

FUNDRAISING: RESEARCHING FUNDERS

This information sheet will provide you with some basic advice to help you identify suitable funders to support your organisation or proposed project.

Where to find funders

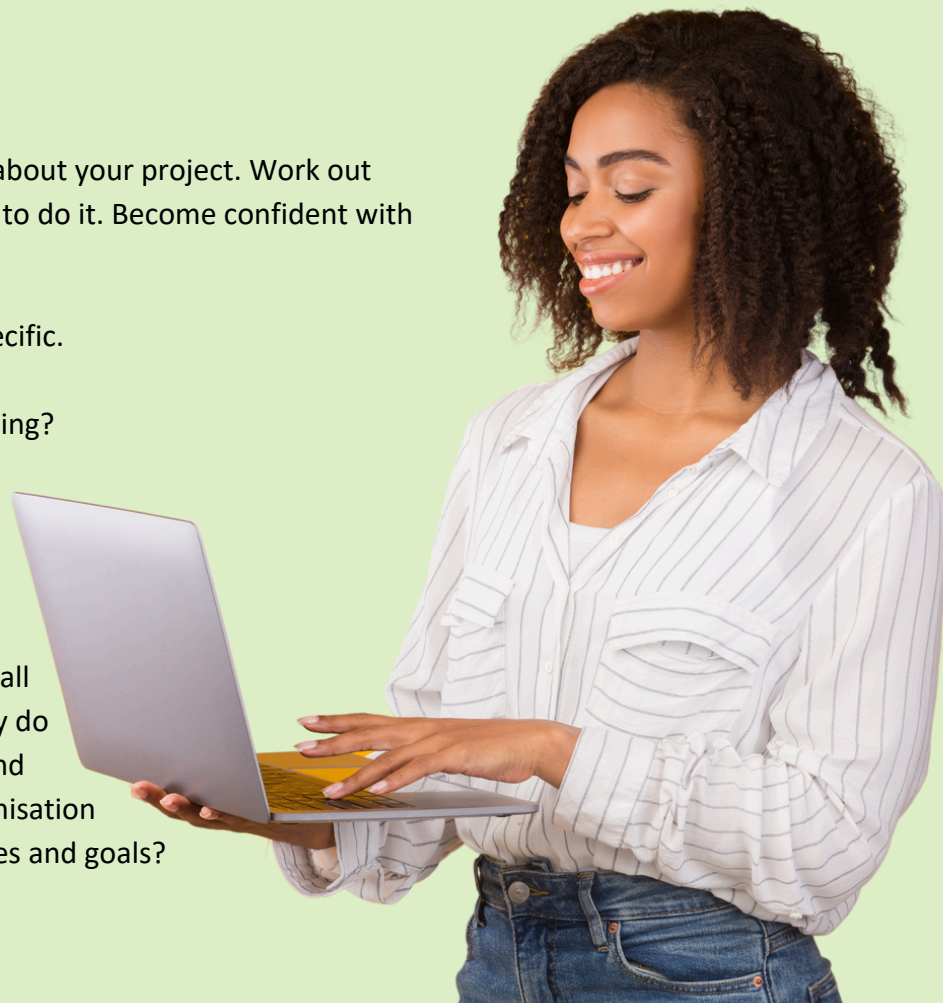
- Community First Yorkshire's [Funding Bulletin](#) – organisations in North Yorkshire or Community First Yorkshire members can sign up [here](#) for our free monthly Funding Bulletin with all the latest funds in an easy to read format.
- Funding Portal: our online Funding Portal is an online platform that allows you to search for and find the funding options you need. Sign up for [free](#).
- Internet searches: you can download guidelines and application forms from funders' websites.
- Funding Fairs: local infrastructure organisations like Community First Yorkshire often organise local Funding Fairs where you can meet funders face to face to discuss your project. You can search for any local community and voluntary service organisations that may be offering these events in your area.
- Other newsletters: sign up [here](#) to our other enewsletters which also provide information about funding opportunities.

Getting started

Before you start, spend some time thinking about your project. Work out what you want to do and how you are going to do it. Become confident with answering these questions:

- What do you want the funding for? Be specific.
- Who are you involving in your project?
- How do you know there is a need for funding?
- What will change with the funding?
- How much funding do you need?
- What resources will you need to get the funding?

Next, look at the potential funders. Find out all about the funder you are going to, what they do and how they operate. What's their vision and what are they aiming to do? Does your organisation or intended project reflect the funder's values and goals?



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Eligibility

Most funders have fixed eligibility criteria. For example:

- Only funding a specific type of organisation - funders may fund groups which are constituted in a certain way, for example, most Charitable Trusts and Foundations will only fund charities which are registered with the Charity Commission.
- The right amount - you must ensure that the total cost of your project and the amount you are requesting is within the funder's guidelines.
- The right type of project – a funder may only give funding towards either capital or revenue costs or may specify on what aspect most of the grant should be spent.
- The right timescale – some funds run for a limited time or have set deadlines.
- Match funding (funding from another source) – some funders either want you to secure match funding or may want to be the sole funder. Sometimes match funding can be 'in kind' or volunteer hours.
- A specific audience or subject.
- National, regional or local – funders may only work in particular areas.

Make sure you:

- Understand timescales: find out how often the funders meetings are held and deadlines for getting your applications in. How long does it take for funders to make a decision? Does it fit with your timescale? Funders generally won't fund a project if it begins before they have awarded funding.
- Plan for keeping track: find out what requirements funders have in relation to monitoring and evaluation and make sure you will be able to do the paperwork while you are delivering the project.
- Have the support of your committee: ensure that your committee is aware you are submitting the application and that they fully support the project as the funder may want to visit your organisation and talk to your committee members.
- Take advice: make an appointment to see a development officer at Community First Yorkshire so they can help you write a successful funding application and can read through a copy of the application before it is sent off. You can get in touch [here](#).

Do always read the funder's guidelines. Read them carefully. If the funder is not relevant to your scheme or organisation, move on and find a funder that is. Don't apply to funds just because they are there. You will either:

- Waste time and not be successful as your project won't fit the criteria
- Risk changing your aims and objectives to fit the funders' criteria.



Remember whom your project was intended to benefit, how and why. If you select a funder that best matches your project, you are more likely to stay in control of it.

Additional Support

Community First Yorkshire can help you choose the funding that is right for you. We can support you on a one to one or group training basis by helping you to develop your project, research the right funder, plan a funding strategy, and give you advice about any funding applications you would like to submit.

Simply fill in an [enquiry form](#) and we'll get back to you.

Community First Yorkshire Funding Portal

Our Funding Portal is an innovative online platform that transforms the way VCSE organisations in North Yorkshire can search for and find the funding options they need.

Offering a one-stop-shop approach, the portal is not only free to users, it saves a stack of time allowing you to set up and save tailored searches, with results delivered straight to your inbox.

Register on our funding portal [here](#) today.

Plus, our Community Support North Yorkshire team can work alongside you to understand your grant funding needs, check you are eligible and be a 'critical friend' during the application process. And, because we're funded by North Yorkshire Council and NHS North Yorkshire, our support is free to VCSE organisations across the county!

You can sign up for our news bulletins [here](#).

- Our monthly Funding Bulletin lists updated funding opportunities.
- Our weekly newsletter has information about the volunteer and charity sector, including training courses about funding.



**Community First
Yorkshire**

Registered Charity No. 515538

Unit A, Tower House, Askham Fields Lane, Askham Bryan, York, YO23 3FS

01904 704177 info@communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk www.communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk