



One Oldham Fund Family Hubs Grants Programme (Up to £3,000) – Guidance Notes

The One Oldham Fund is a strategic single investment fund that uses pooled resources for the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector in Oldham.

This investment from Oldham Council will support the sector's resilience to enable VCFSE organisations that are locally rooted and active in Oldham to contribute to the delivery of Oldham Council's plan for Family Hubs.

National Context

Family Hubs is a national initiative which looks to connect a range of services that support families at a universal and targeted level. Family Hubs are a place-based way of joining up locally in the planning and delivery of family services. They bring services together to improve access, improve the connections between families, professionals, services, and providers, and to put relationships at the heart of family support.

The Family Hubs' ambition is for every family to receive the support they need, when they need it; all families should have access to the information and tools they need to care for and interact positively with their babies and children, and to look after their own wellbeing.

Local Context

[Oldham's Family Hub](#) overall goal is to transform children and families' services in a system-wide model that provides high-quality, holistic, and whole-family support services:

- for families from prior to conception, through the child's earliest years, through later childhood, up to the age of 19 (or 25 for young people with special educational needs and disabilities)
- in Oldham's 5 districts
- to increase access to services,

- to improve connections among services and practitioners, and
- to strengthen relationships within families and between them and professionals.

What can the funding be used for?

One of Oldham's Family Hubs Strategic Objectives is to strengthen the outreach network to allow families to access services in different locations by different partners; services can be delivered through different sites recognised by the community and close to them.

Grants of up to £3000 are available to support the above aim for community-led projects that deliver family hubs services or activities at family hubs or at outreach sites aimed at families with children aged 0-3 or expectant families:

- that are aimed at families, that are rarely heard (e.g. dads and male carers, LGBTIQ parent and carers) within a framework of:
 - reducing stigma associated with access to services,
 - informing and supporting families to access services,
 - supporting parents to become more involved in the lives of children aged 0-3 and their development,
 - promoting friendly and welcoming places and activities for families,
 - virtual socialising services
- that can be delivered in parks and community spaces,
- that are aimed at new and expectant parents less likely to use Family Hubs that are at times convenient to them to support families and reduce barriers associated with stigma; or
- for virtual spaces that enable new parents or carers to access virtual peer support.

This could include activities such as growing activities, lunch clubs, cooking classes and activities to support mental health and wellbeing. These are only a few ideas and this list is not exhaustive. We welcome new ideas and you can contact us at funding@actiontogether.org.uk if you would like to discuss your ideas with us. Priority will be given to activities that are not already delivered in Family Hubs.

Key Dates

- **Deadline for applications** - Grants will be awarded on a rolling programme. We will stop accepting applications when all the funding available has been allocated or at 12 noon on **Monday 3 March 2025**, whichever occurs sooner.
- Projects may last for **up to one year**

Who is the funding for?

You can apply for a grant of more than **£1,000** and up to **£3,000.00** if you are:

- a voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) group locally rooted or actively working in the borough of Oldham; **and**
- a member of Action Together CIO (you can register for free to become a member [here](#)); **and**
- you are formally constituted; **and**
- you have at least three people on your board or committee who are not related.

You may not apply for a grant if you are an organisation that can pay profits to directors, shareholders or members.

Please Note:

- To receive this funding, any outstanding monitoring information required by us, relating to other grant funding must have been completed.
- Action Together is an accredited Living Wage Funder. This means we encourage organisations that employ staff to become an accredited [Living Wage Employer](#).
- You may only apply for a One Oldham Fund Family Hub Grant **twice**. Second applications will only be considered if the second project is based in a different community than the first one, and that the first project is progressing satisfactorily. You will be asked to demonstrate that you have capacity to deliver multiple projects as part of your second application.
- You may also go on to apply for other grants within our One Oldham Fund Programme if you are eligible.

What can you spend the money on?

We can fund:

- Your organisation's running costs.
- Small refurbishment projects
- Equipment
- One-off events
- Staff costs
- Training costs
- Transport
- Volunteer expenses

We cannot fund:

- Contingency costs, loans, endowments or interest
- Paying someone to write your bid for you.
- Profit making or fundraising activities.

- VAT you can reclaim.
- Statutory activities.
- Cost that you have already incurred.

This list is not exhaustive, so if you are not sure please contact us at funding@actiontogether.org.uk

If you are successful

We understand that planning a project in such challenging times is difficult and that your plans may need to change to respond to factors outside your control. If you feel at any point that you are unable to deliver your project as originally planned, then please contact us so that we can discuss any changes that you may wish to make.

If your project involves the purchase of capital items, we may ask you for such further information as we feel is necessary such as quotes and, for example, if contributing towards the purchase of a vehicle we may ask to see evidence of an up to date MOT certificate and insurance.

To help us understand the impact of this funding, successful applicants will:

- be offered further support from one of our community development workers throughout and beyond the project,
- be asked to provide a report to Action Together (including a case study) at the end of their project. You will receive an example of the questions that we will be asking with your grant agreement so that you can plan how to capture the story of your project as soon as it starts; and
- be offered the opportunity to participate in networks of groups and organisations to be able to share expertise and experience.
- be expected to make contact with and work with your closest family hub to promote and encourage participation in any funded activities

If you do not already have an up to date [Quality in Action Award](#) from Action Together or have not completed a [Health Check](#) with one of our development workers you will be asked to work towards completing one with our support as a condition of your grant.

Completing the application form

- Please ensure that **ALL** parts of the application form are completed.
- We have not included word count limits in the application form as we want you to be able to tell us about your ideas without having to worry about the amount of words you are using – as a general guide however we are only looking for brief

summary and 2 or 3 paragraphs for each answer should be enough for you to be able to tell us about your plans.

- If you have any queries about the application process or would like support to complete the application form or become a member of Action Together, please

contact a member of the team at development@actiontogether.org.uk or call 0161 339 2345 and ask to speak to a member of the Oldham Development Team.

- Eligible applications will be considered and recommendations made by an online panel which includes representation from both Oldham Council and local community organisations. We aim to notify you of the outcome by email within 20 working-days of receipt of your application, however, we may contact you to offer support and to clarify aspects of your application further before submitting to the panel.
- This fund operates on a rolling programme but will be paused when all available funding has been awarded.

Please e mail your application to funding@actiontogether.org.uk