

Small grants application form guidance notes for the Community Festivals Fund

Contents	Page
1. Introduction to Belfast City Council small grants	1
2. Applying for Belfast City Council small grants	1
3. Application and assessment	3
4. Filling in your application form	
- Organisation, legal, staff and financial information	3
- Community Festivals Fund	4
- Completing your budget for small grants	7
- Submitting your application	8
- Equality monitoring	9
5. What happens next?	9
6. Useful contacts	10

1. Introduction to Belfast City Council small grants

- The general purpose of this fund is to help pay for projects that match our targets.
- In each financial year there will be two application rounds for small grants. However, not all of the small grants will be available every time as they will be subject to availability of funds. For example, the Summer Intervention Fund will not open for tranche 2.
- If you are applying for more than one of these grants, the projects you are applying for must be different from each other.
- Each grant fund is limited. Even if an application scores highly, we cannot guarantee funding.

Please note that applying for a grant is a competitive process and awards are subject to the availability of funds and may be subject to change.

2. Applying for Belfast City Council small grants

It is important to remember that we assess your application on the information you provide. We will not take into account any information that you do not include in this application.

For some questions we have set a maximum number of words you can have in your answer. The word limits are not just for guidance. We will not consider any words over the word limit, unless the help notes state that extra information can be included.

Your responses should be well structured and clearly linked to the question. We recommend you use bullet points and headings where possible.

Our grant scheme has been carefully designed to make the application process as easy and straightforward as possible. We do not think any paid help is necessary and we do not act with or endorse the services of any supplier or consultant and will not pay any costs, commission or fees that they may charge you to make an application. Officers can meet with you to give advice and guidance on your application and/or project plan. It is important that you complete the form yourself, and apply directly to us.

Please do not try to influence the decision by lobbying Belfast City Council, directly or indirectly.

The following list is basic eligibility criteria that your organisation must meet to be able to apply for any of these small grants. If your organisation does not meet the eligibility criteria, we will not consider your application for funding.

We do not fund the following.

- Organisations that are:
 - not formally constituted, in other words, they do not have a constitution or memorandum and articles of association;
 - not operating on a not-for-profit basis (taken from the constitution or memorandum and articles of association) as we cannot support commercial projects or projects that could be carried out commercially. If, in the reasonable opinion of the Council, the Organisation applying for funding is a de facto commercial Organisation, whatever the legal make-up of the Organisation, then the Council shall not fund that Organisation. The decision of the Council shall be final in this regard;
 - able to share out profits (taken from the constitution or memorandum and articles of association);
 - not prepared to share learning from their project with us and other relevant groups;
 - Local authorities or public-sector organisations;
 - Schools, except where there is a clear need demonstrated that the project being funded will serve the community and this need is not being met by another organisation. Please contact us before applying for funding if you fall into this category and please note schools are not eligible for any community development grants;
- Individuals, unless they have been nominated by an appropriate organisation for either Support for Sporting Individuals Grant or a bursary for Good Relations practitioners to attend a conference through the Good Relations Grant.
- Projects that:
 - have no significant benefit to the Belfast City Council area
 - provide no potential benefit to the public, either in the short or long term;
 - could be carried out on a commercial basis;
 - have already taken place or are already under way at the time of the assessment;
 - duplicate what already exists;
 - are charity or fundraising events or activities;
 - are of a party political nature;
 - promote a particular religion; or
 - are against Belfast City Council policy. For example, we do not allow balloon or Chinese lantern releases as they are against our environmental policy.

Applications that are not complete or do not provide a detailed project budget are also not eligible.

We are unlikely to fund an organisation that is in poor financial health or cannot show effective financial control.

Individuals involved in the delivery of the project, that is, staff, volunteers or board members of the applicant organisation, cannot benefit personally from the award of this grant. This means that they cannot be paid for the provision of goods or services from the grant.

It is also unlikely that you will receive funding if you have previously received a grant from us that was not managed satisfactorily or was not completed. This includes if you did not send us the monitoring and evaluation forms within the agreed timescales or if you did not seek approval for changes to your project. As well as the above, your project or organisation must also meet the specific eligibility for any of the small grants applied for.

If you are not sure whether your organisation and project meets the eligibility criteria, or you need more guidance on the application form, please contact one of our grants officers. You can find contact details at the end of these guidance notes.

3. Application and assessment

Application process

The dates for the current round of funding are shown below.

Applications open	Closing date	Notice to applicants with our decision	Proposed activity begins	Proposed Activity ends
21 October 2019	12 noon Friday 10 January 2020	March 2020	1 April 2020	30 September 2020

Projects **must** occur between 1 April 2020 and 30 September 2020, any activity outside these timescales will not be eligible for funding.

