



## **Hertfordshire Grassroots Grant Fund for Domestic Abuse**

### **Support: Accessible support for those subjected to domestic abuse**

Grants available from £10,000 to £50,000 for two years of project delivery.

### **Fund Criteria and Guidance for Applicants**

The Hertfordshire Grassroots Grant Fund for Domestic Abuse support programme is being funded by Hertfordshire County Council's (HCC) Adult Care Services (ACS) Strategic Partnerships Team (SPT) and is managed by Hertfordshire Community Foundation (HCF).

### **Background to the Fund**

Following the successful launch of the Domestic Abuse [Community Outreach Service](#) in July 2023, the Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership wants to expand and develop support provided in the community, specifically for those from under-represented or marginalised groups, to ensure they have access to domestic abuse support services that are right for them. This will include support for the people from the community groups listed below:

- Male
- LGBTQ+
- Older people (over 65)
- Black or from other globally diverse communities
- At risk of or experiencing multiple disadvantages<sup>1</sup>
- Refugees/asylum seekers
- Those with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)
- From the gypsy or traveller community
- People with disabilities
- People who are neurodiverse
- Other groups not accessing traditional domestic abuse services.

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<sup>1</sup> People experiencing multiple disadvantage have interconnecting needs and experiences, including mental ill-health, homelessness, substance misuse, and interactions with the criminal justice system.



This grants programme will be for organisations providing grassroots<sup>2</sup> services in the County, which are supporting under-represented groups, for whom traditional domestic abuse services are not suitable or accessible. Specialist domestic abuse training will be available as part of the grant, to ensure that all those subjected to domestic abuse are able to get the best support. The programme is targeted and specific in supporting the delivery of the priorities set out in the [Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-2025](#). Which is shown as a single page [here](#).

### The aim of the grants programme is to:

- Improve access to domestic abuse support in Hertfordshire for all residents, particularly those who do not currently access the traditional services.
- Develop the grassroots support available in Hertfordshire.
- Support the delivery of Priority 3 – Increase Safety for those at Risk of Harm, and Priority 4 – Freedom after Harm has Occurred, of the Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2022-2025.
- Help increase our understanding and evidence of the need for services for people from specific groups and communities.
- Provide some financial assistance to support the on-going viability of those smaller organisations who are facing challenges due to the cost-of-living crisis.

### Eligibility: who can apply?

- Registered charities, CIOs, constituted community groups and other charitable organisations including Community Interest Companies limited by guarantee.
- Eligible organisations with a minimum of three unrelated Trustees/Directors and two unrelated bank signatories.
- Must be based in Hertfordshire and have been in operation for a minimum of twelve months.
- Eligible organisations that can demonstrate how their work specifically benefits those in Hertfordshire who are from any of the communities listed below (target community groups):
  - Male
  - LGBTQ+
  - Older people (over 65)

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<sup>2</sup> grassroots organisations are smaller organisations rooted in, and led by, the communities that they serve.

- Black or from other globally diverse communities
  - At risk of or experiencing multiple disadvantages<sup>3</sup>
  - Refugees/asylum seekers
  - Those with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)
  - From the gypsy or traveller community
  - People with disabilities
  - People who are neurodiverse
  - Others who do not access traditional domestic abuse services.
- Eligible organisation who are sub-contracted by or in a consortium with those directly commissioned by the Council to provide domestic abuse support will be able to apply.

Applicants can form partnerships in which case the lead partner should complete the application and manage the budget on behalf of the partnership. All members need to meet the eligibility criteria.

Priority will be given to organisations with an income below £500,000.

Applications are particularly welcomed from groups which meet the agreed definition of a 'by and for'<sup>4</sup> organisation.

### The following are not eligible to apply for this grant:

- A Company limited by shares.
- An organisation which cannot demonstrate a charitable purpose.
- A Statutory organisation, such as local authorities, police, probation and NHS trusts.
- An organisation that promotes religious or party-political activities. We will prioritise projects which benefit all possible target beneficiaries irrespective of their beliefs or affiliations.
- An organisation already being directly commissioned by the ACS Strategic Partnerships Team for the delivery of Domestic Abuse Services and Support.

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<sup>3</sup> People experiencing multiple disadvantage have interconnecting needs and experiences, including mental ill-health, homelessness, substance misuse, and interactions with the criminal justice system.

<sup>4</sup>A by and for organisation is run by and for the communities it serves, where the client group is reflected in its staffing, management and governance structures. This means at least 80% of Trustees and staff are from the protected characteristic the organisation aims to work with.

