

You Matter Communities Applications 2021

Community Fund





Introduction

You Matter Communities is focused on supporting local communities by providing resources, such as volunteer time, small grants and materials, to support community-led solutions to local challenges. You Matter offers local third sector, community organisations and communities different ways to access resources offered by McLaughlin & Harvey as part of the Alexander Stadium Redevelopment. And now, as communities across Birmingham continue to deal with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, You Matter Communities is focused on supporting community organisations to recover and to help people and communities experiencing disproportionate challenges to build back better, fairer and greener.

How it works

The You Matter Community Fund is designed to ensure higher levels of social value impact from the project investment. Community organisations apply to the You Matter Community Fund and receive a small grant to support their work. Projects can be a one off or part of a larger programme of activity. Successful applicants will need to spend their grant money within six months and be able to evidence that the project took place and a case study. Applications from individuals or private companies will not be accepted.



What types of projects can be funded?

1. Buying equipment and supplies to run activities such as sports kit, specialised medical equipment, art and crafts materials, gardening tools and plants, litter pickers.
2. Developing or maintaining an outdoor space such as a play area, allotment, park, or wildlife area.
3. Running a community event or activity that brings people together such as a community clean-up day or street party.
4. Supporting seasonal activities such as a Christmas meal for the homeless or a Diwali celebration event for the community etc.

Examples of funded projects

1. Feed my Creative CIC – Engage with vulnerable young men and women in Birmingham to design and create textile objects. The grant supported textile sessions working with different materials and sewing and soldering to create Bluetooth speakers.
2. Priestley Smith School – Support students with physical disabilities and special educational needs to develop their skills and learn about nature and the environment. The grant supported their outdoor classroom at a local allotment with raised beds, topsoil and specialist gardening tools.
3. You[th] Against Poverty CIC – Led by students of South and City College Birmingham, the grant helped them to make survival kits and put on a Christmas Party for Birmingham's street homeless community.
4. Westley Vale Millennium Green Trust – A community organisation run by local people to look after the open space. The grant allowed them to receive training, buy new equipment and wildflower seeds to sow a wildflower meadow ready for Spring 2021.



How do I apply?

Organisations wishing to apply for You Matter Community Fund need to complete an application form and submit to Hannah Lamont, Social Value Coordinator ASCommunities@mclh.co.uk by the closing date. Awards will be made to successful applicants and a programme of support agreed a month after the closing date. All applications to the You Matter Community Fund will be assessed against our social value objectives and your project will need to deliver measurable outcomes against at least one of the following:

- Increased community inclusion
- Enhanced environment
- Supporting children and young people
- Tackling poverty and isolation
- Promoting equality and diversity
- Contributing to improved physical and mental wellbeing

Application form

1. Organisation name, contact details and address

2. Tell us about your organisation

e.g. what sort of organisation is it, what are your aims, who do you work with and how long have you been running (max 250 words)

3. What is the activity and/or project that you are looking to fund via a small grant?

Please provide information to describe your project e.g. When will the project start and how long will it run for, who will benefit, how will it address the impact of COVID-19 on communities and which of the You Matter Community Fund objectives you will meet and how (max 500 words)

4. Please state the level of small grant (max £1,000) that you are applying for

Please provide a break-down of your budget e.g. Costs for materials and/or equipment, venue hire and volunteer expenses

5. Please confirm that you will submit a case study to the McLaughlin & Harvey Social Value Coordinator within 4 weeks of completing your project

6. Have you applied to the You Matter Community Fund or TimeBank previously?

If so, please state the resources you applied for and if you were successful or not?

For further information,
please contact
ASCommunities@mclh.co.uk