



Bolton's Fund: HSF 7

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Bolton's Fund: Household Support Fund 7



Bolton's Fund, via the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has committed a further £500,000 from the Household Support Fund (HSF) to the Bolton's Fund grants programme to enable Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations to support vulnerable low-income households in need, with the cost of living.


Allocation: £500,000.00

Period: Finishing 31st March 2026

Closing date: Monday 26th May 2025

Apply via the Bolton CVS website.





The grants are to be used to help vulnerable low-income households with crisis and / or preventative support.

Projects must achieve at least one of the following priorities to receive HSF 7 funding:

1. Provision of crisis support to low-income households
2. Provision of preventative support to low-income households.

Grant Name	Maximum Size	Eligibility
Large Grants	up to £40,000	For organisations with an <u>income over £30,000</u> in the last full year.
Small Grants	up to £5,000	For organisations with an <u>income under £30,000</u> in the last full year.



Who are the target households for support?

Priority households for funding include vulnerable low-income households in need including:

- Households with disabled people,
- Households with children of all ages,
- Households with pensioners,
- Households with unpaid carers,
- Households with care leavers,
- Larger families,
- Single-person households,
- Those struggling with one-off financial shocks or unforeseen events.





Quotes from previous beneficiaries



“The food parcel and blankets made such a difference. It’s not just the things, it’s knowing someone cares.”

“I was skipping meals just to make sure my children had enough to eat. The support from this project lifted a huge weight off my shoulders. It gave me the breathing room to get back on my feet.”

“I was so overwhelmed by the things I received from you all and that you did it all without judgement which is one thing I did worry about.”

“The warm space sessions have been great for making new friends and being able to find out what’s on my doorstep”.



“We are overwhelmed by the kindness shown to us.”



How much money can you apply for?



Level of grant	Maximum size of grant	Total amount available in this funding round
Large Grants	Up to £40,000*	£400,000
Small Grants	Up to £5,000**	£100,000


*Organisations must have an **income of over £30,000** in the last full year to apply for a Large Grant.

Organisations with an **income under £30,000 in the last full financial year are eligible to apply for a Small Grant.



Please apply for the appropriate amount your organisation has the capacity and resources to effectively distribute within the timeframe of the grant (by the end of March 2026).





Crisis support is short-term help given to people who are facing sudden or serious difficulties, like not having enough food, heating, or essential items. It's meant to provide quick relief during tough times so people can stay safe and well.



The grants should be used to fund such activities as:

- providing food,
 - energy top-ups,
 - essential goods,
 - other urgent support to people who are struggling to meet basic needs.
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- 



Preventative support means helping people early—before problems get worse. The funded organisations may offer practical help or advice and activities that improve well-being, reduce hardship, and strengthen communities.


This could include support to individual residents or wider support within the broader community including:

- warm spaces,
- friendship and support groups,
- signposting to advice services or other organisations who provide this support.

Please note that the funding now places emphasis on supporting households who may not be eligible for other benefits or schemes and on those with complex or multiple vulnerabilities.



Eligible Expenditure – Crisis Support

- Energy Bills
 - Food
 - Essential equipment linked to increasing energy efficiency and water
 - Purchase essential household items such as beds, mattresses or cots, fridges, microwave, washing machines etc.
 - Wider essential including support with other bills:
 - Broadband or phone bills,
 - Clothing,
 - Period and hygiene products,
 - Essential transport-related costs such as repairing a car, buying a bicycle, or paying for fuel.
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Please note: Bolton's Fund grants from the Micro, Small, Medium or Partnership funds will not usually fund the purchase of equipment for distribution to community members.



Eligible Expenditure – Preventative Support







- To help prevent loneliness
- For promoting the re-use and repair of goods
- Supplementary advice services
- Improve energy efficiency
- **Longer-term and sustainable solutions:**
 - Subsidised food pantries or community kitchens,
 - Skills development in areas such as cooking lessons with an emphasis on cost-effective methods,
 - Increasing access to digital services
 - Raising confidence with digital skills.



Running Costs of your HSF Project



A maximum of 20% of the grant awarded can be allocated to cover the running costs of your organisation for your Household Support Fund project.

-  Administration costs associated with distributing HSF support to beneficiaries,
-  Rent or hire of your premises,
-  Heating costs, lighting costs,
-  Project management costs of your HSF project,
-  Transport and delivery costs for delivering support,
-  Volunteer out-of-pocket expenses or staff costs for your HSF project

Please note that at least 80% of the grant must be used to support vulnerable low-income households in at least one of the priorities listed above.






