



Home Office

Community Engagement Fund 2026 - 2027 (GRN:190)

Guidance for Applicants

April 2026



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Definitions

Applicant – The organisation / entity submitting an online Application Form in response to this competition.

Application – An Applicant's submitted online Application Form, including any supporting documentation.

Authority – The Home Office.

Charitable companies – Any company with a charitable purpose including registered community interest companies (CICs), companies limited by guarantee and unregistered social enterprises.

Charity – A registered charity with a UK charity number.

Community group or unincorporated charity – A group, which has not registered as a charity, which meets all the following criteria:

- established for charitable, benevolent, or philanthropic purposes.
- has a governing body with at least 3 members.
- has a governing document which they can produce.

Consortium – A group of organisations, with a designated lead partner to manage the programme, and a system for dividing the work and funds appropriately and effectively.

Grant Agreement – the signed agreement between the Authority and the Recipient that contains the terms on which grant funding is being provided to the Recipient for the Project.

Platform – The "Find a Grant" online service used to apply for a government grant.

Recipient – An organisation awarded funding as set out in the Grant Agreement.

1. Introduction

The Home Office (the “Authority”) is the UK Government Department with lead responsibility for immigration and passports, drugs policy, crime policy and counterterrorism and works to ensure visible, responsive and accountable policing.

The purpose of this document is to provide organisations (“Applicants”) with information on how to apply for funding from the Community Engagement Fund (CEF) 2026/2027, including the assessment guidance and the Authority’s approach to assessing Applications.

It is recommended that this ‘Guidance for Applicants’ document should be read before attempting to complete any response via the Government Grants Management Function (GGMF) online application platform ‘Find-A-Grant’ (find-government-grants.service.gov.uk)

The Applicant must not include hyperlinks in their response to questions; these will not be reviewed as part of the assessment process.

All applications must be submitted in English.

As the Authority is not itself receiving a service, there is no ‘supply of service for consideration’ to be taxed (i.e. VAT). All financial amounts contained in an Applicant’s proposal are therefore to be expressed in (£) GBP and will be exclusive of VAT and taxes.

The Authority will award Funding in a manner that balances highest scoring proposals (according to the assessment criteria) with geographical coverage, ensuring the broadest range of customer needs can be met, in conjunction with the outcomes of Due Diligence checks.

Funding for successful Applicants will be enabled by means of a grant award whose payment shall be governed by the terms of the Authority’s Grant Agreement. A draft of the Grant Agreement is included in the suite documents available on the Find-A-Grant Platform. Any and all queries regarding terms and conditions, content, intention, interpretation etc. must be raised during the Applicant clarification process (see Section 6). In all instances the Authority’s response shall be final. Applicants are reminded that a condition of submitting a proposal is the acceptance of the terms set out in the Grant Agreement – there will be no negotiations on terms.

2. What is the Purpose of the Community Engagement Fund?

The Community Engagement Fund (CEF) is a £150,000 Home Office grant designed to support grassroots and community organisations to raise awareness of priority Home Office policy areas and the support available. As all funding must be spent within the financial year, the CEF is best suited to short, easy-to-deliver projects rather than longer-term programmes.

For the 2026/27 financial year, the CEF will continue to focus on supporting communities affected by the Windrush scandal.

Background and Key Barriers Identified

Previous CEF rounds focused on South Asian and African communities whose applications to the Windrush Schemes were noticeably low despite being eligible. Feedback from funded organisations highlighted several barriers:

- **Low awareness** among Ghanaian, Nigerian, Pakistani, Indian, and Bangladeshi communities. Many had not heard of the schemes, and some believed they applied only to Caribbean communities due to the “Windrush” name.
- **Distrust of the Home Office**, including fears that applying might lead to enforcement action. Organisations had to explain that no applicant’s information is shared with Immigration Enforcement.
- **Complex application process**, especially for older applicants with limited written English. Organisations often provided direct support or signposted people to the Home Office for help.
- **Perceived lack of support**, with many unaware that assistance with applications was available.

Work is ongoing within the Windrush (WCS) to simplify the application process, and additional support is being provided through the Windrush Compensation Advocacy Support Fund. The CEF’s role is therefore to rebuild trust and raise awareness of the Windrush Schemes.

Focus for 2026/27

For 2026/27, the CEF will expand to include organisations from **all** communities affected by Windrush, not only South Asian and African groups. The aim is to strengthen awareness and trust across communities throughout the UK.

