Community Fund Terms and Conditions

Making a difference because we care.

Last updated: 8 October 2026

Our Community Fund supports eligible individuals and local clubs, groups, organisations and schools. Please read the guidance below before applying.

Who can apply

Individuals are eligible if they live or work within our common bond. Local clubs, groups, organisations and schools are eligible if they are based and active within that area.

Anyone living or working in Causeway Coast & Glens or Mid & East Antrim, or within a 10-mile radius of Antrim town.

Organisations must be based and active within this area. Their application should explain where they operate and how the proposed funding relates to the people or activities they support there.

- National or regional organisations are not eligible to apply.
- Separate teams or sections within the same organisation cannot submit their own applications. The organisation must apply as a whole.

We make the final decision on whether an application is eligible.

Application limits and previous recipients

Individuals and organisations may submit more than one application. The total Community Fund support awarded to any one individual or organisation must not exceed £1,500 in any rolling 12-month period, regardless of application windows or financial years.

For example, a recipient could receive three awards of £500, provided their combined awards do not exceed £1,500 within any rolling 12-month period.

For organisations, this limit applies to the whole organisation, including its teams and sections. Each application is assessed separately. Previous funding does not guarantee a further award.

An award may cover only part of the proposed costs. Funding is subject to availability and assessment; applying does not guarantee an award or the full amount requested.

Application windows

Applications must be submitted during one of the published opening periods. The 2026/27 application windows are:

Round	Opening date	Closing date
Autumn	1 October 2026	15 November 2026
Winter	1 January 2027	15 February 2027
Spring	1 March 2027	15 April 2027
Early summer	1 May 2027	15 June 2027
Late summer	1 August 2027	31 August 2027

Closing a window pauses new applications. Applications already received continue through assessment and, if successful, payment. We will publish any changes to the opening periods on our website.

Applying and assessment

How to apply

Use our official online application form or contact us for an alternative application form. Tell us whether you are applying as an individual or on behalf of an organisation, and complete the questions relevant to you.

Please complete all relevant questions accurately. We may contact you for further information before your application can be assessed. An application cannot be fully assessed until the information we need has been provided.

If you are asking for support towards an event, project or activity, apply before it starts and allow time for a decision and payment. Do not assume funding will be awarded or paid before your planned date.

Supporting information

Explain the amount requested, the relevant costs, who will benefit and the difference the funding would make. We may request further information or supporting documents, such as a quote or cost breakdown, where needed to assess your request. We will explain how to provide these.

How we choose

We consider each application on its own merits using the following criteria. These apply to individuals and organisations.

Our purpose. How the request supports our purpose, “Making a difference because we care”.

Benefit and difference. The benefit to the individual or local community and the difference the funding would make. An individual request can show meaningful personal benefit without reaching a large number of people.

Need and costs. Why support is needed and how the amount requested relates to the proposed costs.

Clear and achievable use. Whether the activity or intended use of funding is clear and achievable.

Available funding and fair spread. The funding available and how we support a fair spread of recipients and activities across our common bond.

An individual application does not need to benefit a large number of people. A clear explanation of meaningful benefit to the applicant is sufficient for us to consider it alongside the other criteria.

Our fund is limited, so we may not be able to support every application or award the full amount requested. All eligibility and funding decisions are final.

Decisions and payments

We assess applications regularly during opening periods. We aim to communicate a decision and, for successful applications, make payment within four weeks of receiving a complete application. This is a target, not a guarantee. If we need further information or payment details, we will explain what is needed and let you know if the target date changes.

We will use the contact details in your application to communicate the outcome or request further information. Successful applicants must provide any payment details we request before payment can be completed.

Receiving and using support

If your application is successful

We will explain any specific requirements when we confirm your funding. Depending on the request, we may ask you to acknowledge our support in relevant publicity or tell us how the funding was used and the difference it made.

For organisations, any agreed acknowledgement arrangements will be confirmed when funding is awarded. These may include social media mentions, use of our logo on promotional materials or an acknowledgement at an event.

Using your funding

Funding must be used for the purpose described in your application. If your plans change, contact us before using the funding for something different. Using funding for another purpose without agreement may affect your or your organisation's ability to receive support in future.

Sharing the difference made

We may share details of successful awards to organisations, including the organisation's name, amount awarded and what the funding supports.

We may invite recipients to participate in a photograph, video or story about the support received. Participation is voluntary and is not a condition of funding.

Before publishing identifiable photographs, videos or personal stories, we will explain the intended use and obtain any necessary permissions separately from acceptance of these Terms & Conditions. This includes appropriate permissions for children. An organisation's agreement does not automatically provide consent on behalf of the people featured.

Where publication relies on consent, individuals may withdraw that consent by contacting marketing@evolvecu.co.uk. Our Privacy Notice explains how we handle personal information.

Important conditions

- Awards depend on the funding available. Applying does not guarantee an award.
- We may decline an application or withdraw an award if information is incorrect or funding is not used for the agreed purpose.
- We may make changes to the Community Fund or these Terms & Conditions. Any change to application windows will be published on our website.
- Our decisions on eligibility and awards are final.

By applying

Individual applicants confirm that their information is accurate, any funding will be used for the stated purpose, and they have read and agree to these Terms & Conditions.

Applicants representing organisations additionally confirm that they are authorised to apply on the organisation's behalf.

All applicants acknowledge that they may apply more than once, but total Community Fund support awarded to any one individual or organisation must not exceed £1,500 in any rolling 12-month period. For organisations, this limit includes all teams and sections.

Your information

We will use the information you provide to assess and manage your Community Fund application and contact you about it. Please read our Privacy Notice https://evolvecu.co.uk/privacy-notices for information about how we handle personal data.

Thank you for your interest in the Community Fund.