
	Promoting lifelong education

We think this is helpful as:



- it helps to think through and express in tangible ways the intended results of your project
- it helps us to understand how your project might contribute to the aims and priorities of this programme
- it will give us a framework within which we can all monitor progress as the project happens

We also understand that planning a project in such challenging times is difficult and that your plans may need to change to respond to factors outside your control. If you feel at any point that you are unable to deliver your project as originally planned, then please contact us so that we can discuss any changes that you may wish to make.

Please do contact us to discuss this further if you need any support with this part of the application.

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 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.



Confirmation of ownership and owner's permission

As this grant concerns the purchase or improvement of land or buildings there are some specific pieces of information that we will require (you may need legal support to help you with this):

If you already own the space and you have a lease of it we will need to see a copy of your lease:

- For awards up to £75,000 your lease period should be for at least 5 years (after any work is complete) and should not contain any early termination rights (break clause)
- For awards over £75,000 your lease period should be for at least 5 years (after any work is complete) and it should:
 - not contain any early termination rights (break clause)
 - be freely transferrable
 - not allow for an automatic return of land and buildings to the landlord in the event your organisation becomes insolvent

If you own the freehold of your space you will need to provide a copy of your land registry title

If you plan to buy the freehold title of your space you will be asked to provide:

- a description of the space you plan to buy
- an independent surveyor's report on the condition of the land or buildings and its current / open market value which is less than 6 months old (with any restrictions on use noted) and whether it is suitable for the intended grant purpose
- details of any potential issues such as access to the site
- evidence that Heads of Terms have been agreed
- a timetable for the purchase

If you need the **landowner's permission** to carry out any work the space you will be asked to provide a copy

If the value of the grant is above £75,000 and involves the acquisition of land we may require to take **security** over the asset. This security will be in the form of a deed that restricts the use of the asset to the use approved by the grant and limits your ability to dispose of the asset without our consent. You will need to instruct solicitors to ensure the security is in place. It will remain in place for at least 5 years after the completion of your capital project.

What happens after your application is submitted?

- Eligible applications will be considered, and recommendations made by a panel which includes representatives of the VCFSE sector, neighbourhood leadership and members of district community councils. The final decision will be made by Oldham Council's Project Management Board. We aim to notify you of the outcome by email within 5 working days of being notified.
- It is expected that decision making will take place in **late January 2026 and during February 2026**
- We may contact you to offer support and to clarify aspects of your application further before submitting to the panel and we may ask for such further information as we feel necessary such as quotes and evidence of land ownership / land owner's consent where appropriate.

If you are successful



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

- be contacted at regular intervals by a members of our team (at least quarterly) to discuss the progress of their project
- be expected to become an active participant in the Oldham Community Centres Forum (if not already)
- 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.

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.

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



Submitting your application

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