

Funding Factsheet for Community Food Projects

For practical support on applying for funding and grants:

- It is completely free to [join our CAS Network](#) at Community Action Suffolk. Registering as an individual or organisation includes the opportunity to receive specialist newsletters and bulletins on funding and much more.
 - o [Become a CAS Member](#) so you can access the **Funding 4 Suffolk** portal, training on how to apply for funding, updates on local funding, and much more. We can help you set up new community organisations, and give advice on legislation, governance, funding, and management.
 - o We also provide a free self-assessment tool for organisations called the [Organisation Healthcheck](#) – you sometimes need to have certain governance in place for your organisation to apply for certain types of funding.
- [Suffolk County Council's page](#) also provides a lot of useful information on applying for funding and grants as a charity, community organisation or social enterprise, including a free downloadable **Tool Kit** of templates and plans to use as frameworks for funding applications.
- For free, regular updates on grants for Suffolk's Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCSFE) Sector, [sign up to the External Funding Team's mailing list](#).

Where to look and apply for funding opportunities:

- [Funding 4 Suffolk](#) is a portal by Community Action Suffolk in partnership with Suffolk's County, District and Borough Councils to allow you to find funds from a variety of sources.
- [Contact your local county councillor](#) to find out how to apply for funding from their locality budget grant. Each councillor at the Suffolk County Council has a pocket of funding called a **Locality Budget** to respond to local needs, and support projects or activities that benefit the communities they represent.
- [Suffolk Community Foundation](#) awards grants to local voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise organisations, and also provides a 5-step grant making process and various factsheets for you to follow when applying for one of their grants. You are also free to contact them at any stage of your application for help or support.
- [Contact your local parish and town councils](#) to see if they are able to support your community project with funding or grants.
- Depending on the size and scale of your organisation, you can search for funding opportunities on [The National Lottery website](#). For example, the National Lottery Awards for All England are smaller amounts of funding between £300 and £20,000 for voluntary or community organisations in England.
- Ask bigger retail chains for support – many of these big chains offer funding for local initiatives and projects, or may be able to offer other practical support (such as redistribution of surplus products) which would be able to cut your outgoing costs down. Try your local big supermarkets or coffee shops.
 - o For example, [Nisa's Making a Difference Locally charity is supporting community pantries with opportunities for funding](#).

Consider other ways to get support for your project:

Funding and grants bodies will often not be able to give you all the money you need to run your project, so it is important to consider other sources of funding for your project.

- Sign up to [Easyfundraising](#) – when your supporters and volunteers shop online, retailers will donate to your organisation for free, giving you an effortless way to raise funds.
- **Crowdfunding:** There are many platforms available to fundraise for your project or cause. They also offer information and advice on how to get set up and start raising money for your project. They usually will apply a transaction fee for using their services, be sure to check this first – you may want to go for a platform which does not also apply a platform fee.
 - o [Crowdfunder](#)

- [GoFundMe](#)
- [JustGiving](#)
- **Consider reaching out to larger, relevant organisations:** Larger organisations with an interest in areas you want your project to tackle, may be interested in supporting you practically and may offer smaller grants or funding for local initiatives. Alternatively, you may be able to start a new project under the umbrella of a larger organisation. Below are a couple of examples:
 - [Hubbub](#) regularly runs grants opportunities for community projects (scroll to 'Community Grant Funds'), with a focus on food-based or growing and nature projects. Their website also give lots of useful information on how to apply for such funding.
 - Start a new [FoodCycle Project](#) in your community.