

One Oldham Fund



Developing Recovery Communities Grants

Small Grants up to £5,000

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.

This funding is to support individuals in recovery through investing in the work of the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise organisations supporting these individuals.

Grants of up to **£5,000** are available to support community led projects that deliver activity that supports recovery communities in Oldham.

Context

Funds have been allocated by Oldham Council to the Developing Recovery Communities Forum – a network of organisations working to support individuals in recovery. This funding is to support individuals in recovery through investing in the work of the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise organisations supporting these individuals. We also want to enable individuals in recovery to develop new activities which they lead, with the support of a VCFSE organisation. Funded work should have a clear link to supporting individuals where there have been substance use issues (drugs and alcohol).

There are two grant sizes available:

1. Grant A - £500-£2000: open to individuals in recovery (via a VCFSE group) and small groups for new activities and test projects
2. Grant B - Up to £5000: for building sustainable projects that support those in recovery

The Developing Recovery Communities Forum, a network of those working with recovery communities, has set priorities for what these grants will achieve:

1. **Increase the visibility of recovery in Oldham:** Including holding events that make the community visible and challenge stigmas
2. **Develop a sustainable recovery offer:** testing out new pieces of work that meet gaps in existing provision
3. **Understanding the experiences and needs of our communities:** reaching all areas of the community including minoritised groups and learning from lived experience

VCFSE organisations applying for funds are encouraged to engage in the Developing Recovery Communities Forum to share learning and resources with others.

What can the funding be used for?

Funding can be used to cover the costs associated with delivering activity that meets **at least one** of the above priorities. Funded activity must be for the benefit of Oldham residents.

- £500-£2000 grants: are to support new activities and test projects that are led by individuals in recovery who are being supported by a VCFSE organisation, or by smaller organisations wishing to develop new work with those in recovery
- Up to £5000: is to support an organisations to deliver a project working with those in recovery. The panel is particularly seeking to support projects that reach minoritised groups and shaped by lived experience.



Key Dates

Deadline for applications:
Midday, 18 March 2026

Applications will close at **12 noon on Wednesday 18 March 2026**.

Projects will be updated about their application by the end of March 2026 and funded activity should take place between April-September 2026.



Who is the funding for?



You can apply for a grant of up to **£500-£2000** if you:

- are an individual in recovery who is being supported by a voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) group locally rooted or actively working in the borough of Oldham – you will need to apply through this group; *or*
- a voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) group locally rooted or actively working in the borough of Oldham

The VCFSE group must be formally constituted and have a bank account in the organisation's name requiring at least two unrelated signatories.


You can apply for a grant of up to **£5,000** 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


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.
- Organisations who are supporting individuals in recovery to lead a project under Grant A may submit a second application under either Grant A or B. Organisations cannot submit more than one application if they are applying to lead both pieces of work.
- You may also go on to apply for other grants within our One Oldham Fund Programme.

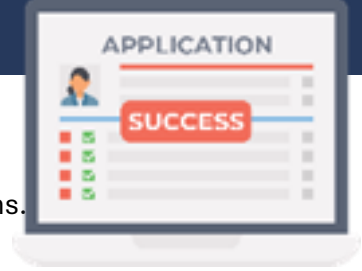
What can you spend the money on?

We CAN fund:	The costs of the proposed activity on a full cost recovery basis including:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• equipment• one-off events• staff costs• training costs• organisational running costs• transport• volunteer expenses• small refurbishment projects	

What can't you spend the money on?

We CANNOT fund:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.	
	<p>This list is not exhaustive, so if you are not sure please contact us (contact details below)</p>	

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 which includes representatives of the VCFSE sector and Oldham Council. We aim to notify you of the outcome by email within 20 working-days of receipt of your application, however, we may contact you to offer support and to clarify aspects of your application further before submitting to the panel.
- 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 asked to provide a report and/or 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 the Developing Recovery Communities Forum to be able to share expertise and experience
- be offered further support from one of our community development workers throughout and beyond the 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.

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

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