

Community Grants Guidance

North Star has allocated funds to benefit residents living in areas where we own/manage properties

Grants of up to £2500 are available for projects and activities that can help support local communities, unlock their potential, transform lives and create a sense of belonging.

We are looking for projects that benefit our tenants and contribute to one or more of our following four strategic priorities:

No Poverty

Good Health and Wellbeing

Quality Education

Sustainable Cities and Communities

We welcome applications for projects, activities or events that will be delivered in areas North Star operate. Priority will be given to projects that can be delivered in the following areas.

Hartlepool (Belle Vue)

Evenwood

Cockfield

Thornaby

Stockton (Town Centre)

Middlesbrough (Gresham/Newport)

East Cleveland (Carlin How and Skinningrove)

We accept applications from voluntary and community groups, resident associations, registered charities, schools, town and parish councils and North Star supported accommodation schemes.

You need to have a group/project bank account (not in an individual person's name) that the funds can be sent to or you must have an organisation agree to accept the funds into their bank account on your behalf.

To apply, complete the online grant application and upload a short video (no more than four minutes) explaining what you would do with the money and how it would support our tenants and the wider community.

The video can be made as a group or one person speaking into the camera. Remember, our panel want to visualise your project and really understand how it will help the community. Get creative and show us the difference your project will make!

You must include:

- Who you are and an overview of your group/organisation
- Details of your project and what you hope to achieve
- How much you're applying for, and why
- How the money will benefit the community and our tenants.

What conditions will be required of applicants?

- Grants provided are not transferable to other projects
- All grant recipients will be required to provide details of how the grant was spent and evidence of expenditure upon request. Organisations who fail to provide evidence of expenditure when requested will automatically be ineligible for future grants from the Community Grants Fund.
- All successful applicants will be expected to submit a monitoring/outcome report once their project/event is completed. Organisations who fail to submit a report when requested will automatically be ineligible for future grants from the Community Grants Fund.
- Projects may require beneficiaries to complete before and after surveys provided by North Star, which are required as evidence for specific outcomes.
- It is a condition of acceptance of funding that North Star Housing can use photographic or digital imaging of the project for publicity, marketing and evidence purposes
- It is a condition of the grant that any publicity and/or media coverage related to the project for which funding is provided acknowledges North Star Housing and includes our logo which can be provided digitally on request.

Describing your project

As part of your application, you will be asked to describe your project and what you expect it will achieve. The following are things the panel typically look for when appraising an application

- Understand the need for the project in your local community. The panel will look favourably on applications that demonstrate good evidence that the

community will benefit from your project. Facts, figures and case studies are all good ways to do this. Projects work much better and deliver more for local communities when there has been a need identified.

- Be specific about how you will reach your beneficiaries. If you need North Star's support, be specific about what that might be.
- It is good to demonstrate partnership working where it exists. This shows how the project is / will be connected to the community.
- North Star asks applicants to produce a short video to support your application. This is your opportunity to bring the application to life. Successful videos have usually included footage of the venue or location at which the project will be delivered, contributions from beneficiaries / potential beneficiaries and focussed on the difference the project will make.

How many applications can be made?

- A project will not be funded twice in any one financial year (April- March)
- We are unlikely to fund the same project annually.

What types of projects won't we fund?

- Grants to individuals
- Organisations/companies which aim to distribute a profit
- Retrospective grants
- Grants to organisations that promote religious or political views
- Grants for projects that do not promote equal opportunities
- Grants for staff costs and wages (excluding sessional costs) are not usually successful
- Grants for one-off events will be considered. However, any costs will need to be clearly itemised. If the funding requested for the event exceeds £500, please contact the communities to discuss this (communities@northstarhg.co.uk 03000 11 00 11)
- Grants for the total cost of projects will be considered. However, we encourage organisations to include match funding where possible, either from their own funds or alternative funding sources.

What will happen once the application has been received?

- A member of staff from the Communities Team may contact you for further details regarding your application
- All applications will be considered by a panel of North Star Involved Tenants and staff. The panel will make a decision based on the information contained within the application form and in light of the other applications being considered. The impact the project has is an important factor in deciding which projects we fund. The decision of the Community Grants Panel will be final
- You will be informed by email of the outcome of your grant application within 10 working days following the deadline date.
- If approval is given this is pending receipt of any further information requested e.g. copies of relevant policies or evidence of applicable.