We will not accept applications we receive after the closing date and time.

You must use the correct form, which can be completed at www.belfastcity.gov.uk/funding

We are committed to making sure that our services are available to all sections of the community. We will consider providing this form and the application form in other formats if you ask, if this is practical.

Assessment process

1. We will log all applications when we receive them.
2. We will check your application to make sure it meets the eligibility criteria (both the basic grant criteria and specific criteria of the grant). If we find that there is information missing at this point, we will contact you and give you five days to send it to us. If you fail to send the missing information to us in this period, or if the application fails to meet other eligibility criteria, your application will fail at this stage and not go forward for further assessment.
3. We will forward eligible applications to the relevant unit for scoring against the specific criteria of the grant applied for.
4. Based on the confirmed scores, we may make an offer of funding.

4. Filling in your application form

All organisations must complete sections Organisation, Legal, Staff and Financial and the relevant form for the grant or grants they are applying for. If an organisation is applying for multiple grants, these sections should only be completed once, along with the 'Submit application' section and an Equality section for each grant you are applying for.

If you have any problems filling in your application please call the Central Grants Unit on 90918748.

Organisation, Legal, Staff and Financial

This section gathers information about how your organisation is set up and managed. It asks for financial information and about procedures your organisation uses to manage money on a day-to-day basis. We will not consider an application made by one organisation on behalf of another.

Community Festivals Fund

The Community Festivals Fund is very competitive, and we would advise that you read these Guidance Notes carefully and speak to a Tourism, Culture, Heritage and Arts Development Officer if you have any questions before you make your application. Contact details are at the end of these Guidance Notes.

Funding limits

Minimum request: £2,500 Maximum award: £10,000 per festival
You can apply for funding for more than one festival in each application round.

Tranche two of this grant is for festivals taking place between 1 October 2019 and 31 March 2020.

Purpose of the fund

The Community Festivals Fund is jointly funded by Belfast City Council and the Department for Communities to recognise the role that festivals can play in increasing social cohesion, celebrating cultural identity and strengthening community relations.

Funding is available for community festivals taking place within the Belfast local government district, that focus on:

- arts and heritage activities; and
- other cultural events that contribute to the cultural identity of an area or group and celebrate the uniqueness of that area or group.

However, funding alone is not enough to make sure that a festival can be held for as long as the community wants it to go on. For that reason, the main purpose of the Community Festivals Fund is to improve the capacity of the community festival.

What we mean by a 'community festival'

A festival is a series of activities over a set period of time of **at least eight hours**. Activities are usually different, but related through a common theme. A festival is not one event or the same event scheduled over several days.

Community festivals are about involvement and celebrating or developing a sense of identity or common interest. A community festival is developed from within a community and should celebrate and positively promote what that community represents. This is important in contributing to the social wellbeing of the community.

Community festivals must be initiated and led by a community organisation or a community-led partnership. It is not enough to run a festival for a community – the community must own it and play a strong part in developing and delivering it.

For the purposes of the Community Festivals Fund the following will apply:

- all festivals must be culture based, where culture is defined as ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular people or social grouping;
- all festivals must demonstrate their commitment to promoting social cohesion, social inclusion, equality of opportunity and good community relations; and
- in this context, 'community' includes communities of interest as well as geography and identity.

Community Festivals Fund - specific conditions for eligibility

Your organisation must meet the basic eligibility conditions as shown on page 2 and the following conditions to apply for Community Festivals Funding.

- The festival must meet the definition of a community festival as outlined above and take place within the Belfast City Council area.
- The festival must not be an “Imagine” or “Activate” festival supported through the council’s Cultural Multi-annual Grants.
- The festival itself must start and end within the timeframe for this tranche of funding, that is, 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2020.
- We understand that certain activities, such as planning and marketing, may need to take place outside the timeframe. Such activity will not be eligible for funding.
- In your budget you must prove that you made efforts to find at least 20% of your income from sources other than us. For example, if your total income is £12,500, the maximum you can ask for is £10,000. (This can include other funding from government organisations, commercial sponsorship, income you expect to earn from the festival or in-kind support, where you can clearly show how you have worked out the value of this in-kind support.)
- The community festivals fund will **not** provide funding for the following activities:
 - trade or professional conferences / conventions;
 - festivals that are primarily fundraising events, are heavily branded with charity branding or deploy potential sources of income from a festival to a charity;
 - awards ceremonies or industry events;
 - residential courses with associated events;
 - festivals that are social events for an organisation; and
 - primary tourism focused events where the organisation cannot demonstrate significant community involvement.

