

NEAR NEIGHBOURS GRANTS CRITERIA AND GUIDANCE 2017

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Near Neighbours is a charity set up to bring people together who are near neighbours in communities that are religiously and ethnically diverse, so that they can get to know each other better, build relationships of trust and collaborate together on initiatives that improve the local community they live in.

The grants programme which is part of Near Neighbours is being administered by our partner organisation, Church Urban Fund. Near Neighbours is funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government. We will work with those of any faith or none.

Church Urban Fund is a Christian charity, with a vision to see people and communities all over England flourish and enjoy life in all its fullness. Church Urban Fund relies on regular contributions from different parts of the Church and donations from thousands of generous individuals.

Near Neighbours is a registered charity, no. 1142426, and a company limited by guarantee, no. 07603317

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Grants Criteria and Guidance, 2017 Version

This version of the Grants Criteria and Guidance will supersede all previous guidance issued by Near Neighbours. It has been developed as a resource and will be reviewed and re-issued annually or at any other time as required. The latest version of the Grants Criteria and Guidance will always be available for download from the Near Neighbours website. For additional information, please contact us using the details below.

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NEAR NEIGHBOURS

The idea is to bring people together who are near neighbours in communities that are religiously and ethnically diverse, so that they can get to know each other better, build relationships of trust and collaborate together on initiatives that improve the local community they live in.

Near Neighbours has two key objectives:

- **Social interaction** - to develop positive relationships in multi-faith and multi-ethnic areas i.e. to help people from different faiths and ethnicities get to know and understand each other better.
- **Social action** - to encourage people of different faiths and of no faith and of different ethnicities to come together for initiatives that improve their local neighbourhood.

Grants between £250 and £5,000 are available for local groups and organisations who are working to bring together neighbours, to develop relationships across diverse faiths and ethnicities in order to improve their communities. The deadline for applications is Friday 17 November 2017.

These must be local initiatives, planned by and involving local people, which has a specific local impact. We will look especially favourably on applications from diverse neighbourhoods and those with particular issues of deprivation and other challenges, as well as where there is the intention and likelihood of deep and lasting relationships of trust between people, in order to transform communities.

We will not fund national organisations working locally, nor are we likely to fund local authority initiatives or schools projects.

We consider projects to fall into three broad categories. A project need not fit itself to just one, and we recognise that activities may naturally cover two or all three of the following:

- **First Encounters** that develop *new* relationships between people of different faith and ethnic communities and encourage the development of mutual understanding – initiatives which begin the process of developing friendship and neighbourliness.
- **Everyday Interactions** that support regular interactions, repeatedly bringing people together and encouraging families and individuals to come together to share life – building flourishing and sustainable friendships and relationships.
- **Civil Engagement** which brings together people from different faith or ethnic communities to work together to change their neighbourhoods for the better – enabling diverse communities to transform their neighbourhoods.

ELIGIBLE AREAS

The programme works in a number of key locations across England. We are active in the northern towns/cities of **Manchester, Bury, Rochdale, Oldham and Burnley; Leeds, Bradford and Dewsbury**. In the midlands we are working in **Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Walsall and Dudley; Leicester and Nottingham**. In the south we operate in **Luton** and across most of **London**.

However, we are also only working within specific areas of these places. Please refer to our website to see maps showing eligible areas in each location: <http://cuf.link/nn-near-you>

CRITERIA

Below is an exact list of our grants criteria. A project should:

- **Bring together peoples of two or more different faiths and/or ethnicities**, to build friendships and develop relationships of trust.
- **Work locally**. We want to see people who are living very locally (i.e. in the same street, estate or neighbourhood) come together.
- **Work sustainably**. We want to see long term and natural relationships grow, that will last beyond the period of funding.
- **Work to improve the community**. We want to see people working to make their communities a better place to live.
- **Involve diverse people in planning and implementation**. People from more than one faith group and/or ethnicity are involved in planning and implementing the proposal.

