

August 2026 Criteria



Sovereign Health Care Community Programme

Grant size: £1,000 to £2,500 (non-Health orgs), up to £5,000 (health focused orgs)

Location: West Yorkshire, with a preference for Bradford District

Duration: 1 year

Deadline: 21/09/2026 at 12 noon

Decisions: November 2026

The Sovereign Health Care Community Programme aims to support people with identified health needs or health conditions to improve outcomes, quality of life and access to services, and to reduce health inequalities across West Yorkshire, with a preference for work benefiting people in Bradford District.

Key information

- **We actively welcome more applications from, underrepresented groups for example LGBTQIA+, racially minoritised, d/Deaf or disabled people.**
- Work must take place in West Yorkshire, with a preference for Bradford District.
- Projects must support people with identified health needs or health conditions through community-based activity that improves outcomes, quality of life or access to services.
- Organisations must have an income under £5m in the most recent financial year.
- Only one application per organisation can be considered.
- Awarded organisations must wait 12 months before applying again.

Examples of activity funded from the previous 12 months:

- Community-based workshops helping people better understand and manage chronic conditions through practical lifestyle advice, group learning and ongoing support.
- Oral health charities helping families and young children learn about good oral health, including practical advice, toothbrushing routines and signposting to local dental services.
- A project supporting older adults with identified health needs to stay active and connected through regular social sessions, light physical activity and health information workshops to improve access to support.
- A project expanding peer-led wheelchair skills training and support for people with spinal cord injuries, helping newly injured patients build confidence, improve independence and access tailored support during recovery.

What can't be funded

- Activity which might be regarded as discriminatory and/or excludes some people without good justification
- General welfare support (e.g. food/baby banks or meal provision)
- Employability schemes, walking groups, fun days
- Faith based activity that involves proselytising or promoting religious belief
- Projects focused primarily on homelessness
- General sport, fitness or outdoor education activities
- Education activity that is part of, or supplements, statutory provision
- Political activity
- General wellbeing
- Arts and cultural activity for the general population
- Activity primarily for the benefit of animals
- Grant-making to other organisations and/or individuals, or applications from individuals

Who can apply?

Grants of
£5,000 or less

Incorporated not-for-profit organisations (e.g. CIO, CIC limited by guarantee, charitable companies) registered with the Charity Commission, Companies House or FCA Mutuals Public Register.



Registered charities that aren't an incorporated structure. These cannot use grants for PAYE staff, only self-employed workers.



Small unincorporated and unregistered organisations - if annual income is less than £10,000 and the grant wouldn't push income above £10,000 in the current financial year.



Not eligible for grants:

For-profit, overseas and statutory (e.g. schools and hospitals) organisations or activities.

All organisations, regardless of size and structure, must have:

- A minimum of three unrelated trustees/committee members/directors, with none registered as Persons with Significant Control.
- A governing document showing how your group is managed (e.g. constitution, memorandum and articles of association) with a dissolution clause/asset lock that ensures the organisation is fully constituted as not-for-profit.
- A bank account in the organisation's name with at least two unrelated signatories, and at least two signatories required to authorise all transactions.
- Financial accounts that clearly show the organisation's gross income (or, if you are a new organisation, an income and expenditure report, including details of any assets and reserves and policies relating to them). **We do not accept draft accounts.**
- Relevant safeguarding policies if working with children or vulnerable adults.

You should consider:

- Full Cost Recovery, including a relevant portion of management costs and overheads
- Paying at least the real Living Wage for any staff
- How your costs may increase during the timeframe of the grant, for example making sure you budget for pay increases each year
- How to ensure the activity is fully inclusive and accessible for your communities, particularly during the cost-of-living crisis (for example providing transport, food, childcare)
- Any relevant insurance (for example for public events), health and safety, food handling and preparation, and other local and national statutory regulations for your activity

Please note we have limited funding available and we're not able to fund every application we receive. We expect to be able to fund around ten applications per funding round. Incomplete applications will not be considered. The decision made by the grants panel is final.

Before you start your application, please read our full grant-making process at: givebradford.org.uk/grants-process-explained

To start your application, visit givebradford.org.uk/open-grants

We're here to help on [01274 037 300](tel:01274037300) & info@givebradford.org.uk