

Healthwatch Essex Fund - Application Guidelines 2017

These guidelines have been designed to support your application to the Healthwatch Essex Fund, **please ensure you read them carefully before you start your application.** We would encourage you to contact the ECF Grants Team on 01245 356018 or grants@essexcf.org.uk if you have any questions or wish to discuss your funding request once you have read through the guidelines. Although you can contact ECF at any time, a dedicated phone-in advice surgery is being held on Wednesday 16th August 2017 for this particular Fund. See ECF's website for more information.

Healthwatch Essex provide an information service to help people access, understand, and navigate the health and social care system, as well as gathering people's experiences to help improve local services. They understand how people often struggle to access the support and information they need.

Aim of Fund

The Fund has been established to support voluntary and community organisations to improve people's experiences of health and social care in Essex through **improved provision of information, advice and guidance**

How much can we apply for?

Small grants of up to £10,000

Large grants of up to £35,000

When and how do I submit my application? And when will grants be available?

For small grants – you will need to complete ECF's standard application form available [here](#). The completed application should be submitted to ECF by **Friday 22 September 2017** at the latest.

Decisions will be available after the decision making panel meets in November 2017. Applicants will be notified of the decision by end of November.

For large grants - we are using a two stage process; you will need to submit the short expression of interest (EOI) form available [here](#) by **Friday 22 September 2017**.

First stage applicants will be notified in November whether or not they are being invited to submit a full application (details will be provided to second stage applicants). Final decisions on large applications will be made in January 2018.

Who can be funded?

- Voluntary and community organisations, registered charities, social enterprises and not-for-profit organisations.
- Partnerships with statutory bodies where a voluntary organisation, charity or social enterprise is the lead applicant.

What can be funded?

- Improvements to or the development of information, advice and guidance in health and social care
- Your organisation or project must primarily benefit people in Essex, excluding Southend and Thurrock, although **some** beneficiaries may live in these areas.

Who cannot be funded?

- Statutory organisations in the discharge of their statutory and legal obligations.
- Projects that primarily support Southend or Thurrock
- Projects seeking funding for existing information, advice and guidance services without improving quality or reach
- Projects that do not complement existing provision

Your proposal must:

- Clearly state how your proposed project/activity meets the aim of this Fund
- Explain how you have considered the longer-term sustainability of the proposed work.
- Demonstrate how your organisation has a clear insight into people's experience and needs
- Evidence how your organisation provides high-quality and inclusive services
- Provide at least two measurable outcomes, including one of the following:
 - Improved people's understanding of how to navigate health and social care
 - Improved access to the care and support available through better referral systems and pathways
 - Reduced pressure on health and care services in Essex as people access appropriate services available to them.

What are outcomes?

Outcomes are the changes that will occur as a direct result of this grant. For more information click [here](#).

How are grant decisions made?

ECF will assess all grant applications and will present these to the Healthwatch Judging Panel made up of representatives from the NHS, Local Authority and Voluntary Sector. Proposals will be judged on:

- How they promote independence, choice and control for the individuals they benefit
- Innovation and partnerships
- Value for money
- Sustainability

Examples of grants awarded last year:

- PACT for Autism received a small grant of £5,600 to employ a new Information Officer to improve access to and availability of information for children and adults with autism and their families
- Beacon House Ministries received a small grant of £8,519 to support homeless people with mental ill-health to access information about healthcare in Colchester
- Brentwood Community Print CIC received a large grant of £28,057 to extend the Community Tree initiative which is a partnership set up to improve access to organisations supporting individuals with mental health issues

Essex Community Foundation

01245 356018

grants@essexcf.org.uk

www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk

For more information about the work of Healthwatch Essex – www.healthwatchessex.org.uk