



# NATIONWIDE BUILDING SOCIETY COMMUNITY GRANTS - Q + A

## QUESTIONS ON THE PROGRAMME

### **1. What is the Nationwide Community Grants programme?**

The Nationwide Community Grants programme awards up to £500,000 across 11 UK regions annually. Nationwide has partnered with UK Community Foundations to deliver the programme through Community Foundations at a local level.

Nationwide is looking for local housing projects that will strengthen local communities to support the most vulnerable by:

- Preventing people from losing their home
- Helping people in to a home
- Supporting people to thrive within the home environment

### **2. Where will the funding be distributed?**

The programme is UK-wide. There will be a round of funding for the North opening in June, and another for the South opening in September.

11 Community Foundations are managing applications for the whole country. To find your closest one visit <https://www.ukcommunityfoundations.org/our-programmes/nationwide>.

### **3. Why has UK Community Foundations been selected to deliver this programme?**

Our network covers the whole of the UK and has an unparalleled reach into local communities. In 2017/18 the network distributed close to £100 million of grants.

Each Community Foundation has an in-depth understanding of their local area, what the priority needs are and how best to address these issues, so they can ensure the funding goes where it is most needed and can make the most impact.

### **4. Is there support available for projects that don't receive funding?**

Demand for funding is often greater than the funding available. This makes applying for grant a competitive process and sadly Community Foundations cannot fund all the great projects they receive applications from.

Projects that were not successful in receiving funding should speak to their Community Foundation for feedback and to see what other options may be available. Community Foundations may be able to signpost groups to other local funds

### **5. How are applications assessed?**

Community Foundations will shortlist applications for their areas, assessing against the eligibility criteria and priorities of the programme. The shortlisted applications will be reviewed and voted on by a regional Community Board, made up of Nationwide members and staff.



## QUESTIONS ABOUT ELIGIBILITY

### **1. Who is eligible to apply for funding?**

This fund is open to charities, community land trusts and housing co-operatives. National organisations with local branches (with its own management committee and bank account) can apply. New organisations that can demonstrate they are financially robust can also apply.

### **2. Does Nationwide support projects that use temporary accommodation?**

Yes, applications that provide temporary accommodation are acceptable as long as the long-term vision of the project is to support people in to a proper home of their own.

### **3. Bond/loan schemes – how should successful applicants treat money that is paid back to them?**

The grant must be used for the purpose it was awarded and any money that is paid back to the charity should be used to sustain the project and help someone else with a bond/loan. If this particular element of their project ceases to exist the money should be reinvested back in to the project as a whole. The organisation should discuss any proposed changes with their local Community Foundation.

### **4. Lease costs – would Nationwide cover the costs of leasing a building to help sustain a project – would it come under capital costs?**

No. This type of cost would not be eligible.

### **5. If organisations are successful will they receive the full grant or is Nationwide likely to part fund?**

Nationwide will fund as many full grants as possible. It may be that some costs applied for are ineligible, if this is the case these will be removed from the final grant.

### **6. Will projects that have received funding previously be eligible to receive funding again?**

Yes – projects that have received funding can apply again.

### **7. Can an organisation apply for multiple projects or apply as part of a partnership as well as individually?**

Yes, but the Community Foundation shall highlight that the charity has applied more than once in the assessor's comments that are shared with the decision-making Community Board. In the interest of fairness – it is unlikely that more than one application per charity will be shortlisted.

### **8. Are equalities and diversities and safeguarding policies an eligibility requirement of the Nationwide grants programme?**

Yes, these will be reviewed and assessed before the Community Board meeting. Organisations that do not submit these will not be eligible for funding.



Policies should be discussed and considered with staff and Trustees. Guidance for applicants can also be found [online](#).

**9. Can organisations apply for funding to support existing work?**

Yes, Nationwide will fund existing work if the applicant can demonstrate the impact of this work within the scope of project plan i.e. specific budget, timeframe and outcomes for this work, aligning with the Nationwide criteria.

**10. Can organisations claim income for the most recent financial year, even where accounts are not signed off?**

Yes, as long as the most recent annual income can be reasonably evidenced to the local Community Foundation.

**11. Where a project supports vulnerable participants are Nationwide happy for groups to use stock photos rather than actual photos of participants?**

Yes

## DEFINITIONS OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

**Registered charities and charitable incorporated organisations** are organisations established and operated for charitable purposes. These will be registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales, the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland in Northern Ireland, and Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) in Scotland.

**A Community Land Trust (CLT)** is a form of community-led housing, set up and run by ordinary people to develop and manage homes as well as other assets. A CLT acts as long-term stewards of housing, ensuring that homes remain genuinely affordable, based on what people actually earn in their area, now and in the future. CLT's can be registered with the charity commission or OSCR in Scotland, the Financial Conduct Authority or with Companies House as a community interest company ltd by guarantee. Companies or community interest companies ltd by shares are not eligible for this fund.

**A cooperative** is a business that is run for the benefit of its members, distributing profits between their members. **A housing cooperative** is for the benefit of people living there, without those people actually owning it personally. **A community benefit society** is a society established for the benefit of the community and not of its members. Both cooperatives and community benefit societies need to be registered with the Financial Conduct Authority; both entities are eligible as long as their associated activities target housing and/or homelessness.