This funding round will not fund:

- Mortgage support, though homeowners could still qualify for the other elements of the fund.
- Ongoing housing support or support of unsustainable tenancies.
- Budgets where more than 20% is used towards the running costs of your HSF project.

Usual exceptions apply:

- Trips, outings, meals, parties or any other one-off activity that does not demonstrate significant community benefit.
 - The purchase of alcohol.
 - Activities of a political or specific religious nature.
 - Projects that will be primarily of benefit to people living outside the Bolton Local Authority Area.
 - Local government or NHS bodies, work that statutory bodies (such as schools or local authorities) have a duty to fund.
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See the HSF 7 Guidelines online for full details.



Who is it for?

- Constituted voluntary or community groups
- Registered charities
- Other types of constituted not for profit organisation (CIO, CIC, Community Benefit Society)

Based in and/or provide benefit to the people living in the Metropolitan Borough of Bolton.

Who isn't eligible?

- It won't fund work that statutory bodies (such as schools and local authorities) have a duty to fund.
- Local government or NHS bodies are not eligible for a grant.

Data Collection Requirements



- To satisfy the requirements of DWP, organisations receiving a grant will need to have procedures in place to collect and produce information in relation to household composition and the category of support that is given.
- There are three important data collection deadlines for the HSF 7 grants:
 - First set of monitoring data – by Friday 10th October 2025.
 - Second set of monitoring data – by Friday 9th January 2026.
 - Final set of monitoring data, outcomes report and case studies – by Friday 10th April 2026.





Data Collection Requirements

- The **spend and volume of households you have supported by composition**: households with children, households with pensioners, households with disabled person, other households.
- The **spend, and volume of crisis support awards split by category**: energy and water, wider essentials, housing costs, food (excluding Free School Meals (FSM) in the holidays) and other types of crisis support.
- The **spend and volume of preventative support awards by category**: advice services, skills, community infrastructure/support, energy efficiency and other types of preventative support.

Data collection excel spreadsheets will be sent to all successful applicants.

Online Briefing session



Important Application Questions

Tell us about your Household Support Fund project proposal.

- **What** you will be delivering
- **Who** will benefit from your project
- **Who** will be delivering the project
- **How** will you support low-income households
- **When** will the crisis and / or preventative support happen (days, times, weeks/months, etc)
- **How** it will be delivered (in person, remotely, 1-2-1, groups, workshops, taster sessions etc)

- Why does your organisation want to deliver this project and what have you done to find out it is needed?
- What are the specific needs or issues this project will respond to?
- Predicted number of beneficiaries.
- Outputs and Outcomes (Large Grant only)





Top Tips

Successful applicants should state in their application how they will ensure they provide support to the households in the most need of additional support in their community.



- 💡 Be Funding Ready
- 💡 Read The Guidelines
- 💡 Demonstrate the Need
- 💡 Accurate Costings (Max 20% for your HSF project running costs)
- 💡 Do your Homework

Your application will be strengthened if you can demonstrate you have the resources and capacity needed to effectively distribute the HSF grant.





Assessment of applications

1. Planning of the project.
2. Need for the project.
3. How well the project achieves the priorities of the fund.
4. What impact the project will have on the lives of Bolton residents.
5. Any additional environmental, economic or social benefits.
6. Value for money.

**Every application read and scored by
three volunteer grant assessors**

If oversubscribed:

- Geographical area of delivery
 - Type of support
 - Number of priorities achieved
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FAQ

- Can my organisation have more than one Bolton's Fund grant at a time?
- My application was unsuccessful. Can I reapply?
- My application was unsuccessful. Can I have feedback?
- How long will a decision take?
- How will the grant be paid out?
- How do I apply?
- List of previous grantees on Bolton CVS website



Sapphire Partnership

Closing date – Monday 26th May 2025

Open4Community – Online Funding Portal

♥ An online funding search facility which is free for member organisations of Bolton CVS. ♥

- Search for Government, Lottery and charitable trust funding.
- Search and browse functions.
- Nearly 600 funders listed!

✨ Easy to Use ✨
😊 Self-service 😊

Link is on the Membership portal section of Bolton CVS website (password protected)

Database is provided by Idox (who run Grantfinder).



Questions?





General Enquiries:

01204 546010

Volunteering Enquiries:

01204 546060

Hub Enquiries:

01204 546002

We are evolving
We are progressive
We are influencers
We are collaborative
We are here