There also remains a gap between the number of people granted documentation through the **Windrush Scheme** (prove your right to be in the UK) and the number applying for the **Windrush Compensation Scheme**. Some individuals who have resolved their status may be unaware they could also receive compensation. Funded organisations will therefore be encouraged to ensure those granted status are also informed about their potential eligibility for compensation.

The **Community Engagement Fund (CEF)** is a £150,000 grant fund to support grassroots and community organisations to engage communities and raise awareness of priority Home Office policy areas and the support available. The fund is offered by the Home Office.

This fund is best suited to support short and easy-to-deliver projects, rather than a programme of work, as all allocated funds need to be spent within the financial year.

The priority area identified for financial year 2026/2027 continues to focus on supporting communities from the Windrush generation.

Previous iterations of the CEF focussed on raising awareness across South Asian and African communities, as it was identified that despite being impacted, their applications were not forthcoming.

However, in the 2026 launch of the CEF, we will return to an expanded invitation to join the Fund, to encourage applications from organisations who may not previously have applied, and to seek a wider audience. There also remains a notable difference between the number of people granted through the [Windrush Scheme \(https://www.gov.uk/windrush-prove-your-right-to-be-in-the-uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/windrush-prove-your-right-to-be-in-the-uk) (documentation) and applications made under the [Windrush Compensation Scheme \(https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme/eligibility\)](https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme/eligibility).

The Community Engagement Fund works with organisations across the UK to help people learn about the Windrush Scheme and the Windrush Compensation Scheme. The fund provides financial support to community, charity and grassroots groups so they can run local projects that raise awareness, correct misinformation, and help more eligible people understand how to apply.

3. Outcomes

To deliver the outcomes the Recipient is expected to:

1. Raise awareness of and address any misinformation about the Windrush Compensation and Windrush Documentation Schemes, including holding a minimum of one in-person event.
2. Build on the insights and learning taken from our existing work on **Windrush (e.g. the Community Engagement Fund, the Windrush Community Fund and Windrush national communications campaigns)**:
 - (a) to understand why individuals are not applying for the Windrush Compensation Scheme and/or the Windrush Scheme (Documentation);
 - (b) to reach a wider audience across Caribbean and non-Caribbean communities;
 - (c) to identify how best to encourage eligible individuals to apply to these Schemes; and
 - (d) to increase applications from eligible and potentially entitled individuals.
3. Improve trust, confidence, and engagement with the Home Office by working directly with grassroots organisations to strengthen relationships and gather community-led insights.

4. Who can apply (Criteria for Eligibility)

The Applicant must be able to deliver the Purpose and Outcomes for the full duration of the grant period.

The Applicant must have demonstrable experience of working with Windrush Communities in the past two years, delivering comparable projects.

The Applicant must have at least two years' experience, within the past three years, delivering Windrush related community engagements.

The Applicant can deliver the community engagement events without the requirement to purchase new fixed assets (e.g. laptops/mobile phones etc).

The Applicant must provide at least one in-person event as part of their project proposal.

You can apply if you are:

- An unincorporated charity or community organisation, a community interest company, or a company with a charitable purpose.
- A grassroots organisation.
- A registered charity.
- A consortium or partnership (with a lead organisation that is one of the above).

Unincorporated charities, community organisations, community interest companies and companies with a charitable purpose

You can apply if you:

- Were established for charitable and public benefit purposes.
- Have a governing body with at least 3 members.
- Can provide a valid governing document for your organisation with a set of rules on how your organisation is structured and its purpose.
- Can provide audited accounts for the last 2 financial years or an income-expenditure statement for two years if you were established after April 2023.

Grassroots organisations

You can apply if you can support your application with:

- A governing document for your organisation with a set of rules on how your organisation is structured and its purpose.
- A copy of your 2024/25 accounts and current bank statement (dated within the last two months) and projected cashflow statement for 2025/26.

Registered charities

You can apply if:

- You can provide a valid registration number issued by the Charity Commission.
- Have a governing body with at least 3 members.

- Can provide a valid governing document for your organisation with a set of rules on how your organisation is structured and its purpose.
- Can provide audited accounts for the last 2 financial years or an income-expenditure statement for two years if you were established after April 2023.

Your details on the Charity Commission website will be checked as part of the due diligence assessment process.