In addition, a grant must be for:

- **New or developed work**. We won't support repeat or ongoing activities.
- **Specific activities**. Funding is given for a specific project or activity.
- **Immediate activities**. Grants should be claimed within three months, projects should last no longer than six months and finish before the end of March 2018.
- **Grassroots organisations**: We particularly seek to fund emerging local groups as well as charities, religious organisations and other not-for-profit organisations whose focus is on local work. We will look especially favourably on small organisations with a low annual turnover.

We welcome applications from faith groups, places of worship, partnerships of different faith groups, and informal local groups comprising people of different faith groups. We also encourage applications from secular organisations that are working with faith communities.

Funding cannot be granted to individuals but may be given to small groups without a constitution or bank account where there is a reputable local community or faith organisation willing to act as the accountable body for the funds.

We will consider applications from Community Interest Companies and other social enterprises if their membership is from the neighbourhood they are seeking funding for, and if the activity they seek to deliver has a planning/running involvement from local people of more than one faith and ethnicity.

PRIORITIES

In addition to our criteria, we also assess applications by a number of priorities. Applications showing the following qualities will be prioritised for funding:

- Where the purpose is first and foremost to bring neighbours of different faiths and ethnicities together to build trusting relationships through an activity or project.
- Projects that work with vulnerable women, asylum seekers and refugees, and recent migrants.
- New and innovative projects with a high local impact at the neighbourhood level.
- Projects that take place in neighbourhoods with deprivation or disadvantage.
- Proposals from minority faith communities.
- Proposals from small faith or community organisations or groups.
- Where a project shows sustainability; with relationships, sustainable change and/or further work together likely to continue naturally beyond the period of funding.
- It is clear what difference the activity will make to the local community.
- Proposals that are run by volunteers or have a strong volunteer base.

- Organisations which have not been given Near Neighbours funding before.
- Projects that source goods and services from businesses in the local community or use ethically-sourced goods and services, such as Fairtrade refreshments.
- It shows value for money.

WHAT WE WILL NOT FUND

There are also a number of things that Near Neighbours does not fund. These are:

- Projects that will not run in one of our eligible areas (see pg3 'Eligible Areas').
- Repeated activities (such as an annual summer camp or regular training sessions that have happened previously).
- Activities open only to one faith/ethnic group.
- Activity promoting a specific faith.
- Projects that are the normal curriculum work of schools and colleges or would fall under statutory health care provision.
- Faith leaders' salaries.
- Individuals.
- Organisations with a high annual turnover (more than £150,000), with significant free reserves, or with a weak financial position.
- National organisations that are working locally.
- Existing salary costs, except where there is a significant increase in hours in order to begin new work or expand an existing project to new people.
- Organisational costs not associated with the funded project.
- Major capital costs (though small items of equipment will be considered i.e. the cost of a kettle but not the cost of a kitchen).
- Unspecified or excessive volunteer expenses or high staff costs/expenses.
- Work that has already been completed or started (retrospective funding). We will not accept applications for projects that will begin within 14 calendar days of us receiving your application.
- Deficits or loans.
- Campaigning and fundraising activity.
- Revenue and capital funding for national voluntary/community organisations and public and private sector organisations.
- General repairs and refurbishment of buildings, or internal re-ordering of places of worship, maintenance or DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) compliance.
- General appeals.

SAFEGUARDING

Near Neighbours takes the safety and wellbeing of people of all ages seriously and expects grant applicants to do likewise. For this reason we expect any projects working with children and young people or vulnerable adults to have the appropriate safeguarding policies in place. We do recognise that if you are a new group then this may not yet be in place. If so, we would expect this to be in development in time for project delivery.

