

Food Redistribution Grant

Introduction

Nottinghamshire County Council recognises the huge contribution that the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) has made to the lives of residents over many years, which has been brought into sharp focus during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council has a strong record in supporting the VCS by empowering local communities to be more self-sufficient. This continues to be a key priority for the Council and supporting the VCS to grow and thrive is central to achieving this.

The Food Redistribution Community Grant is a discretionary financial contribution awarded by Nottinghamshire County Council to support the delivery of [food redistribution projects](#) defined by those who collect surplus food from food businesses / industry / sector and delivers it to those who have a need.¹

This grant scheme will run until 31st March 2026.

Organisations can only submit one application per distinct project in any 12-month period. We are not able to fund groups indefinitely and want to encourage a sustainable approach.

The grant must be spent within 12 months of the decision.

Below we have identified 4 key criteria for screening applications to ensure suitable projects are funded in keeping with the food redistribution community grant scheme:

1. Eligibility
2. Funding
3. Community Engagement
4. Governance

1. Eligibility Criteria - What type of organisations are eligible to apply?

Submissions should only be made by applicants that provide a service or support to people living within Nottinghamshire County boundaries (this does not include Nottingham City residents).

Applications will be considered from organisations operating under the following [legal structures](#):

- registered charities*
- excepted charities*
- constituted voluntary and community organisations*
- sports clubs with Clubmark
- District, Borough, Parish and Town Councils who are actively responding to the needs of vulnerable people in Nottinghamshire communities
- Individuals applying on behalf of a grassroots un-constituted community group
- Umbrella organisations applying on behalf of several smaller groups who would be unlikely to apply independently

* Includes Churches and other faith-based organisations, including Community Interest Companies, Community Interest Organisations

¹ Definition of food redistribution from WRAP [Surplus food redistribution in the UK 2015 to 2021 | WRAP](#)

Applications will **not** be considered from:

- Individuals cannot apply if the fund would be used to support personal needs on an individual basis
- Businesses
- Social or community enterprises

For ease of reference, all activities / programmes / proposals / schemes will be referred to as 'Project'.

2. Funding Criteria:

A) General

The project should:

- Support the Council's strategic priorities
- Have a clear purpose
- Show evidence of population need and addressing health inequalities
- Primarily benefit Nottinghamshire County residents
- Show that there will be inbuilt sustainability of the programme beyond the lifetime of the grant.

The project should demonstrate these ways of working:

- Principles - principles of building community assets & dignity
- Processes - maximise local assets to maximise health and wellbeing gains for local communities
- Partnerships - strengthen local co-production and encourage partnership working

The project should show there is local support for this project, e.g. support from other organisations / local community groups.

The project should demonstrate measures it will take to ensure the work will be sustained after the funding period ends.

The project should demonstrate how it will ensure that participants' physical and mental wellbeing will be fostered / improved.

The project should demonstrate how it will reduce demands on health and social care services.

There should be no duplication of other LCF-funded projects (e.g. Cost of Living grants).

Projects are encouraged to be flexible with their criteria for assistance.

Projects involving food must be registered with their [Local Authority's Environmental Health Team](#) and inform them of any significant change in food operation.

B) Food Redistribution Grant Scheme

This grant scheme will financially contribute to:

- projects providing access to affordable, nutritious food for families and individuals that are experiencing food insecurity as defined as limited or uncertain access to adequate, affordable, nutritious food.

- projects which demonstrate that the majority of their food provision is preventing food waste by utilising surplus food from a variety of food businesses / industry / sector along with community schemes such as crop drop projects and allotments
- projects should require a payment contribution for the food and provide a healthy range of fresh (perishable) and non-perishable food including fresh fruit and vegetables and low-fat low sugar foods that residents/beneficiaries take away for preparation at home.
- new or existing projects that meet an identified community need.

Funding allocation may be prioritised to address gaps in provision identified in the [report to Cabinet](#) in the Ashfield, Broxtowe and Gedling Districts.

Community Engagement Criteria:

Organisations are encouraged to involve the community in the design, development, delivery and evaluation of the project.

3. Governance Criteria:

The Council is accountable for public funds and therefore needs assurance that an organisation is:

- Operating in line with the law and relevant regulations;
- Operating in line with its own governing documents; and,
- Effectively manages public funds and fulfils the monitoring requirements.

Food Redistribution Community Grant applicants must agree to abide by Nottinghamshire County Council's policies:

- [Safeguarding adults](#)
- [Safeguarding children](#)
- [Equality](#)
- [Health and Safety](#)

The applying organisation must be able to evidence title to the land / property or provide evidence of permission to use the land / property for the proposed project.

The project should be able to demonstrate achievement of agreed outcomes through effective monitoring and evaluation of the work.