Consortiums or partnerships

You can work with other organisations on a project and apply as a group. There is no limit on the number of organisations that can be involved in a consortium.

You can apply if you have:

- A lead organisation that meets one of the above criteria for eligibility.
- Details of the lead organisation and how it is structured.
- Details of partners you plan to work with and their role in your project.

Audited accounts will need to be provided for the lead organisation. Any funding awarded will be paid directly to the lead organisation.

The following are not eligible to apply:

- Local authorities
- Individuals
- Private companies (i.e. organisations that do not meet the above criteria and are seeking a profit)

5. How much can you apply for?

Eligible Applicants can apply for funding awards **between £5,000 and £10,000 incl. VAT** per Application. Applicants are able to request up to 25% of the full funding amount (initial payment) for set up costs.

The Applicants must complete the **Funding Toolkit** and present a financial breakdown of the Project costs.

The Recipient should note the total allocated funding as a maximum figure, but the actual funding will vary depending on the number of individuals requiring support. Therefore, this maximum figure may not be paid to the Recipient.

The Authority has a target of no more than 7% of the award value to fund indirect costs. Indirect costs may include, but are not limited to, administrative overheads, organisational support functions (such as finance or HR), office utilities, insurance, and other core running costs not directly attributable to project delivery.

Applicants must try not to exceed this 7% target and provide an explanation where this is not achievable.

The Recipient may claim for initial payments (up to a maximum of 25% of the total grant awarded) to be processed from the funding start date: 3rd August 2026 subject to the grant agreement being fully signed by both parties and upon receipt of an accurately completed grant claim form.

The Applicant shall indicate any set up costs in the **Funding Toolkit**, under the 'Other Costs' tab.

Costs will cover labour costs such as recruitment, training, upskilling and preparing the business for the commencement of delivery. This will cover materials and potentially any additions to webpages and training packs to tailor to the new programme.

Laptops and mobile phones are not eligible expenditure and will not be funded.

6. How and when to apply?

The 2026/2027 Community Engagement Fund Scheme is being managed via the Government Grants Management Function (GGMF) online application platform 'Find a Grant' Home - [Find a grant \(find-government-grants.service.gov.uk\)](https://find-a-grant.service.gov.uk)

Find a Grant is a single place for individuals and organisations to find and apply to general government grants. It has been delivered by the GGMF, Cabinet Office, in partnership with DCMS, Defra, DBT and MoJ.

Find a Grant has been designed to:

- publicise grants in one place with equal and fair access for all;
- enable the finding of government grants by browsing, searching and filtering;
- offer applicants opt-in notifications for individual grants, customised saved searches or general service updates when new grants are added every week.

To apply, you will need to register an interest in the 2026/2027 Community Engagement Fund via the 'Find A Grant' advert providing the information as requested.

The application pack includes an online Application Form, Guidance for Applicants and a 2026/2027 Factsheet as well as some additional background and supporting information.

The deadline for submitting completed applications is 4pm on Tuesday 12th May 2026.

7. Clarification Process

The Authority will not enter into discussions directly with Applicants regarding the Project requirements except in the manner described below.

Applicants may seek clarification from the Authority about any technical aspects of the competition process, associated documentation, or grant requirements by submitting questions to CommunityEngagementFundCompetition@homeoffice.gov.uk. The Authority will not answer questions directly relating to associated policy or political matters.

To help efficient categorisation and management, please submit clarification questions using the following format.

Related Document / Section	Question
<i>e.g. Application Form, Question 2.2</i>	<i>e.g. Please can you clarify xxxx</i>

When submitting Applicant clarifications please insert “*Applicant 190 Community Engagement Fund 26/27 – Clarification Question - Applicant Name*” in the subject title and send your request as an email.

Any question or request for clarification will result in both the query and the response being communicated (in a suitably anonymous form) to all Applicants, for the purposes of efficiency, fairness, and transparency. Responses to questions will not identify the originator and may be answered in batches, rather than one at a time.

If an Applicant wishes to ask a question of the Authority without the Authority revealing the question and its answer to other Applicants, for example for reasons of commercial sensitivity, then the Applicant should notify the Authority, accordingly, giving full and reasonable justification.

