

Lancashire Flood Appeal – Strengthening Communities Fund

The Community Foundation for Lancashire is inviting applications from voluntary and community organisations who are working in areas that have been affected by flooding and storms between December 2015 and March 2016. The Community Foundation for Lancashire is a brand under the group charity of Community Foundations for Lancashire and Merseyside, registered charity no. 1068887.

As a result of fundraising by the Community Foundation the Lancashire Flood Recovery fund was set up to help individuals and community groups affected by the recent floods and to provide immediate relief and support in the aftermath. Funding came from a variety of sources including public donations, Trusts and Foundations, other charities and local businesses and companies.

As part of its third stage the Community Foundation is now looking to support voluntary and community organisations who wish to put plans into action to help them cope better with future storms and flooding and to be able to respond pro-actively to emergencies and natural disasters in their community. We also want to support communities that have come together as a result of the flooding and build on this community spirit.

We encourage local people to come together and discuss ways in which they can make their communities more resilient in future. Local communities are better placed to identify what needs to be done and will be able to respond more quickly and take the most appropriate action. Following the recent flooding communities rallied together and helped each other; we want to enable groups to build on that feeling of being part of a larger community not just in times of crisis but to support with community cohesion activities throughout the year. So the Community Foundation is also keen to support projects and items that can be used again and again for other emergencies and community activities.

Funding will be awarded under the following priorities:

- Preparation for future flooding/disasters and emergency response
- Long term community rebuilding projects
- Community led flood defence work
- Projects that support community activities and projects initiated as a result of the flooding or community projects that build on the community spirit initiated by the flooding
- Projects initiated by the flooding that leave a lasting legacy in the community for wider community benefit

Who can apply?

Voluntary, community organisations and registered charities, including local residents groups, social enterprises and Parish Councils (for projects outside of their statutory obligations) can apply. PTAs and Friends groups associated with statutory organisations such as schools can apply for items which are not classed as a statutory responsibility. We also welcome applications from newly established groups and require as a minimum a governing document which sets out the aims and objectives of the group and a core group of 3 individuals who can act as the management committee.

How much is available?

Grants of up to £10,000 will be available (more may be available in exceptional circumstances)

The closing date is Friday 7th October 2016.

Examples of the sorts of projects that may be funded:

Community planning

- Development of a flood plan/flood response document
- Costs involved in setting up a new flood resilience group/neighbourhood watch group ie room hire, stationery, equipment, training, appropriate insurances
- Community flood wardens – training and equipment

Community assets

- Refurbishing or rebuilding community centres so they are the focal point and place of safety in a disaster situation
- Improvements to community buildings to make them more flood resilient
- Enhancement of community facilities and services such as cooking equipment for community building
- Small scale practical improvements to the landscape that will provide immediate benefit to the community

Equipment

- Emergency response equipment ie torches, hi-vis jackets/gloves/protective clothing/cleaning kits/emergency blankets
- Sandbags – setting up of a sandbag hub
- Emergency generators – based in community centres
- Water pumps
- Safe storage spaces for equipment
- Improvements to communications during an emergency to keep communities better informed ie two way radios,
- Information/publicity materials

Any Special Criteria

Projects should be resident led and where appropriate should have input from other voluntary and community groups, the local authority and local Councillors, the Environment Agency and local flood forums. Groups should ensure there is no duplication and that the work compliments that being carried out by other agencies/groups and fits in with any flood plans already in place. Groups also need to ensure that the necessary permissions are in place.

The Community Foundation will not replace statutory funding and fund items that are seen to be the responsibility of the local authority. Applicants should also confirm that there is no Government funding available to fund their project and declare if they have received any government or other funding for their project. Match funding against other grants may be considered if the project meets the criteria, can prove public benefit and operates beyond statutory obligations and services.

Groups should provide 3 quotes for building projects. We recommend that groups use a builder from the Safe Trader Scheme. Information can be found at www.traderregister.org.uk/lancashire/index.php

Further information on flood support and advice, including other funding schemes is available from your local Council and also from the following websites:

www.gov.uk/prepare-for-a-flood

www.gov.uk/government/publications/flooding-what-to-do-before-during-and-after-a-flood

www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk/

www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/roads/flooding.aspx

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sandbags-how-to-use-them-to-prepare-for-a-flood>
www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/292939/LIT_5286_b9ff43.pdf

What cannot be funded?

- Individuals
- Projects and activities classed as a statutory responsibility
- Projects eligible for other funding streams
- Businesses
- Projects that only benefit the landowner rather than the wider community
- Maintenance and repairs of existing flood defences
- Individual property protection work such as flood gates
- Retrospective funding
- National organizations that cannot demonstrate local governance and control of local finances
- Politically connected or exclusively religious activities

How to apply?

Please visit the Community Foundation for Lancashire's website - www.lancsfoundation.org.uk and complete an online application form. Once you have submitted the online application you will need to send the documents listed below. If you do not submit all the relevant documents within 7 days your application will be withdrawn. You can now attach the documents to your online application, email them to applications@cflm.email or post them to the address below.

Documents which need to be included with your application:

1. A copy of the group's rules or constitution
2. A copy of the group's latest annual accounts or income/expenditure document
3. A copy of a recent bank statement for your group
4. Building quotes where relevant. **NB** if you are not able get quotes by the deadline please complete the application form by the closing date and you can forward the quotes at a later date
5. A copy of the group's current Safeguarding Policy. All applicants must ensure that they hold relevant policies and procedures in place to undertake activities, such as Criminal Records Bureau checks and/or a health and safety policy, depending on proposed activity.

What happens next?

Completed applications are considered by Community Foundation staff to check eligibility. You may be contacted for more information after applying and a decision making panel will make recommendations based on the fund's criteria and the budget available. You should expect to hear the outcome of your application within 6 weeks of the closing date.

For further information please contact Joan Ford, Community Philanthropy Manager at:

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