Criteria for making our decision

If your organisation has met all of the eligibility criteria, we will use the following criteria to score your application:

Criteria	Weighting (%)
1. Animating the city You should demonstrate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The quality of programming, including innovation (how new the ideas are) and how creative. • That you are improving public spaces by increasing the number of people who use them. • That you are contributing to a positive image of Belfast. • That you will be attracting visitors or making the area more attractive to visitors. • The way in which the festival will make a contribution to developing sustainable cultural activity. 	25
2. Promoting social inclusion You should demonstrate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the planned activities are relevant to the community and are likely to generate a significant level of community participation. • How the festival will target areas of poverty and/or social exclusion. • How barriers to access have been identified and will be dealt with. • How your festival promotes equality. • How your festival improves community relations. 	25
3. Community Development You should demonstrate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need and demand for the festival. • How there will be a high level of community involvement. For example, the festival is led by a community organisation or the community has been consulted and involved 	25

<p>in designing and planning the festival.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the festival contributes towards a strong sense of community. • How you will build capacity and develop new partnerships, including with other cultural and community organisations and with the local business community. • How the festival will connect with existing regeneration projects in the area. 	
<p>4. Quality of how you deliver the festival</p> <p>You should show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • effective project planning; • effective marketing; • effective monitoring and evaluation; • a track record of activity linked to arts, heritage or community development; • how you have provided opportunities for people to improve skills or receive training; • value for money, that your budget is detailed and all costs are reasonable and necessary; • that you are using other funding and/or support from sources other than Belfast City Council. 	20
<p>5. Additional weighting will be applied where the majority of the festival activity takes place in the top 10% of the most deprived super output areas within the Belfast City Council area. Therefore in the application we ask you to list the locations for your activity.</p>	5

If you are unhappy with the funding decision made, you may appeal against the decision on the basis that:

(a) the council did not take account of all the facts available as set out in the application; and/or (b) the council did not follow the procedures stated in these guidance notes.

No other grounds for appeals will be considered.

Before lodging an appeal, you are advised to contact the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit to arrange a debriefing. The name of the council officer to contact will be printed on your letter of notification. At the debriefing, you will be given further information as to why your application was unsuccessful. If you still wish to appeal the decision, you must write to the Head of Economic Initiatives and International Relations, stating the grounds for appeal. This letter must be received within twenty-eight working days of the date on the letter of notification or within fourteen days of the debrief.

You will then receive a written acknowledgement within five working days. This letter will include the target date for receiving notification of the result of your appeal, which in most cases will be within ten working days. Council's decision at this stage will be final and no further appeal will be considered.

A successful appeal does not automatically mean that funding will be provided. The award of funding following an appeal will depend on the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit's own funding position.

Completing your budget for small grants

You must show that all costs are **reasonable** and **necessary** to complete the project, and you should give us enough detail to assess this. For example, you should give us the unit costs and quantities needed, 10 artists x £50 = total cost £500.

We will not consider your application as eligible if you do not provide a detailed project budget.

- **Ineligible costs for all grants**

- Overheads allocated or apportioned at rates in excess of those used for any similar work you carry out.
- Building/capital costs
- Costs which are not clearly linked to the project.
- Costs that are associated with filling in the small grants application form.
- Costs that are poor value for money, or that are bought from outside of Belfast City Council procurement guidelines.
- Costs that are already covered by other funding or income sources.
- Costs related to private or unfunded pensions.
- Amounts for gifts and donations, including vouchers
- Reclaimable VAT.
- Money for buying flags and bunting.
- Alcohol
- Prizes and trophies (except for Policing and Community Safety Small Grants, Community Development grants and Support for Sport grants)
- Equipment costs unless they have an ongoing use throughout the project and are essential and necessary to complete the project.

Restricted costs:

- Costs must be proportionate to the overall cost of your project and essential for delivering it. If we do not think that the amount you have asked for is good value for money, we may also offer you less than the amount you applied for. To make sure you provide value for money, we can cap any project costs we are funding. If you are successful, these costs will be shown in the letter of offer, for example, facilitators, residentials, catering, and so on.
- Where eligible we will only give funding for catering, hospitality or refreshments if these are clearly detailed in your application form, your budget and are essential to the project. If you need to provide catering, hospitality or refreshments, you must explain why it is essential.
- You must clearly list any costs for facilitators, mediators, consultants or project evaluators clearly in the budget. You must also describe the work they intend to carry out and how it is reasonable and necessary to your project.
- Any item or service bought for £3,000 or over must have at least three written quotes for it.
- Any item or service bought for £8,000 or over must have at least four written quotes for it. Please contact the Central Grants Unit if you intend to purchase any items or services over £8,000 with Belfast City Council money.
- Staff time claimed for the project:
 - Any staff time charged to the project will only be paid at the normal hourly rate of the post and only where the post is not funded from another source.
 - If you have an appropriate paid member of staff in post (funded from another source) who could deliver all or part of the project we will not provide funding for that part of the project. If you cannot use your member of staff, we will pay external/sessional rates, but you must explain why your own member of staff cannot work on the project, and provide appropriate information. For example, this might be that another project already has a claim on the member of staff, with evidence of the dates and times of the two projects clash or confirmation that your member of staff doesn't have the skills needed and so on.