- If the Authority agrees with the request, the communication and response will remain private between the two parties, or
- Where the Authority considers that there is insufficient justification for not publicising a question and the corresponding answer, it will invite the Applicant to decide whether the question and answer should be published, amended or whether they wish to withdraw the question.

NOTE: the close date/time for submission of Applicant clarification questions is 4pm Tuesday 5th May 2026.

Please note your email may not be directly acknowledged however the Authority will endeavour to ensure all clarification responses are published / disseminated within 3 working days of their receipt. The Authority will endeavour to publish / disseminate the complete and final list of clarification question responses by **4pm Thursday 7th May 2026.**

8. Funding Award

We are aiming to inform successful Applicants by mid-July and to award funding in late July 2026.

9. How long you will have to deliver your project

The Community Engagement Fund is intended to support small scale, easy-to-deliver projects and so we would expect projects to be delivered quickly.

Projects must have delivered their activities and closed by **31st March 2027.**

10. What can you get funding for?

Examples of how funding could be used include, but are not limited to:

- Holding events, for example cost of venue, refreshments, and other related costs.
- Creating and sharing marketing materials, for example leaflets and posters.
- Running communications campaigns both in person and online.
- Accessing and using communication channels, for example social media or local radio.
- Getting support from corporate partners, public figures, or advocates.

Funding can also be used to cover costs for staff time to work specifically on the project (you will have to clearly justify this).

11. What you cannot get funding for?

The Community Engagement Fund will not support:

- Projects that look to provide an opportunity for a political platform.
- Organisations whose objectives conflict with the Fund.
- Organisations that seek to provide immigration advice and services, which are not regulated by the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner.
- Where the organisation has objectives or runs services that are contrary to the principles of openness, tolerance, and respect.
- Costs for fundraising activities.
- Loan repayments or costs covered by other funding sources.
- Input VAT reclaimable from HMRC.
- Gifts to individuals other than promotional items with a value of no more than £25 a year to any one individual.
- Payment of statutory fines, criminal fines, or penalties.
- Activities that promote religion.
- The purchase of mobile phones and laptops.
- Projects that rely on one single large event as the entire project activity. At least one distinct event must be delivered.

Further prohibited purposes of the Fund are set out in clause 8.3 to 8.5 and Annex E of the draft Grant Agreement.

The Authority will only fund project activities that meet the above criteria.

12. How your Application will be assessed

Stage 1 Compliance checks

The Authority will initially examine each online Application for compliance and completeness and may seek clarification where necessary. Prior to detailed assessment, the Authority will determine whether an online Application is complete and substantially fulfils the conditions in this guidance document.

If during this stage of the assessment it is apparent that requested information is missing from the Applicant's response due to genuine error, the Authority may take the decision to allow the late submission of the required information. If this is the case, the Applicant will be advised of the missing information (from the specific Application), and arrangements made for their late submission, but this courtesy will be strictly time bound (e.g., to be submitted within 2 hours) in order to maintain a level playing field.

Otherwise, responses determined as materially incomplete and / or not substantially fulfilling the conditions in the documents will be rejected.

Stage 2 Assessment of Eligibility

Assessment of Eligibility: Stage 2 will comprise of initial pass/fail Eligibility Qualifying Questions. If the Applicant does not pass all the qualifying questions, then the remainder of their application will not be assessed. Their application becomes non-compliant, and they will be excluded from the competition. Only the applications that fully meet the eligibility criteria will be assessed.

The following Eligibility Qualifying questions (Pass/Fail) will be included in Mandatory Compliance Questions of the Application Form:

- 1) Meets the organisation "Criteria for Eligibility";
- 2) The Applicant must confirm they have at least two years' experience, within the past three years, delivering Windrush related community engagements.
- 3) The Applicant and can deliver the community engagement events without the requirement of fixed assets (e.g. laptops/mobile phones etc).
- 4) Confirmation that at least one **in-person** event is part of your project proposal.

Stage 3: Assessment of Applications

Only then will Applications be passed for assessment to a panel comprised of the Authority's subject matter experts, and their representatives ("the Panel"). The Authority reserves the right to appoint independent external evaluators to provide additional support if required.

The Panel will assess all scored questions, as clearly marked out in the online Application Form, and make recommendations in accordance with the procedure described in this paragraph and according to the criteria described in this document and the online Application Form. The complete assessment of all Applications is a two-step process, comprising of:

- a. Assessment; and
- b. Group consensus assessment (moderation).

