FAQs for the Social Connection Fund

Q: How much can I apply for?
A: You can apply for between £300 and £1,500 for your project.

Q: What kinds of projects will you fund?
A: We're looking for projects that bring people together and tackle loneliness. So that could be any activity that helps people connect, belong and thrive.

Projects should be free – or heavily subsidised – for people taking part, in order to make them accessible for everyone in the community.

Q: What makes a good application?
A: We are looking for projects that are run by and for the community. This means that people in your area want to participate. You might have spoken to your neighbours about this before or noticed a lack of activity in your area.

Additionally, we welcome ideas that are open to all community members and are led by locals who may not have been involved in community projects before.

Lastly, we want to hear from you in your own words. Tell us why you think this is a good idea!

Q: What does priority neighbourhood mean?
A: Our priority neighbourhoods are Abbey Wood, Charlton Hornfair, Eltham Page, and Mottingham, Coldharbour and New Eltham. This means that projects should be delivered in those wards to be successful in the application. However, if your project benefits residents in these wards, for example, by delivering at a location just outside of these wards, you can still apply for funding.

If you're not sure what ward your project is based in, you can find out here, entering the postcode of where you live or where you'd like to deliver a project.

This is a pilot project and we will continue to update our funding approach based on feedback and new data. We expect future rounds and other Greenwich Giving funds to focus on different neighbourhoods.

Q: Who can apply?
A: Three types of applicants are welcome:

- Individual residents (you'll need a host organisation to receive the funds - we can help you find one)
- Unincorporated associations with their own bank account
- Registered non-profit organisations like charities, CICs, etc.

Q: What do we mean by registered non-profit organisation?
A: We mean a registered charity, CIC, community benefits society, or cooperative. You will have either a registered charity number, or companies house number, or FCA reference number.

Q: I'm applying as a registered organisation - what do I need to know?
A: You must be based in Greenwich.

If your annual income is above £200,000, we will not be able to consider your application. This is because we want to strengthen small, local organisations and grassroots initiatives. You'll need to provide us with a proof of your income such as annual accounts or a trustee's report.

Q: I'm applying as an unincorporated community group - are there any conditions?
A: You will have to have three trustees or board members who are not related and be able to show us your constitution or club rules.

Q: I'm an individual resident with an idea - what does host organisation mean?
A: You do not need to be a part of an organisation, but you will need to

partner with a host organisation that can receive and manage the funds on your behalf. This ensures the money is handled safely and you have support to run your project.

For the application process, this means they have agreed to work with you on this project together. This could be a local community centre, sports club, a charity that's based in your neighbourhood, a tenants association or similar.

We're happy to help you find a suitable host organisation - just get in touch with us at info@greenwichgiving.org.uk.

Q: Do I need lots of experience running community projects?
A: Not at all. We're looking for people who feel passionate about their community and have an idea that will bring people together. We're actively encouraging people that have not involved in community work before to go for it! If you've got the enthusiasm and the idea, we can help with the rest.

Q: How much work is it to run a project?
A: We are here to help, but it does take some time and effort to run community projects. Once your funding is approved, you will need to:

- Liaise with your host organisation or venue to book dates and plan how you will run your activity
- Promote your club to local residents (we can give you some ideas for this)
- Run your activity or project on the day (or days) in question. If you need help to run your club or activity, you may need to find some other people who are willing to support.

For Greenwich Giving, we will also ask you to:

- Provide receipts and invoices as proof of payment
- Do some light-touch reporting on the project and number of attendees (we have a template for you!)
- Take some photos and videos if appropriate

- Provide some risk management to make sure people are safe

But don’t worry, we can help you with this and we will go over all the details together, if you are successful.

Q: How long does the application take?
A: We have purposely kept the application form simple as we want everyone to be able to apply. If you are having trouble, you can get in touch with us and we will help. Remember: There are no trick questions - we simply want to hear your idea in your own words.

Q: What's the deadline?
A: Applications close at 5:00pm on 30th January 2026. Late applications will not be considered.

Q: Who decides which applications get funded?
A: A panel of local Greenwich residents will review all applications and make the funding decisions. You can learn more about this on our website.

Q: When will I find out if I've been successful?
A: We'll confirm we've received your application within a week. The residents panel will review applications in February 2026, and you'll hear about their decision within four weeks.

Q: What happens after I'm approved?
A: We'll get on a quick call with you to discuss your project, then work with you to get started and provide the support you need.

We will ask you to explain how you plan to keep everyone doing the activity safe (we can help you with this).

Q: When will I need to run my project?

A: You will have 3 months to begin spending your grant and 6 months to complete the project. For this round of the Social Connection Fund, you should plan on beginning your project between March and April 2026 and concluding your project by August 2026.

Q: How will we handle your data?
A: Your data will be treated confidentially. It will only be seen by the Greenwich Giving team and panel members. Before we share your application with the panel members, we will anonymise your data and remove any contact details.

If your application is unsuccessful, we will store your data for up to a year. If your application is successful, we will save it for up to six years. If you have any questions or concerns, reach out to info@greenwichgiving.org.uk