- If your organisation owns its own minibus, we will not pay commercial hire rates for its use in the project. We will pay a maximum mileage rate based on local government rate which includes insurance, maintenance and fuel use. If you cannot use your own minibus, we will pay hire rates, but you must explain why you cannot use your bus and provide appropriate information, for example, that another project already has a claim on the bus, with evidence that the dates and times when the two projects clash.
- Internal costs - costs for use of own facilities or internal charges within a organisation (notional costs) will only be eligible if they are normally used for commercial activity. If you are also in receipt of a grant that contributes to the running of your building and you have now also been awarded funding towards these costs through the small grants you must notify your BCC Project Officer. You will also be asked to provide confirmation of this when you complete project monitoring.
- Overheads - must be clearly calculated and apportioned. If you are also in receipt of a grant that contributes to the running of your building and you are have now also been awarded funding towards these costs through the small grants you must notify your BCC Project Officer.
- Conflict of Interest - in the application your organisation confirmed that it had no conflict of interest with the suppliers used for the project. Should any potential for a conflict of interest arise such as where a member of your organisation or members of their family receive personal benefit/payment from the grant, you must notify your BCC Project Officer. You will also be asked to provide confirmation of this when you complete project monitoring

Submitting your application

You must tick the boxes to confirm that your organisation:

- meets the basic eligibility criteria;
- meets the specific eligibility criteria for the grant or grants you are applying for;
- has enclosed the documents we have asked for;
- has or will arrange enough appropriate insurance for the activities. Where you are holding an event on Belfast City Council property - a risk assessment, proof of public liability insurance up to £5 million and an event management plan **must** be given by your organisation to the Open Spaces and Active Living Officer (for a Parks event Grant) or the relevant Belfast City Council property manager (for all other grants) at least 4 weeks before your event. Failure to do so will result in the withdrawal of the grant offer. Templates of a risk assessment and an event management plan are available at www.belfastcity.gov.uk/usingparks; and
- has or will get any licences or permission you need from any authority to carry out your activities.
- Access NI checks completed on all staff, coaches and volunteers where appropriate.

Policy requirements

To be eligible for funding, you must have the following policies in place.

- Child protection: If your project involves, or may involve, children or young people under the age of 18, your organisation must have a child-protection policy in place before we will release funding. This includes events targeted at adults. For example, those attending may choose to bring along their children or young people, or the event may attract young people although it is targeted at adults. For advice on developing a policy, we recommend you contact Volunteer Now at: www.volunteernow.co.uk.
- Equal opportunities – Only if you employ staff.
- Specific grants may have further policy requirements. Please read the full notes for the grants you plan to apply for.
- While we do not yet need you to have adopted a vulnerable adults policy, we would recommend you begin to consider adopting one as this may be a future requirement. For advice on this, we recommend you contact Volunteer Now at: www.volunteernow.co.uk.

We do not require you to submit copies of your policies with your application. However we may ask to see these if your application for funding is successful.

If you are awarded a grant, Belfast City Council does not provide insurance for any activity you undertake. We strongly advise you to consult an insurance broker or advisor about the possible insurance requirements for your proposed activities.

Equal opportunities monitoring

We must promote equal opportunities. We must also promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group. We will treat as anonymous all of the information you provide in this questionnaire in the assessment of your application.

5. What happens next?

Letter of offer

If your organisation is successful, we will send you a letter of offer outlining:

- the general conditions of the grant;
- any special conditions (these will be within section 2.1 d) of your terms and conditions within your letter of offer);
- the stages we will pay the grant in; and
- your project and its targets.

If the grant we offer your organisation does not correspond with the amount you have asked for, you will need to resubmit a project budget reflecting the amount we have awarded.

Before we can release any grant payments, you must:

- sign the letter of offer to say you accept it. At the latest, this must happen within six weeks of the date of the letter of offer or we will withdraw the offer of the grant.
- come to a mandatory training session as part of the terms and conditions of funding. The session will give you guidance on the funding and monitoring requirements. For this round of funding training sessions will be held in April 2020.

