

VCFSE Funding Newsletter October 2026

In this issue, we are pleased to share that our RSMP ESOL and Employment Grant Programme is now open, with applications closing on 14 October 2026. We also highlight our VCFSE Funding Videos, designed to help organisations submit the strongest possible funding applications. In addition, we feature protective security support available to faith communities, and free support from Thrive Trafford to help VCFSE organisations grow and secure funding. As always, we share the latest funding opportunities locally, regionally and nationally 😊

🚩 Now Open: North West RSMP ESOL and Employment Community Grant Funding

The North West Regional Strategic Migration Partnership (RSMP) are pleased to announce that applications are now open to fund up to 8 VCFSEs to deliver ESOL and Employment support projects across the North West of England.

The funding through this grant programme must be used to support the following communities: Hong Kong BN(O) visa holders & Homes for Ukraine (HfU), and Ukraine Permission Extension (UPE) visa holders.

The RSMP is looking to provide fund up to 8 organisations, with grants of up to £10,000 each. We will also give priority to organisations from different parts of the North West to make sure funding is shared fairly across the region.

Please also ensure that you have read and understood the guidance on eligibility and the conditions of this funding before completing the application. To apply, please complete the application form by email to RSMP@manchester.gov.uk

For further info and to access the application and guidance doc, please visit our website: [NOW OPEN! North West RSMP ESOL and Employment Community Grant Funding - Northwestrsmp](#)

Applications close at 23:59 (11:59pm) 14th October 2026.

📺 VCFSE Funding Training Videos – Now Live on Our Website



We are pleased to share that our VCFSE Funding Training Videos are now live.

Developed in partnership with Sector 3 Stockport CVS, these videos are designed to help VCFSE organisations feel more confident when applying for funding. They cover the full funding journey, including where to find funding, how to describe your organisation and project, how to reach service users and top tips for developing strong applications.

While some examples focus on English language support, the content is relevant to all types of VCFSE funding.

📄 Each video is supported by clear, downloadable step by step resources.

👉 Please click the link below to access all videos:
[Introduction to funding mini course - Northwestrsmp](#)

🛡️ Protective Security Support for Faith Communities

The Home Office offers a range of protective security schemes for faith communities, including Jewish Community Protective Security Grant | Protective Security for Mosques Scheme | Places of Worship Protective Security Scheme (for all other faiths) | Faith Security Training (FST), providing free security awareness training for faith communities across England and Wales. Find out more [Protective security for faith communities - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/protective-security-for-faith-communities)

🆓 Free Support to Help Your Organisation Grow and Secure Funding

Thrive Trafford is offering free one-to-one support to eligible Trafford VCFSE organisations looking to strengthen their organisation, secure funding, develop new projects, increase sustainability, generate income, or grow a social enterprise. Tailored advice is also available on business planning, policies, organisational development, and exploring new opportunities. Whatever stage your organisation is at, practical support is available to help turn ideas into action.

Please visit: [Thrive Trafford - Volunteering, Third Sector Funding & Social Enterprise](#)

Funding Opportunities in the North West and Nationally

In the following section, we will share new **external** funding opportunities available across different regions in the Northwest and nationally that may be useful and worth considering. Please note that some of the funding opportunities from the newsletter I sent previously are still open. Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Please Note – the funding below is external to the RSMP and is shared with you after researching funding across the region and nationally. The RSMP has no role in the drafting, commissioning or awarding of funding. Please ensure you read all eligibility criteria associated with each funding opportunity.

Oglesby Charitable Trust – Spotlight: Local Climate Action (Greater Manchester)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support small charities, CICs and community groups delivering nature-based climate action projects across Greater Manchester. The fund seeks to engage local communities in climate action through representation, cohesion and participation
Specific Eligibility Criteria	• Must be based in Greater Manchester and work in one or more of the ten boroughs • annual income/turnover must be under £250,000 • must work directly with communities and involve beneficiaries in decision-making • open to charities, CICs limited by guarantee, community groups and some unconstituted groups with a bank account requiring two signatories • projects should focus on one or more of the following themes: Representation: engaging people traditionally excluded from climate action Cohesion: bringing communities together through climate action participation: enabling people to take ownership of climate solutions
Grant amount	£500 to £5,000 per organisation
Location	Greater Manchester
Deadline	3rd November 2026
Contact	applications@oglesbycharitabletrust.org.uk
Website	Spotlight Fund - The Oglesby Charitable Trust

Edward Holt Trust Long-Term Funding Opportunity (Greater Manchester)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support ambitious, preventative pilot projects that help lift people out of poverty and/or prevent homelessness. The Trust is seeking bold, practical and locally rooted projects that tackle root causes, reduce vulnerability and build long-term resilience for individuals and communities
Specific Eligibility Criteria	• Projects must be new pilot initiatives focused on preventing poverty and/or homelessness • projects should be preventative, locally rooted and capable of growing over five years and beyond • projects must be designed and delivered with people who have lived experience • must include paid employment, training, skills development or career progression opportunities for people with lived experience

	applicants should normally have an annual income of less than £1.5 million
Grant amount	Approximately £200,000 per year
Location	Greater Manchester
Deadline	16 th October 2026
Contact	grants@edwardholttrust.org.uk
Website	Strategic Funding Opportunity Edward Holt Trust

