

Community Insight and Engagement Grants

Prospective applicant overview

Small grants to help communities share their knowledge, involve people with lived experience and turn insight into practical action. Proposals should support people living with cancer, frailty or chronic disease and help address inequalities in West Hertfordshire.

GRANT AVAILABLE	INDICATIVE ROUTE FUNDING	EXPECTED NUMBER OF AWARDS
£500 to £2,500	Approximately £15,000	Approximately 6 to 10

What this grant can support

- Community conversations, outreach or listening activity to understand local needs and barriers to support.
- Co-design and lived-experience involvement, including participant costs, accessibility, translation and interpretation.
- Testing a small community-led idea or improving how local people connect with existing support.
- Facilitator, sessionalss worker, volunteer, venue, materials, communications and proportionate evaluation costs.
- Sharing insight with community organisations, neighbourhood services and statutory partners so it can influence future action.

Who can apply

West Hertfordshire voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise organisations can apply. Smaller or unconstituted groups may apply through an eligible accountable organisation. Local branches and partnerships are welcome where the activity is locally designed, delivered and ring-fenced for West Hertfordshire.

What a strong application will show

- A clear local need and the community or neighbourhood involved.
- Meaningful involvement of people the activity is intended to support, especially those underserved by existing provision.
- A realistic activity, proportionate budget and a clear link to at least one Anchor programme outcome.
- How learning will be captured and used, including what changed for participants or local services.

Start with a 50-word idea - before completing the full application

Send the Anchor Coordinator no more than 50 words covering **your idea, who it is for and what you hope will change**. The same pre-application support will be available to all prospective applicants.

You will receive one of three clear, early responses: (1) not currently eligible or sufficiently aligned, with a brief reason; (2) potentially suitable, with the points to address before applying; or (3) well aligned, and a full application would be welcomed.

The Coordinator can help you test the fit, respond to feedback, identify a suitable accountable organisation or partners, shape a proportionate activity and budget, and complete the application form. **Pre-application feedback is guidance, not a funding decision or guarantee of an award.**

How applications will be considered

A Grants Panel will consider alignment with the Anchor outcomes, local need, community involvement, inclusion, deliverability, value for money and learning, alongside the overall balance of awards. Applicants will select one primary outcome and a small number of proportionate indicators. Monitoring will normally be a brief final return covering who was reached, what happened, the primary outcome and what was learned. Organisations and groups may submit one application to each grant route during this grant window. This means they may submit up to two applications in total, one for each grant route. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis while funding remains available. We reserve the right to close applications early if the available funding has been allocated.

To discuss an idea, send your 50 word summary or submit your application, contact **Maria Tanko, Anchor Programme Coordinator**, at mariatu.abdulrahmantanko@nhs.net or 01923 436182.