

GreenSquareAccord Community Impact Fund 2022-23 Information and Guidance

Introduction

The GreenSquareAccord (GSA) Community Impact Fund awards grants to community groups and organisations whose projects benefit GSA customers and their local communities.

A judging panel made up of members of the GSA Customer panel and Community Involvement & Investment team is responsible for awarding the grants from the Fund. The Fund can award grants of up to £500 for projects.

We have tried to make the application form as easy as possible to fill in. If something is not clear, please contact the Community Involvement & Investment Team by emailing: communities@greensquareaccord.co.uk.

How to apply

Please read the guidance thoroughly, in particular the 'eligibility' section. When you are sure you are eligible to apply, please complete an application form. You can complete an online application form on our website, or you can download and complete a Word version of the form.

If you complete the online application form you can submit it online. If you complete the Word version, please email your completed form to communities@greensquareaccord.co.uk.

Deadlines

Applications can be submitted at any time throughout the year. Grants will be awarded until the total funding pot for any given year has been allocated. The 2022-23 Community Impact Fund will run until the end of March 2023.

The judging panel will meet on a bi-monthly basis, subject to the quantity of applications received.

Please note that we will need to know exactly how much money you need and what it will be spent on, so please get quotes to make your figures as accurate as possible.

Eligibility

The Fund is aimed at supporting the work of tenant and resident groups, local charities, voluntary and community groups and organisations who operate in our areas to develop projects that deliver outcomes to benefit GSA customers and the communities we work in.

- ◆ Applicants must demonstrate how the grant will benefit the lives of GSA customers.
- ◆ Applicants will need to be constituted groups and will be required to provide their organisations' latest accounts/annual report if they have one and insurance details.
- ◆ If a group or organisation is new, a draft or latest income and expenditure forecast will be sufficient.
- ◆ Groups/organisations will need a bank account to receive grant payments. GSA cannot pay grants to individuals or via crowd funding or fundraising pages.
- ◆ Where relevant to the project, groups will need to submit their Safeguarding policy for work with people under 18 or vulnerable adults.
- ◆ We don't offer funding for party-political or religious activities; commercial ventures; retrospective funding; individuals or projects run by individuals; or activities excluding people by religion, ethnicity, gender or sexuality.

If you are not sure whether you are eligible to apply, or how to meet these criteria, please contact us at communities@greensquareaccord.co.uk.

Priorities

The projects we fund need to directly benefit GSA customers. Our main priorities for the Fund are:

- ◆ **Providing opportunities to access employment and develop relevant skills**
e.g. projects that help people into work through access to training and educational courses, volunteering opportunities.
- ◆ **Developing financial capability**
e.g. supporting people to be financially independent, information & guidance, budgeting advice, projects addressing cost of living increases.
- ◆ **Improving digital inclusion**
e.g. projects that develop peoples' skills and confidence to get online or improve access to devices, digital champions projects.
- ◆ **Promoting health and well-being**
e.g. running clubs and activities for targeted groups such as young people or older, isolated adults, improving green spaces, projects that improve sense of community, connection and safety, food & nutrition projects, projects that reduce health inequalities.

Previous grants we have awarded include:

- ◆ Provision of seated dance sessions for older people in sheltered accommodation
- ◆ Supporting children with speech and language development
- ◆ Allotment project to enable young people access to gardening skills
- ◆ Outdoor therapy for vulnerable, isolated people

- ◆ Production and distribution of a free independent community newspaper
- ◆ Recruit, train and resource volunteers to go into schools to support primary students with their reading
- ◆ Engaging young people at risk of anti-social behaviour (ASB) with positive activities.

Assessing applications

Once your application has been received it will be reviewed by the Community Involvement & Investment Team and relevant Locality Management Board.

All eligible applications will then be assessed by the judging panel, a small group of GSA Customer Panel members and the Community Involvement & Investment team, who have been delegated responsibility for the Community Impact Fund. The judging panel will meet bi-monthly and you should be informed of the outcome of your application within 8 weeks of submitting it.

Successful applications

If you are successful, you will be sent an Award Letter detailing the conditions of your grant and your responsibilities. Payment will be made via a BACS transfer.

There are a few requirements for projects that are awarded grants. These include:

- ◆ The money must be used within 1 year of the date of the award.
- ◆ We will need you to complete an evaluation form and provide information/photographs to demonstrate how your grant was spent. We will provide you with a template for this.
- ◆ You must be able to provide copies of all receipts and invoices associated with your grant.
- ◆ You will need to acknowledge GSA's financial support in your publicity, printed or website material, relating to the project and use the GSA approved logo (we will share this with you and can help if you are unsure of how to do this).

Apply now

If you meet our eligibility criteria, we would be delighted to receive your application. You can download the application guidance and an application form at [add website link](#).