

North Somerset Physical Activity Fund

Help & Guidance (FAQs)

Applying for funding can be difficult so we try to make it as straightforward as possible for any organisation who wishes to apply. Here are some important things to consider before applying.

What should an organisation think about before applying?

Is there a clear need for your activity? What evidence/feedback have you received from the people/communities you support.

Can your organisation effectively provide the activity you wish to be funded?

Are there any other organisations that are already providing the activity that you could work with?

Does your organisation have an appropriate structure to apply for funds?

What are the most common reasons for not awarding funding?

The application didn't meet the grant criteria or was not a close fit with the priorities we were aiming to fund with the grant programme.

The organisation wasn't eligible to apply i.e. it did not have a community or charitable element

We didn't understand the benefits and outcomes to be achieved by the activity or project.

We didn't understand what need was being addressed or how it had been identified.

The applicant was not able to provide supporting documents.

The application didn't demonstrate enough local knowledge and the organisation was not based locally.

The budget did not add up/was not clearly explained.

The organisation had large reserves.

The request was a small amount towards a large total and it was felt that the impact of our grant would not be significant.

The activity had already taken place – we are unable to make retrospective grants.

Can faith-based organisations apply?

We can support faith-based organisations provided the funded work benefits the wider community and is not intended to influence people's religious choices or to promote a particular belief system

Can organisations outside of North Somerset apply?

No, we prioritise small, local organisations whose work benefits people living in North Somerset.

Will you award a grant that contributes toward a larger project /activity involving multiple partners?

Most of our programmes can award grants towards such projects/activities. However, you should have secured most of the necessary funding you need or have a clear and realistic plan for securing the rest of the funding shortly after any award from us.

Is there a restriction on the size of income or financial reserves of applicant organisations?

We will consider the organisation's income and level of financial reserves when assessing the application. If your organisation is holding significant financial reserves, we will need to understand why these cannot be used to cover the cost of the project/activity you are seeking funding for.

Will you fund an activity that has already started?

No, we do not fund retrospectively, please also bear in mind that it can take four weeks before you hear back regarding your application.

If an organisation is not successful, can they re-apply to the next round?

Yes, if the applicant provides the information asked by us.

When can I submit an application and what if I miss the deadline?

Please refer to our webpage about our physical activity grant programme which operates in rounds with a set number of submission deadlines through the year.

What will the assessment involve?

We will consider the following within your application:

Whether your organisation is eligible, and the application has a good fit with the aims and priorities of our physical activity strategy for North Somerset.

The need you are seeking to address. Whether the work you seek a grant towards is addressing a real need.

The proposed activity, will it address the need/challenges that you outline, is it achievable, is it well planned, is it adding value to any existing provision.

Whether your organisation is competent and organisationally sound and needs a grant for the work/activity it outlines in the application.

Who decides if your grant is successful?

The decision to award a grant will be decided by staff across the physical activity and leisure team at the council and external partners in the physical activity & healthcare sector.

What is the timeframe of receiving a decision regarding our application?

You will hear within a month of the submission deadlines.

Round 1	Opening Date	Submission Date	Decision Date
1	18/11/2024	31/01/2025	28/02/2025
2	03/02/2025	25/04/2025	23/05/2025
3	30/04/2025	25/07/2025	22/08/2025
4	01/08/2025	31/10/2025	28/11/2025

How are applicants informed of the decision and how are grants paid if successful?

Via the contact details provided. Once our assurance process is complete and all banking details are confirmed, we will pay the fund in full

Why are you asking for a safeguarding policy?

We expect all organisations applying for funding to have a safeguarding policy that is up to date and relevant to their work. We need to ensure all organisations that apply for funding have a safe and secure environment for everyone, ensuring that the welfare and wellbeing of everyone is addressed. It's about actively preventing harm, harassment, abuse and neglect, and being able to respond if any problem occurs.

Do successful applicants need to provide evidence of how the grant is used?

You must complete an evaluation of the impact of the award e.g. how your project delivered on the outcomes of the fund as outlined in your application; details of how the money was used and how many people benefitted from the project. This is expected on completion of the delivery of the project, or up to 12 months from the payment of the award, whichever is sooner.

You will also be asked to collect data on each of your service users including demographic information, origin of referral to your group, and scores on outcome measures agreed e.g. increase in physical activity levels, mental health and wellbeing improvements.

In addition, you will be asked to complete a minimum of one case study e.g. how your activity, group or project has impacted on participants

What is expected regarding any publicity we do regarding our project that is funded by yourselves?

We ask that you acknowledge Better Health North Somerset and the grant programme and where possible we encourage you to use our logo too in any publicity relating to the work we have funded.

We may also feature your organisation in our own publicity materials unless you have asked us not to do so.

Photos and testimonials are encouraged. We may use your photos or film footage in our own publicity materials unless you have asked us not to do so.

When photos are sent to us, it is assumed that full consent has been obtained and we can use the photos / film footage provided in any publicity materials, including our website, social media and newsletters or other newspaper/magazine.