

East Herts Grants 2023-24

This document gives details of the three streams from which grant funding is available:

- Community Grants
- Cultural Activities Grants
- Environmental Sustainability Grants

Your application must meet the **eligibility** requirements given below:

Eligibility criteria– for all applicants

To be eligible for consideration for a grant, the body applying must:

- be proposing a project that will operate within East Hertfordshire, for the benefit of residents of the district
- be (a) a constituted voluntary organisation, (b) a not-for-profit organisation, (c) an individual or informal group (with no legal status) with an agreed East Herts Council councillor acting as a mentor or (d) a town or parish council
- be financially viable with its own bank account that requires two unrelated people to authorise payments and make withdrawals. The account must be in the name of the organisation applying. In the case of individuals or informal groups (with no legal status), the council and East Herts Council councillor mentor must be satisfied of the probity of the individual's or informal group's financial arrangements
- have good governance in place including a committee or board of directors that includes at least three unrelated individuals. In the case of individuals or informal groups (with no legal status), the council and East Herts Council councillor mentor must be satisfied of the proposed governance of the management of the grant and the grant-funded project itself
- if applicable, own the freehold, or lease that cannot be ended within five years of completion of works, of the land or building subject to the proposed works/equipment and, if applicable, demonstrate that the relevant permissions are in place, including planning if applicable, to complete the works.
- be in keeping with the council's commitment to celebrating equality and diversity and the council's Equalities Duty under the Equality Act 2010

Additional eligibility criteria for Community Grants ONLY

The project for which the grant is being sought must:

- have the written endorsement of an East Herts Council councillor representing the area from which most of the residents who would benefit from the activity come. In cases where an East Herts Council councillor is a member of the applying organisation and there is no other ward member, then the East Herts Council Executive Member for Communities may endorse the application. Note: The Executive Member for Communities cannot endorse an application from an organisation which they are a member of; another councillor from the same ward may endorse the application in these circumstances or, if there isn't another ward member, a councillor for a nearby ward may endorse the application
- be capable of being completed within a year of the grant being awarded
- commit to ensuring a legacy beyond the lifetime of the council's funding so that the benefits to the community can continue. This legacy could, for example, take the form of:
 - continuation of the activity without council support
 - a community social media group or newsletter being set up
 - a fundraising element which helps a group to give back to the community
 - an environmental activity that continues after the initial project outreach.

Eligible costs which can be applied for

- hire costs, publicity materials, travel and small items of equipment
- building works and improvements to community assets that result in high quality, accessible sports or community facilities or accessible outdoor spaces
- large items of equipment, including digital assistive technologies
- delivery costs of an activity/service including staff costs. If the grant sought is for an existing service, the applicant must show how the grant would develop and extend the provision and enhance what is being offered
- volunteer training
- fees to bring in additional expertise.

What we cannot fund

East Herts Council will not provide grants for:

- organisations with the primary purpose of and/or beliefs that are challenging of East Herts Council's decisions or are contradictory to the council's core values*
- organisations whose sole aim is to promote a political belief*
- projects that have the sole aim of promoting a particular religion
- general fundraising campaigns
- a service that the state is obligated to provide
- works to land or buildings where ownership (freehold or eligible lease) is not held by the applicant
- building projects that have already started, though we may fund a later stage of a building project that is not dependent on an earlier stage
- maintenance or minor repair work on buildings or spaces
- purchase of items on behalf of another
- hardship where an organisation is in a crisis which requires a rapid response
- commercial ventures
- purchase of specialist medical equipment
- VAT that can be recovered.

* If the applicant proposes to work with another organisation to deliver the project and the council believes the other organisation would be ineligible on these grounds, the application will be ineligible.

Additional eligibility criteria for Cultural Activities and Environmental Sustainability Grants ONLY

Only projects in the East Herts area will be eligible for this funding.

This funding cannot be used to fund or part fund:

- Eligible costs incurred before Apr 2023 or after March 2025
- Educational settings
- Religious or political groups
- Recoverable VAT