

Essex County Council, Homes for Ukraine – Community Grants Programme

Overview

Thank you for your interest in the Essex County Council, Homes for Ukraine – Community Grants Programme. This guide sets out key information and questions to assist you in applying to this Programme. If you have any questions or wish to discuss your funding needs with us then please contact Essex Community Foundation's grants team on 01245 355947, by e-mail at grants@essexcf.org.uk or book a call with a grants officer [here](#).

Over 2100 Ukrainian people have been accommodated with approximately 1000 hosts in Essex County Council's administrative area since the Homes for Ukraine (HfU) scheme was introduced in March 2022. This means we now have a large community of Ukrainian families and individuals living in Essex. As families and individual settle into Essex and hosting arrangements come to an end there is an increased demand for support with private housing options. We are also seeing an increased demand on voluntary and community sector services and a need for the Ukrainian communities to stay connected.

The funding is designed to support activity that helps increase the wellbeing of Ukrainian Nationals who arrived on the HfU visa scheme and support them with follow-on steps to reduce barriers to living independently, finding housing, securing jobs, accessing education, and integrating with local communities.

Aim of the fund

We are interested to hear from voluntary groups, community organisations and social enterprises that can demonstrate how their work is supporting Ukrainian families and individuals displaced by the war in Ukraine (as part of the HfU visa scheme). We would encourage organisations to apply for either new or existing work were they are experiencing increased demand, meeting an identified need or adapting their existing services to support Ukrainian families and individuals or those hosting under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. The funding is designed to support activity that helps increase the wellbeing of Ukrainian families and individuals and support them with follow on steps to reduce barriers to living independently, finding housing, securing jobs, accessing education, and integrating with local communities.

The grant requests could help people at a neighbourhood, district(s) or countywide in administrative Essex. This funding opportunity does not cover Southend-on-Sea, and Thurrock.

Priority is likely to be given to applicants that are either:

- working with disadvantaged and vulnerable groups
- supporting people who are disproportionality affected by the war in Ukraine
- helping those who experience barriers in safely accessing support

Examples of potential projects could be:

- **Welcome, settling in and keeping safe** - Ensuring sponsors are adequately supported and accommodation provides a safe environment. Deliver services that offer advice and support with registering for benefits and other services, including those that support health and wellbeing and community integration. Support for families and individuals to access services and independent living, where disability may be an issue. Ensure access to support with wellbeing, in particular mental health and trauma support.
- **Integration and work** - Organising and running community events, to increase interaction between Ukrainians and people in the local area. Working with community champions and interfaith networks to develop opportunities for Ukrainians to meet other people who may be experiencing similar issues. Providing support to access opportunities, including work and education, eg. English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) lessons, accessing local Jobcentres Plus appointments for benefit assessments and finding jobs. Increase employment opportunities by provide support with CV writing and interview skills, running drop-in sessions and offering career advice.
- **Long-term sustainable housing** - Supporting Ukrainian families and individuals into secure, safe, and sustainable accommodation, including through appropriate Private Rented Sector (PRS) access schemes, such as support for one off costs. This also includes supporting the longevity of sponsorship.

How to apply

Who/what can be funded

- Voluntary and community organisations, registered charities, social enterprises and not for profit organisations.
- Project, core and capital
- You will also benefit from reading our help and guidance on [our website](#).

Who/what cannot be funded

- Schools, Parish Councils or statutory organisations.
- Projects or activities that are not for the benefit of Ukrainian families and individuals.
- Large general appeals where the majority of funds have not been secured.

The ECC Panel will have discretion to ask for further information before a final decision and place conditions on the use of any grant. If a need is identified for further grants, a second round of funding will be available from October 2024.

	Size	Duration	Application Process	Time Frame
Small and Large Grants	£5k -£50k per year	Up to 3 years	<p>Please apply through this online application form.</p> <p>We welcome a broad range of applications, for larger amounts over multiple years, please provide an appropriate level of detail and we may ask for further information.</p>	<p>Deadline to apply – 18 August 2024</p> <p>Decisions - You will hear if your application has been successful by the end of September 2024, unless there are any further questions for a final decision.</p>