During the Assessment process, each assessor on the Panel will independently (i.e., without conferring with other assessors) scrutinise the quality of answers given by Applicants in their online Application. Each assessor will then assess the answer in accordance with the evidence the Applicant submits that is applicable to that question and award a score in accordance with the marking scale set out below.

It is not necessary that every panel member assesses every question/application form, as subject matter experts may focus on specific question groupings.

Moderation

Assessments will then be submitted to the Moderator Chair, who will collate and check this information in preparation for a moderation meeting. During the moderation meeting, the panel of assessors will discuss the independent assessments until they reach a consensus regarding the score ('the consensus score') that should be attributed to each Applicant's response to each individual scored question.

Showstopper questions are essential questions that an application must successfully meet in order to progress. If any Showstopper question does not achieve the Pass (Yes) required, the application will be deemed non-compliant. It will not proceed to the moderation meeting and will be excluded from further consideration for award and funding.

Once all responses to scored questions have been assessed and moderated, the final consensus score attributed to each question will be added together to provide a final total score per Application.

The Authority reserve the right to challenge any information provided in response to any question posed and may request further information in support of any statements made therein.

Prior knowledge of any aspect of an Applicant's organisation or of its ability to meet the requirement must not be assumed and all responses should be completed in full, as applicable. Answers will only be evaluated up to any stated word limit.

During the assessment period, the Authority may require an Applicant to provide further information or clarification regarding their application. The Applicant must confirm receipt of such request, within 24 hours of issue and shall provide a binding response within a further 24 hours of confirming the request. If no reply is forthcoming during this period, then the Authority will evaluate without the Applicant's clarity and scores will reflect this position.

There will be no appeals process, and the decision of the Panel will be final.

Scoring, Assessment and Ranking

The Application will be assessed against the essential criteria listed above by awarding scores against each of the scored questions as indicated above and in the online Application Form.

1. A minimum threshold score of 60 for each question is required to pass the moderation stage. Scores for each question will be awarded based on the following criteria:
2. The purpose of the scoring assessment is to evaluate the information presented in each proposal in a structured and clear manner. Members of the Panel will score each question individually based on the extent to which a response meets the requirements.

0	20	40	60	80	100
No evidence	Very limited evidence	Limited evidence	Satisfactory evidence	Good evidence	Outstanding evidence
The Applicant did not answer the question	The Applicant has provided very limited detail and evidence in response to the question. This creates a major risk to delivery	Some detail and evidence has been provided but there are important omissions. This creates a significant risk to delivery	Satisfactory detail and evidence has been provided. The response covers most of the relevant requirements but with minor omissions. There is reasonable confidence in the Applicants ability to deliver against objectives	A good level of evidence has been provided and the response covers all relevant requirements. There is a good level of confidence in the Applicant's ability to deliver against the objectives.	A strong level of detail and evidence has been provided that fully meets all requirements. There is a high level of confidence in the Applicants ability to deliver against all objectives

3. Following the above score allocation, a weighting will be applied, the weighting shows the relative importance of each question, and the total weighted score for each Applicant will be used to rank all Applicants:

Question	Weighting (%)	Minimum score	Weighted minimum score	Maximum Score Available
5.1	30	60	1800	3000
5.2	25	60	1500	2500
5.3	20	60	1200	2000
5.4	25	60	1500	2500
Total	100	240	6000	10000

4. Example for illustrative purposes only on how scoring and ranking is applied.

Question Number	Applicant 1		Applicant 2		Applicant 3	
	Unweighted Score	Weighted Score	Unweighted Score	Weighted Score	Unweighted Score	Weighted Score
5.1 (weighted 30%)	100	3000	60	1800	60	1800
5.2 (weighted 25%)	60	1500	60	1500	60	1500

5.3 (weighted 20%)	100	2000	100	2000	60	1200
5.4 (weighted 25%)	60	1500	100	2500	60	1500
Totals	320	8000	320	7800	240	6000

Applicant Number / Name	Final Ranking
Applicant 1	Ranked 1st
Applicant 2	Ranked 2nd
Applicant 3	Ranked 3rd

Allocation of Funding

If the total value of Applications to be awarded exceeds the total value of the funding available (i.e. £150,000) the Authority shall rank Applications according to their total Application score, and the lowest scoring Applications shall be excluded in turn until the total value of awards no longer exceeds the total fund value.

