

Gedling UKSPF Digital Inclusion Grant Fund

Guidance

1. Overview

Digital exclusion affects everything, from job opportunities and healthcare access to staying in touch with family. **Gedling Borough Council's UK Shared Prosperity Funded Digital Inclusion Programme** would like to work with community hubs, partners and learning providers to offer digital inclusion support - access to technology and practical support to improve skills and confidence and promote safety online - to residents within the Borough of Gedling.

The scheme offers grant awards ranging between £500 and £2,500. Where a Project is particularly meritorious (for instance, where it meets many or all of the Grant Scheme Purposes or is significant in terms of outputs and outcomes; and the project costs are justified) a higher award may be made up to a maximum amount of £5,000. The decision as to the award amount shall be at the sole discretion of the Grant Panel and subject to available funding.

The deadline for applications to this fund is 5.00pm on Monday 17th November 2025.

2. Enrolment with GedlingCAN

The grant expects support organisations to operate as part of the '**Gedling Community Action Network (GedlingCAN)**' '**Clicks and Bricks**' Network. This Voluntary Sector Support network and self - service Support Hub combines the collective facilities and resources of Gedling's Voluntary Sector to enhance and extend VCS support and mutual aid in Gedling, whilst also providing access to digital self-serve options to the public in local neighbourhoods.

3. Grant Scheme Purposes

The purpose of the fund is to provide targeted Digital Inclusion activities and support across Gedling Borough, to enable more residents to become digitally included.

1. Enable and support individuals to build confidence, knowledge & skills, access, safety and trust in using both commercial and non-commercial digital services such as the NHS App, online learning, money advice, and other public services increasingly delivered online to improve wellbeing, employability, and social connection;
2. Provide 1-1 digital support and mentoring; delivering or hosting practical workshops, training and befriending or other methods to extend the practical use of digital software, social media and other applications and to increase digital inclusion for residents;
3. Reduce social isolation caused by digital exclusion;
4. Reach those in Target Groups within the Borough;
5. Develop relevant resources for the Gedling Community Action Network ('GedlingCAN') online VCS Support Hub and its members and users;
6. Invest in digital equipment to enable your organisation to access online services, produce and share media and communications and extend the reach of your services.

Target Groups

We are particularly looking to support projects aimed at those communities and residents most likely to be experiencing barriers to online support services, learning, social connection and other information.

Therefore, additional weight will be given to those applications where the applicant can demonstrate how they will target digital inclusion services to those recognised in national and local data as being most at risk of digital exclusion, specifically:

- Low -income households
- Older people
- Disabled people
- Unemployed people
- People seeking employment
- 'Hard to reach' people
- Residents in areas of recognised disadvantage in the Borough

4. What will we fund?

The grant can contribute towards:

- New services, tools, activities or initiatives that meet the above purposes;
- Services that expand on their existing digital support capacity to reach Target Groups;
- Revenue costs associated with delivering your project, such as salaries, rent, communications and event-hosting costs;
- Reasonable capital costs (quotes required), such as the cost of laptops, tablets or other internet accessible portable technology, devices and equipment for participants to use within your project.

The grant cannot be used for:

- Pre-existing commitments, routine operational costs or ongoing expenses that your organisation would incur regardless of your project. This includes any "business as usual" activities not directly linked to the delivery of the proposed project;
- Projects that are not carried out within or that do not benefit the residents of Gedling Borough;
- Projects that are not aligned with the Grant Scheme Purposes above at section 3.

5. Eligibility – Who can apply for a grant?

This grant fund is aimed at voluntary and community organisations, community hubs, charities, faith or social enterprise groups and Parish Councils based in and/or serving Gedling Borough residents.

Successful applicants are expected to join the Gedling Community Action Network, which supports mutual aid, access to resources and promotion of the Voluntary Sector in the Borough.

If you are not yet a member, please contact **Nikyla Manners**, Community Engagement and Partnership Coordinator | Nottingham Community and Voluntary Service **Tel:** 07483 421510 **Email:** nikylam@nottinghamcvs.co.uk who can provide further information and arrange signup.

Nikyla will also contact all successful applicants, where permission has been granted to do so at item 3.3. on the application form.

We will not accept applications from groups/organisations that are:

- Trading for profit or intending to redistribute the grant awards;
- Promoting a particular political party or religious belief;
- Wishing to fund a project that is outside of Gedling Borough;

6. How to Apply

Applications can be made in the following ways:

By completing and submitting an [online application form](#).

By downloading and completing a word version of the form available here; [Community grants - Gedling Borough Council](#) and sending by email or post before the deadline of **5.00pm on Monday 24th November 2025**.

By email: community@gedling.gov.uk

By Post: Julie Clarke, Community Relations Team, Gedling Borough Council, Civic Centre, Arnot Hill Park, Arnold, Nottingham NG5 6LU.

Support with applications

Voluntary and community organisations based in Gedling Borough can request independent support with this application from Nottingham CVS by completing this form: [Request Support Form](#)

Support can include:

- A virtual discussion about your project idea
- Read and review of grant application
- Sample policies/ checking existing policies

Include 'Gedling DI Grant' in the box where you are asked to provide more information on your support needs. If you have any questions about the support, please contact Nikyla:

nikylam@nottinghamcvs.co.uk | 07483 421510

Nikyla is coordinating Gedling Community Action Network (CAN) a collaboration of organisations, big and small, working together to strengthen our voluntary and community sector. Please get in touch with her to find out more.

Successful applicants will be informed within 2 weeks of a decision being made,

The grant funding is intended to provide **additional benefit** to the Borough; it should not be used to cover costs and activities that you would have funded ordinarily, without the grant.

The grant fund is time limited; Grant awards must be spent and projects delivered **by 31st March 2026**. The Council reserves the right to clawback any funds not spent by that date.

7. How Decisions are Made

Applications received before the deadline will be considered by a panel of Gedling Borough Council officers and grants awarded based on how closely each one meets the grant criteria and contributes to the Gedling UKSPF Digital Inclusion Grant Scheme Purposes.

Applications are considered on their individual merits and grants are awarded without guarantee of further funding. The amount offered will be at the panel's discretion whilst funds are available. The panel's decision is final.

Successful applicant organisations will need to enter into a legal agreement with the Council (a "Grant Agreement") before any funding is received. The information provided on your application form will form part of the Grant Agreement.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The Council cannot make grants to individuals. In order to receive a grant, you must have a bank account in the organisation's name.

8. Monitoring

All recipients of grant funding will be required to comply with UKSPF promotional requirements, which will be advised to all successful applicants as part of the Grant Agreement completion process.

Monitoring and evaluation forms will be sent to all successful applicants each month to report on the progress of your Project for the period of the award.

A final report will be required on completion of your project.