## Priorities

We will prioritise applications from organisations that can help meet the aims of the programme and who demonstrate:

- They can deliver Priority 3 – Increase Safety for those at Risk of Harm and/or Priority 4 – Freedom after Harm has Occurred - from the [Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-2025](#).
- Their knowledge and evidence of local issues affecting their beneficiaries including barriers to their access of traditional Domestic Abuse support.
- A strong network of local connections which can offer support to the target community groups.
- They have robust plans to measure and report on the difference the grant will make to their community groups.
- Their plans for sustainability beyond the life of the grant, this could be by building the skills of staff and volunteers and diversifying funding streams to provide long-term solutions for the people they are helping.

## What can be funded?

- Staff and volunteer costs - including full-time staff, part-time staff, project delivery staff costs and other related expenses. All staff costs must be paid at least the Real Living Wage determined by the [Living Wage Foundation](#).
- Activity costs - that help to facilitate projects or activities, but that fall outside of capital, staffing and volunteering costs, such as insurance.
- Reasonable core costs<sup>5</sup> – including running and facility costs, office equipment, supplies, travel (this does not include staff costs).
- Development and capacity building costs – to support organisational sustainability, such as staff and volunteer training.
- Monitoring and evaluation costs.

## Examples of the kind of projects which would meet Priority 3 and/or Priority 4

- A support case worker for those currently subjected to domestic abuse who do not access traditional domestic abuse services, linking in with specialist domestic abuse services where required (e.g., IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Adviser) or community outreach).

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<sup>5</sup> This will be considered on a case by case basis

- Group or peer to peer support for those for whom traditional support groups do not feel accessible. This could include understanding the impact of the domestic abuse and having support to move forward.
- Counselling and therapeutic support for those who do not access traditional domestic abuse services or counselling services.
- Support for those that have been subjected to domestic abuse to rebuild their social networks.
- Support with the long-term impact of domestic abuse, where the abuse has not been recent.
- This is a non-exhaustive list and organisations are encouraged to propose any other activities that would fulfil the criteria and meet the holistic needs of those that have been subjected to domestic abuse.

### What will not be funded?

- Purely capital projects e.g. buildings.
- Services that take place outside Hertfordshire.
- Activities that promote religious and/or political beliefs.

### Your Budget

Plans for your service/activities will need to be realistic, deliverable and proportionate. Your budget will help demonstrate your plans. Please break down the costs so for example we can see how many hours are needed for staffing an activity and what the rate is. You can attach a detailed spreadsheet to your application form if there is not enough room on the application form budget section.

### The Grants – how much you can apply for

Organisations can apply for two years of funding, from £10,000 to a maximum of £50,000 for each year. Please only apply for an amount that is reasonable in terms of your current annual income. This will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

The second year of funding will be paid subject to satisfactory monitoring being provided during the first year of funding. The monitoring form you need to complete with details of information you need to collect will be shared with you with your grant offer if you are successful.

The total funding allocated by HCC to the Domestic Abuse Grassroots Grants Fund is £200,000 for each of the two years.



## Training

As part of this grant, domestic abuse training will be provided to every successful applicant. This will be free of charge and so will not need to come out of the grant award. Training must be completed within one month of receiving the grant and will be mandatory for all successful applicants. The training will be adapted depending on organisations' experience and needs. It may cover an overview of domestic abuse, including coercive and controlling behaviours, a light touch on the DASH (Domestic Abuse Stalking and 'Honour' based abuse) risk assessment, trauma informed work, how to create a safety plan, and awareness on domestic abuse pathways/services already established in Hertfordshire.

## How to apply

Go to the HCF website to start an on-line application. You can keep saving and returning to the application until you are ready to submit. The application form includes guidance on the questions.

## Application Timeline

Activity	Date
Applications open	12 <sup>th</sup> January 24
Webinar – chance to talk about the programme –	31 <sup>st</sup> January 1130 - 1230
Application deadline	7 <sup>th</sup> March
Shortlisting – if not shortlisted you will hear by 21 <sup>st</sup> March.	21 <sup>st</sup> March
Panel decision meeting	25 <sup>th</sup> April
Decisions communicated	By 30 <sup>th</sup> April, but note all successful applicants will have to wait a further 28 days for award confirmation due to the Democratic Process. This means HCC will publicise planned awards and the public will have a chance to raise any objections. Therefore final confirmation of outcome will be by the end of May 2024.
Payment will be made as soon as signed grant agreements are received, and any conditions are met including passing the democratic process period.	



## Useful sources of information

In addition to the [Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership - Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-2025](#), the following may be useful sources of information to help describe the need for domestic abuse support.