Should the total value of Applications still exceed the total fund value, (i.e. due to multiple Applications achieving the same total Application score), the Authority shall apply the 'tie-break' criteria to the relevant tied Applications (i.e. those who are tied in the last qualifying ranking place) so that the total value of qualifying Applications no longer exceeds the total fund value:

Where the remaining fund is lower than the requested amount of the Applicant, the Authority reserves the right to:

- Seek confirmation that the Applicant will accept a lower amount.
- Not award to the Applicant; and
- Allocate to the next ranked Applicant.

Tie Breaks

In the event of two or more bids both receiving an identical overall (moderated consensus) score, the following tie-breaker sequence will be applied to differentiate and rank the applications:

First Tie Break: The Application(s) with the highest moderated score for question 5.1 in the application form will be ranked higher.

Second Tie Break: The Authority will rank the bids based on how they contribute to the overall objective of achieving comprehensive geographic coverage as defined in question 5.1, ensuring the broadest range of needs can be met UK wide.

Award Criteria

The Authority will set out to create a network of funded organisations that collectively meet the high-level outcomes (geographic coverage).

Getting the right combination of organisations in this network is important. What this means in terms of determining who is awarded funding is that the Authority reserves the right to

award Funding in a manner that balances highest scoring proposals (according to the assessment criteria) with geographical location and need to ensure national coverage.

The Authority reserves the right not to award a bid if it is deemed non-compliant or does not meet the threshold criteria as stated in the assessment criteria.

The Authority will award Funding in a manner that balances highest scoring proposals (according to the assessment criteria) with geographical location and need, to ensure national coverage.

By electing to enter the bidding process, Applicants are hereby accepting the mechanism adopted by the Authority in awarding funding.

13. Information Sessions

Information sessions will be held for community and grassroots organisations who are interested to learn more about the Fund and how to submit an Application. These virtual sessions will be held on:

1. **Tuesday 21st April from 14.00 -15.30pm; and**
2. **Thursday 23rd April from 11.00 -12.30pm.**

To register your attendance, please e-mail communityengagementfundcompetition@homeoffice.gov.uk

Email Title: Email Title: Info Session [**Insert Date**]: 190 Community Engagement Fund 26/27 [Applicant Name]

- at least 48hrs (working) in advance of the relevant session,
- confirming which session, you wish to attend
- the names of 2 attendees (maximum)
- Organisation name

You will then be issued with access details for the relevant session.

The session will be recorded for the Authority's audit purposes only, and by attending the session you shall automatically provide your consent to be recorded.

The presentation slides and Q&A from each session will be made available online shortly after each session.

If you have any questions relating to the application process, please email: CommunityEngagementFundCompetition@homeoffice.gov.uk, in accordance with the Clarification Process set out above in paragraph 7.

The Authority reserves the right to modify or amend the competition documentation at any time prior to the deadline for receipt of Applications. Any such changes will be notified to all Applicants in writing via email. Where the modifications or amendments are significant, the Authority may, at its discretion, re-issue the competition documents and / or extend the deadline for receipt of Applications.

14. Due diligence to support decision making

Due diligence checks will be carried out on all shortlisted organisations identified through the assessment process detailed above, as a condition of awarding the Grant and to understand more about your organisation.

Checks will cover your organisation's financial status and the organisation's ability to deliver the purpose of the Grant. This includes checks on an organisation's behaviour that does not meet the standards expected as set out in the Code of Conduct for Grant Recipients.

The Authority has a duty to ensure all grants are made in the best interests of the public and the public purse, that they represent good value for money and fund activities that clearly and demonstrably support policies that fulfil the Government's manifesto commitments as set out in the Code of Conduct for Grant Recipients.

The code of conduct can be found here: [2019-01-15 Code of Conduct for Grant Recipients v. 1.01.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supplier-code-of-conduct) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supplier-code-of-conduct>).

You must also adhere to the Government Functional Standards for a Grant (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/grants-standards>.)

You may be contacted by the Authority if this assessment identifies any significant causes for concern and the Authority reserves the right to seek additional information and / or assurances in these circumstances. The Authority reserves its right to exclude an Applicant who cannot demonstrate that they are of sufficiently stable financial standing or provide any other relevant due diligence assurances sought at any time prior to award of a Grant.