We will not fund any project costs you pay or agree to pay before you have signed and returned the letter of offer.

You must get our approval before you make any changes to the project or the budget.

If you receive a grant offer and no longer want to take it up, please tell us in writing as soon as possible. The Council's decision on whether to award funding is final, however if your application is unsuccessful you can contact an officer from the relevant council unit for feedback and advice on future funding applications.

Paying the funds

We will pay 80% of your grant when we receive your signed letter of offer and you have attended the training session. We will pay the other 20% once we have received a satisfactorily completed monitoring booklet within six weeks of completing your project.

Monitoring and reporting

As you are receiving public funding, you must answer for what you do with this money. Because of this, we will expect you to complete a monitoring form based on information provided in the small grants application. We will also choose a number of organisations to audit to check how the grant was spent and that the terms and conditions of the funding were met.

If your project does not meet its targets and outcomes, we can review and reduce the amount of funding awarded.

Marketing and promotion

You must acknowledge our support by including our logo on all printed materials associated with your programme of work.

Occasionally you may be asked to make appearances and assist us with launches and photo shoots.

If you receive funding from us, it does not mean we endorse your project. When you display the council logo on published material, you must include the following sentence: "This publication is grant-aided by Belfast City Council. The views expressed are not necessarily shared or endorsed by the council. The council does not accept any responsibility for these views."

We will give you more information about logos if your application is successful. For information on Belfast City Council branding and logos please refer to www.belfastcity.gov.uk/brand.

6. Useful contacts

Advice on	Contact	Contact Details
General advice about the application process or on filling in the first sections or budgets in the application.	Central Grants Unit	Tel: 90918748 Email: cgugrants@belfastcity.gov.uk Website: www.belfastcity.gov.uk/funding
Community Festivals Fund and Arts and Heritage Project Grant	Tourism, Culture, Arts and Heritage Unit	Tel: 9050 0512 Email: culture@belfastcity.gov.uk Website: www.belfastcity.gov.uk/culture
Policing and Community Safety Small Grant	Community Safety Unit	Tel: 9027 0469 Email: pcsp@belfastcity.gov.uk Website:
Good Relations Grant and Summer Intervention Fund	Good Relations Unit	Tel: 9027 0663 Email: goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk Website: www.belfastcity.gov.uk/community/goodrelations
Parks Event Grant	Open Spaces and Active Living Unit	Tel: 90918 768 Email: parksevents@belfastcity.gov.uk Website: www.belfastcity.gov.uk/parks
Sports Event Grant	City Events Unit	Tel: 90 270 345 Email: events@belfastcity.gov.uk Website: www.belfastcity.gov.uk/events
Support for Sport: Large Development Grant, Small Development Grant, Hospitality and Sports Individual Grant	Sports Development Unit	Tel: 9027 0515 Email: supportforsport@belfastcity.gov.uk Website: www.belfastcity.gov.uk/supportforsport
Community Development - Project Grant and Summer Scheme Grant	Community Services	Tel: 90 320 202 Ext 3544/3542 Email: oliverj@belfastcity.gov.uk or caldwells@belfastcity.gov.uk Website: www.belfastcity.gov.uk/community

7. Other Contacts

Entertainments Licences	Building Control	<p>Tel: 90 270 650 Email: buildingcontrol@belfastcity.gov.uk Website: www.belfastcity.gov.uk/buildingcontrol-environment/licences-permits/entertainmentlicence.aspx</p>
Refuse Collection	Cleansing	<p>Tel: 9027 0230 Email: refusecollection@belfastcity.gov.uk Website: www.belfastcity.gov.uk/bins-recycling/bins/bins.aspx</p>
Safeguarding Children	<p>Keeping Children Safe training is free to community groups so please take advantage of this opportunity to ensure staff and volunteers are trained before a project begins.</p> <p>Belfast Trust: Officer: Sheina Rigg Tel: 028 90504 6717 Email: sheina.rigg@belfasttrust.hscni.net</p> <p>Officer: Grainne Nelson Tel: 028 9504 6684 Email: grainne.nelson@belfasttrust.hscni.net</p> <p>South Eastern Trust (Lisburn) Officer: Ian MacPherson Tel: 028 9268 3609 ext 240 Email ian.macpherson@setrust.hscni.net</p> <p>Standards for safeguarding policies for children – down load from Volunteer Now’s website: http://www.volunteernow.co.uk/fs/doc/publications/vn-kcs-jul-2017.pdf</p>	