

# Community Resilience Fund Application Guidelines

**Thank you for your interest in the Community Resilience Fund (CRF). This is an innovative and exciting programme aimed at strengthening local communities.**

The Community Resilience Fund is managed by Essex Community Foundation and was launched in 2014 as an endowed fund in Essex, with a £1 million donation from Essex County Council, with further financial support from Essex Police and Essex County Fire & Rescue Service.

The CRF was developed through the Strengthening Communities programme, part of the Whole Essex Community Budget Pilot (Public Sector Reforms). The Pilot was an initiative that included a broad range of partners, in Essex, to agree common outcomes and then pool resources and join up activities to achieve those outcomes.

## **Aim of Fund**

The CRF aims to complement this work by supporting the voluntary and community sector and its work in developing stronger, more resilient communities. In particular, communities that are taking action to improve the quality of life for residents and can

demonstrate how their work may relieve pressure on public services.

The CRF will support communities in Essex, Southend and Thurrock each year, in perpetuity.

These application guidelines are to assist your organisation in making an application to the Fund. Your application will be reviewed by the Thriving Third Sector Panel which includes experienced charity Chief Executives, an Essex County Council Cabinet Member and a Police representative.

The Panel is keen to understand the barriers and issues that potentially affect the development of your community. Applications are encouraged from projects and organisations that can stimulate and strengthen community-led activity and can demonstrate how funding will help to improve community resilience and independence and how the proposed work may relieve pressure on public services.

All interest and enquiries about the Fund should be made directly to ECF, please contact the Grants Team, details are below.

### **Purpose of Fund**

Support the voluntary and community sector to develop the ability of communities, families and individuals to help themselves and each other.

### **What can be funded?**

Funding from the CRF is primarily to benefit communities and as a result of this funding we hope to see communities taking action, working together to prioritise issues and implement solutions that work for your area.

For example, it may be that you have identified a need for your community to build stronger relationships and networks to motivate people and create change through collective action and would like to employ a 'community organiser'. Outcomes could include improved community cohesion, increased access to volunteering opportunities, reduced crime and anti-social behaviour, increased awareness of local services, improved safety in the home.

Or you know that there are a number of elderly, isolated people in your community who would benefit from increased social activity and companionship and you need some funding to start a befriending scheme that would not only support local people but would link in with other neighbouring communities and services. Outcomes could include improving quality of life for older people, increasing social and physical

activities or improving mental, physical and emotional wellbeing, to reduce pressure on social care services.

The Panel would like you to demonstrate:

1. How the proposed work will help your community/communities increase its resilience
2. Clear outcomes for the proposed work
3. How the proposed work may reduce the pressure on public services

The panel do not want to be too prescriptive in setting criteria; rather this is an opportunity for your organisation to set your own agenda and address some of the issues and barriers that may affect your community.

Funding can be awarded for either new projects or development of existing projects

### **What can't be funded?**

- Applications seeking funding to continue everyday activities without demonstrating future sustainability will not be considered
- Core running costs/general operating costs
- Projects operating outside of Essex, Southend or Thurrock
- Private or profit-making companies
- Individuals

### Who can apply?

- All voluntary and community organisations
- Registered and non-registered charities
- Other non-profit making organisations, that are charitable in purpose
- Activities must benefit the people living within the administrative county of Essex, Southend or Thurrock

### How much can we apply for?

The CRF is not intended to be a small grants programme as ECF already manages various small grant funds. There is no upper limit, however the Panel will have around £80,000 per annum to allocate for grantmaking.

### How long is funding for?

The Panel recognise that building communities takes time and so funding can be given over a number of years.

### How do I apply?

The CRF awards multi-year grants and so we do require a degree of information. To ensure that we do not waste your valuable time we use a two-stage application process, which starts with an Expression of Interest.

### Expressions of Interest

[Click here](#) to start the form.

Your expression of interest must be submitted online to ECF it will then be reviewed by the Panel who meet quarterly. If you are successful with your

EOI then you will be invited to submit a full application.

### CRF Checklist Summary

- ✓ Our project will support the development of our community and make it more resilient and independent
- ✓ Our project will contribute towards the overall aim of the CRF so that our community will take action to improve the quality of life for residents so that we can demonstrate how our work may relieve pressure on public services
- ✓ We are a Voluntary Community organisation and/or registered Charity and/or a not for profit organisation and our project is charitable in purpose
- ✓ We are not applying for our general running costs
- ✓ We have developed outcomes so that we can anticipate the difference this work will make

### Do not hesitate to contact the Grants Team if you have any questions.

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