The NSPCC provides guidance on setting up and following safeguarding policies and procedures for working with children and young people. To access them, please visit: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/safeguarding/>. If you are part of a denomination or wider network, your parent body or national structure should also be able to offer the necessary support. You should expect our local Near Neighbours Coordinator to ask about safeguarding policies, so please let them know what you have in place. They can also offer guidance should you need to develop a policy.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

If you wish to apply for our funding, please follow the following procedure:

- Review whether your activity/project fits in with our criteria and is based in an eligible area. Eligible areas can be found here: <http://cuf.link/nn-near-you>
- It is important to speak with your local Near Neighbours Coordinator about your proposals before applying; they are in place to support and help you apply. You can find your local NN Coordinator here: <http://cuf.link/nn-near-you>
- Start the application form. These are available from your local Coordinator and on our website.
- Your local Coordinator will put you in touch with your local Church of England vicar, who can act in an advisory role in support of your application.
- Return your completed application to your local Coordinator who will review it and offer you recommendations, before forwarding it to our central office for final assessment.
- Our Grants Coordinator will assess your application. If necessary, they will contact you with any questions they may have. Once they have all the necessary information, they will work with CUF staff who will aim to make a decision within 14 calendar days.

NEAR NEIGHBOURS APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Have you:

- Carefully read the Near Neighbours Grants Criteria and Guidance and Application Form?
- Checked if your project idea fits the criteria?
- Used the maps on the Near Neighbours website to see if your local area is eligible?
- Discussed your plans for the project with local people of other faiths/ethnicities that will be involved?
- Explored and noted the local need of people who will benefit from a grant?
- Made contact or met with your local Near Neighbours Coordinator to discuss your idea?
- Worked with local people to draw up a simple plan of action for the project?
- Produced a basic budget or list of planned expenditure?
- Used your local Near Neighbour Coordinator's advice on filling in the Application Form?
- Attached the following documents (as relevant)?
 - Budget or Breakdown of Proposed Expenditure
 - Annual Report and Accounts
 - Copies of written quotes or estimates
- Made contact with the local Church of England Parish Vicar/Priest/Rector and showed them your completed Application Form?
- Sent a completed Application Form to your local Near Neighbours Coordinator?
- Kept a complete copy of the Application Form and attachments for your reference?

GRANT CONDITIONS

If you are awarded a grant we will outline several conditions that you must agree to in order to receive payment, which is a legally binding agreement. This will include using your grant only for the purposes laid out in your application. Additionally we include details about transferring funds, our grant evaluation process and publicity. Please be aware that additional conditions may be attached as required. These will always be stated at the time a funding offer is made.

CONTACT DETAILS

Your key contact for the Near Neighbours programme is your local Coordinator:

Lancashire (Burnley): TBC

Greater Manchester (Manchester, Bury, Rochdale, Oldham): Lily Axworthy, Greater Together Manchester, Church House, 90 Deansgate, Manchester M3 2GH
lily@greatertogethermanchester.org / 0161 828 1409

West Yorkshire (Leeds, Bradford, Dewsbury): Wahida Shaffi, Faithful Neighbours, Church House, 17-19 York Place, Leeds LS1 2EX
wahida.shaffi@faithfulneighbours.org.uk / 07983 646 096

Black Country (Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sandwell, Dudley): Ruth Burgess, Transforming Communities Together, The Small Street Centre, 1A Small Street, Walsall WS1 3PR
ruth.burgess@tctogether.org.uk / 07530 741 923

Birmingham: Rabiya K Latif, Thrive Together Birmingham, Balsall Heath Centre, 100 Mary Street, Balsall Heath, Birmingham B12 9JU
rabiya@nearneighbours.com / 0121 426 0442

East Midlands (Leicester, Nottingham): Ros Henwood, St Philip's Centre for Study and Engagement, 2A Stoughton Drive North, Leicester LE5 5UB
nn2@stphilipscentre.co.uk / 0116 273 8813

Luton: Kim Greig, Grassroots Programme, 47 High Town Road, Luton, Beds, LU2 0BW
near.neighbours_luton@btconnect.com / 0793 060 1640

West London: Becky Brookman, King's Centre, St John's Church, Church Avenue, Southall, Middlesex, UB2 4DH
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