

Helping Families Thrive Fund

Guidance for organisations applying for a grant from this fund to support families and residents experiencing financial hardship.



Purpose of the fund

The Helping Families Thrive Fund is intended to support local voluntary, community, social enterprise and partner organisations to deliver practical, community-based activity that helps families and residents manage financial pressures, reduce isolation and build longer-term resilience.

The grant should be used to complement, not duplicate, existing support. Applications should demonstrate how proposed activity will provide accessible help, connect people to advice and support, and contribute to sustainable improvements in household wellbeing.

What the fund is seeking to achieve

Projects should support the wider aims of the [Crisis and Resilience Fund](#) by moving beyond short-term crisis response and helping people to become more financially resilient over time.

- Reduce experiences of material deprivation, including food and fuel insecurity.
- Reduce reliance on emergency food parcels where possible.
- Increase access to appropriate advice, income maximisation, debt, budgeting, energy or housing support.
- Support families and residents to improve their financial confidence and resilience.
- Provide safe, inclusive and welcoming spaces where people can access support without stigma.
- Strengthen local community networks and referral pathways.

Who can apply

Applications are welcomed from organisations that are able to demonstrate a clear community benefit and have appropriate arrangements in place to manage public funding responsibly. All must be registered to the grants online system in advance of applying.

- Voluntary and social enterprise
- Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs)
- School-based associations
- Charities and not-for-profit organisations
- Town and parish councils

Applications will be accepted from partnerships between eligible applicants where organisations are working together to deliver a joined-up local offer.

Priority groups

Projects should clearly identify who they intend to support and why that support is needed. Priority should be given to families and residents who are more likely to be affected by financial hardship or who may experience barriers to accessing help.

Demographic information relating to beneficiaries, including children, pensioners, disabled people, employed residents, benefit recipients, and non-benefit recipients.

What we will fund

Applications should focus on activity that provides practical support while helping residents access wider advice, information and opportunities to improve resilience.

The following list is not exhaustive but serves to give examples for the potential use of the grant to create projects such as:

- Family budgeting and money management workshops
- Cooking and healthy eating courses
- Community kitchens and shared meal projects
- School uniform exchanges
- Holiday food and activity programmes
- Energy advice and home efficiency sessions
- Community pantries and food projects
- Parent support groups
- Skills development workshops
- Mental Health and emotional well-being support.

Outcomes

Projects will need to demonstrate how they will contribute to one or more of the following outcomes:

- Increased financial resilience
- Increased long term household sustainability
- Improved confidence in managing household finances
- Reduced food insecurity
- Improved health and wellbeing
- Increased knowledge of healthy eating and budgeting

- Greater community participation
- Increased independence and reduced reliance on crisis support.

Assessment criteria

Applications will be assessed against the extent to which they meet the aims and outcomes of the fund:

- Local need
- Expected community impact
- Value for money
- Sustainability of outcomes
- Partnership working
- Ability to deliver the proposed activity
- Evidence that the project complements existing local services.

Monitoring

A condition of grant funding, all successful applicants will be required to collect, maintain, and submit accurate monitoring information throughout the lifetime of their project.

Organisations must be able to evidence how their activities have contributed to the Government Crisis and Resilience Fund priority outcomes.

Applicants will be expected to provide both quantitative data and qualitative evidence, including case studies where appropriate, to demonstrate the difference their project has made.

Monitoring information will include, but is not limited to:

- Number of households able to afford basic essentials following support
- Number of individuals accessing the Community Family Resilience project
- Number of repeat users of the project
- Number of households reporting an improved ability to manage their finances and household budget
- Number of individuals reporting that their circumstances have improved as a direct result of the project
- Demographic information relating to beneficiaries, including children, pensioners, disabled people, employed residents, benefit recipients, and non-benefit recipients.

The council will use this information to evaluate the effectiveness of the programme, and to respond to government's reporting requirements by demonstrating the collective impact of the Helping Families Thrive Fund on South Gloucestershire children and families, identify emerging needs and trends, and fulfil the monitoring and reporting requirements of the Crisis and Resilience Fund.

Before submitting an application

Before applying, organisations should consider whether their proposal clearly addresses local need, supports residents experiencing hardship, supports long-term sustainability and provides a route into wider help rather than only providing short-term support.

- Who will benefit from the project?
- How do you know this support is needed?
- How will residents find out about and access the support?
- How will the project connect people to wider advice or support?
- What difference will the project make by the end of the funding period and how will this be sustained?
- How will you capture and report impact?