[Hertfordshire JSNA – Domestic Abuse](#)

[Hertfordshire – Domestic Abuse – JSNA on a page](#)

[Herts Sunflower – Information for professionals](#)

[Herts Sunflower – domestic abuse strategy and leaflets](#)

## How will decisions be made on which applications to fund?

HCF will carry out due diligence checks on all shortlisted applications to determine the risk attached to funding your organisation. Organisations that pose a larger risk are not necessarily less likely to receive funding, but we will take into account the risk level when decision making. Applicants that do not pass due diligence will not be put forward for funding. [Please see link for our general due diligence processes.](#)

In addition to checks undertaken by HCF, HCC reserves the right to carry out additional financial checks on all organisations and the Trustees and Directors of those organisations applying for this funding at any time during the application process. By submitting the application form you consent to HCC carrying out these additional financial checks.

### II. How we decide to award the grants

Once due diligence checks have been made applications will be assessed by the teams at HCF and ACS/SPT.

Applications will be checked against the eligibility requirements and evaluated according to how well they meet the grant criteria based on the information provided in the form and supporting documents. The most promising applications will be shortlisted for consideration by a panel made up of representatives from HCF and ACS/SPT. We will talk to you about your application if we have any questions or need more information before it goes to the panel. It is our intention to ensure that appropriate resources are committed to



where they can have the greatest impact and that there is equity of provision across the county based on need.

Final decisions will be made at the end of the panel meeting and groups will be informed by the end of April if they have been successful. Note they still will need to pass the 28 day democratic process so final confirmation will be by the end of May.

## What are the monitoring requirements?

1. All successful grant recipients will be required to report back on their grant and what has been achieved.
2. The second year of funding will be dependent on receiving satisfactory monitoring in the first year.
3. A simple HCF interim report will be requested, to enable us to review the progress of the project, tackle any arising issues and celebrate any early successes. Those receiving larger grants will be required to complete a budgeting update spreadsheet.
4. All funds should be spent and full monitoring received by the agreed date. We may ask to see receipts, invoices or other proof of expenditure so you are advised to keep accurate records for the duration of the grants and for at least five years afterwards.
5. A link to the HCF monitoring forms and monitoring timeline will be sent to you by email shortly after the grant has been awarded.

## Help available

If you want to talk about your plans before submitting an application email [grants@hertscf.org.uk](mailto:grants@hertscf.org.uk) and we will book a time with you to discuss the programme. Our friendly Grants Team are also available to help you with any questions you might have as you complete your application.

[Sign up to our webinar](#) to hear more about the programme and ask questions of the HCC Strategic Partnership team and HCF.

Please also see below for some Frequently Asked Questions.



## FAQs

### I don't understand one of the questions on the application form?

There are some hints and tips including within the application form - if you click in the information icon next to the question you don't understand, this should provide some assistance.

If you're still not sure, please contact the grants team at HCF on 01707 251 351.

### I can't attach all the required supporting documents

You can attach a maximum of 6 documents to an application. If you have any additional documents you want to send e.g. photos, case studies etc. – these can be submitted by email to [grants@hertscf.org.uk](mailto:grants@hertscf.org.uk) Please remember to state the organisation name and grants programme in your email so we can attach them to right record.

### I've submitted my application but haven't received a confirmation email

The email can take a few minutes to arrive. If you haven't received it within 30 minutes of entering your email address, please check your junk/spam folder. If it still hasn't been received, contact the grants team on [grants@hertscf.org.uk](mailto:grants@hertscf.org.uk) or call 01707 251 351 and we'll look into it for you.

### Is it possible we will be awarded a smaller amount than we applied for?

It is possible. If we receive more good applications than we are able to fund, we may try to support as many services as possible resulting in offers below the amount stated.

If this is the case, we will contact you to discuss what impact that would have on your work e.g. whether you will still be able to deliver all the stated outcomes, before a formal offer is made.

### Why would an application be rejected?

There are a number of reasons why an application would be rejected and feedback can be given on a case by case basis. It may include:

- Organisation was not eligible or failed due diligence
- Application did not sufficiently demonstrate how the project met the criteria.



- Project was not focused on supporting the target group.
- Fund oversubscribed and other projects met criteria more closely.

### Will there be terms and conditions attached to the grant award?

Yes. If your application is successful and you are offered a grant you will receive an offer letter detailing all the terms and conditions including:

- What the money can be spent on.
- When it has to be spent by.
- What monitoring is required and by when.
- What to do if you need to request a change to the spend or duration of the grant.

You will need to read this carefully, and then sign and return the offer letter to confirm your acceptance of the Terms and Conditions.

However, you will need to wait a further 28 days until your application has passed the 28 day Democratic process before final confirmation of your grant can be made.

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