Depending on the concerns raised the Authority also reserves the right to consider and implement other options to mitigate the associated risks, such as a reduction in grant value to lessen the Authority's exposure, the conducting of further enhanced due diligence steps, or to pay funds in tranches with enhanced monitoring.

As part of our due diligence, checks will also be carried out on recent publications over the 12-month period prior to the closing date for Applications. The sole purpose of these checks is to provide supporting evidence that an organisation can deliver the purpose of the Grant and has not previously engaged in activity over this period that, if continued, would not adhere to the Code of Conduct for Grant Recipients.

The Authority reserves the right to exclude organisations where evidence is obtained during our due diligence activities that, in the Authority's reasonable opinion, materially reduces the ability of the organisation to deliver the Grant purpose or meet the expected standards, as set out in the Code of Conduct for Grant Recipients above, or where evidence is obtained that the organisation has undertaken activities that are in conflict with the purpose of the Grant. Examples include, but are not limited to, spreading misinformation about the Windrush Schemes, or messaging which could lead people to distrust the Windrush Schemes and discourage people from engaging with the Home Office.

The Authority will contact successful Applicants with a grant offer letter and an updated and customised Grant Agreement.

Successful Applicants will be required to submit progress reports to the Authority as set out in clause 6 of the Grant Agreement.

For any queries relating to the Community Engagement Fund and the application process, contact CommunityEngagementFundCompetition@homeoffice.gov.uk. in accordance with the Clarification Process outlined above.

15. Competition Terms and Timeline

Please note the below is an indicative activity and timeline that is subject to change. This table provides key milestones and activity dates and windows.

Competition Activity	Dates
Launch of Competition	14/04/2026
Clarification period opens	14/04/2026
Information awareness days	21/04/2026 23/04/2026
Clarification period closes	05/05/2026
Final response to Clarifications issued	07/05/2026
Close of Competition	12/05/2026
Compliance checks start	13/05/2026
Assessment of Applications / Moderation/Ranking	May/June 2026
Notification of decision	w/c 20 th July 2026
Grant Agreement(s) and Supporting Documents sent out to successful Recipient(s) for signature	w/c 27 th July 2026
Signed Grant Agreement(s) and start date	03/08/2026

16. UK General Data Protection Regulations and the Data Protection Act

The Authority will use the information Applicants provide during the application assessment and during the life of the grant funding (if awarded) to administer and analyse grants, and for the Authority's own learning purposes. Information included in an application will be retained by the Authority. The Authority may give copies of all or some of this information to the Panel when assessing applications, or other Authority functions to administer the process, monitor grants and evaluate funding processes and impacts.

Applicants contact details (organisational contact, telephone number, website, email address, etc) may be shared with delivery partners and/or the Authority but will not be shared

with other third parties. The Authority may also use the information to contact Applicants by letter, telephone or email.

The Authority has a duty to protect public funds and for that reason the information may also be shared (in line with the Freedom of Information Act) with government departments, organisations providing matched funding or for the prevention and detection of crime.

17. Costs of Participation

Applicants will be responsible for obtaining all information necessary for the preparation of their Applications. In addition, Applicants will bear all costs, expenses and liabilities incurred in connection with the preparation of such Applications and all further participation in the competitive process, regardless of whether such costs arise as a consequence, direct or indirect, of any amendments made by the Authority at any time.

The Authority reserves the right not to proceed with the competition or award of Grants at any stage during the competition process and shall not, in the event of discontinuance (whatever the cause) be liable for any costs incurred, directly or indirectly, by Applicants.

18. Confidentiality

All information and documents provided as part of this bidding process is considered confidential, except where it is already in the public domain.

Applicants must not disclose any confidential information supplied as part of this competitive process to any third party, member of staff or advisor, unless such person needs to receive the relevant information for the purposes of enabling a response to any document.

With the exception of Freedom of Information requests, all information provided by Applicants (except where required in law) will not be disclosed to a third party without written permission, unless such third parties have been specifically appointed by the Authority as independent external evaluators to provide additional support during assessment of the Application responses.

19. Publicity

Applicants are reminded that they are not permitted to undertake any publicity activities with any part of the media in relation to this competitive process without the express permission in writing of the Authority, including agreement on the format and content of any publicity.

The Authority reserves the right to publish details of the successful Applicant, the value of any award and the Grant Agreement, with messaging developed and agreed in collaboration with successful Applicants.