Lancashire Red Rose Responding Fund (Lancashire)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support local charities, voluntary and community organisations in Lancashire that help vulnerable people, with a particular focus on mental health support
Specific Eligibility Criteria	- Organisations must have an annual income of under £350,000 - applicants should have a demonstrable track record in delivering mental health support - mental health support must be delivered by trained professionals, volunteers or community workers - priority will be given to projects supporting one or more of the following groups: Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities, LGBTQ+ communities, people with physical or learning disabilities, older people and young people up to the age of 25 - projects should directly respond to acute mental health needs and be delivered by organisations embedded within their local communities.
Grant amount	Up to £5,000
Location	Lancashire
Deadline	16 th October 2026
Contact	applications@cflm.org.uk
Website	Lancashire Red Rose Responding Fund - CFL

The BIBAs Foundation (Lancashire)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Develop an enterprising culture among young people in Lancashire by supporting projects that help them gain skills, confidence, knowledge, experience and opportunities that improve employment, enterprise and future prospects
Specific Eligibility Criteria	- Projects must support young people aged 16–24 - projects should meet at least one of the following priorities: enable young people to flourish, learn and develop skills or knowledge; encourage enterprise and entrepreneurship; continue or expand work experience opportunities; build future capacity and employability; and improve confidence and future employment or enterprise prospects - organisations must have at least three unrelated trustees, directors or management committee members
Grant amount	Up to £5,000
Location	Lancashire
Deadline	2 nd November 2026
Contact	applications@cflm.org.uk
Website	The BIBAs Foundation - CFL

LCVS Community Impact Fund (CIF) (Merseyside)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) organisations and registered charities that are building stronger communities across Liverpool and Merseyside. The fund focuses on projects that tackle inequality and create positive change for those most in need
Specific Eligibility Criteria	• Must deliver activities aligned to at least one of the fund's priority areas: Health and Wellbeing, Education, Income Stability or Arts and Culture • must be a constituted not-for-profit VCFSE organisation • must have been established for at least 12 months and demonstrate previous delivery of activities • must have an organisational income of £800,000 or less • must have a registered address and/or main place of operation in Merseyside • organisations based in Halton are not eligible
Grant amount	Up to £3,000
Location	Merseyside (excluding Halton-based organisations)
Deadline	Friday 16 th October 2026, 5pm
Contact	grants@lcvs.org.uk
Website	OPEN LCVS Community Impact Fund (CIF)

Lancaster District Crisis and Resilience Fund (Lancaster)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support practical projects that reduce hardship, tackle inequalities and help communities build resilience before they reach crisis point
Specific Eligibility Criteria	• Applications are welcomed from VCFSEs, community hubs, advice providers and food projects • priority will be given to projects that strengthen Community Resilience Hubs and create accessible community spaces, provide advice, education and financial resilience support, improve food security and develop sustainable local food solutions and deliver outreach and early intervention for underserved or rural communities
Grant amount	Three funding levels are available: • Up to £1,000 • Up to £10,000 • Over £10,000
Location	Lancaster District
Deadline	22 nd October 202
Contact	crf@lancaster.gov.uk
Website	Crisis & Resilience Fund - Lancaster City Council

Liverpool Bay CCS Limited Community Benefit Fund (Areas in the vicinity of Chester, Ellesmere Port, Frodsham and Neston)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Provide long-term investment in communities hosting the Liverpool Bay Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) infrastructure by supporting projects that deliver lasting benefits through education, environmental enhancement and the celebration of local heritage and culture
Specific Eligibility Criteria	• Open to registered charities and not-for-profit organisations with an appropriate governing document

	• must be delivering projects that benefit communities within the eligible Liverpool Bay area • projects must deliver outcomes in at least one of the following themes: Education, Environment or Heritage and Culture • projects must provide a clear public benefit and be completed within 12 months
Grant amount	Up to £20,000
Location	Eligible areas in and around Chester, Ellesmere Port, Frodsham and Neston, including specified wards across Cheshire.
Deadline	2 nd November 2026
Contact	grants@cheshirecommunityfoundation.org.uk
Website	Liverpool Bay CCS Limited Community Benefit Fund - Cheshire Community Foundation

Radius Foundation Grants Programme (Crewe)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support projects that improve lives in Crewe by empowering young people, championing wellbeing and inclusion and promoting diversity and gender equality
Specific Eligibility Criteria	• Applicants must be organisations with an existing presence in Crewe • projects must address at least one of the following priorities: empowering young people through skills development, education and pathways into employment; championing wellbeing and inclusion, including support for people experiencing mental health challenges or disability; and promoting diversity and gender equality, with a focus on underrepresented groups and equal opportunities. • applicants must meet Cheshire Community Foundation's standard grant-making and eligibility requirements
Grant amount	Up to £15,000
Location	Crewe
Deadline	1 st November 2026 (11:59pm)
Contact	grants@cheshirecommunityfoundation.org.uk
Website	Radius Grants Programme - Cheshire Community Foundation

Community Investment Fund (CIF) (Cheshire West and Chester)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support preventative, community-led activities that help residents earlier, strengthen local resilience, and prevent, reduce or delay the need for statutory and high-cost services across Cheshire West and Chester
Specific Eligibility Criteria	• Open to Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) organisations and groups • projects must meet one or more of the fund priorities and demonstrate outcomes for Cheshire West and Chester residents • applications can be submitted by a single organisation or a consortium, with one lead organisation • applicants must provide annual accounts, a dedicated organisational bank account, governing documents, safeguarding and equality policies, evidence of DBS checks (where appropriate) and appropriate insurance cover

Grant amount	Four funding tiers: Under £5,000, £5,001-£50,000, £50,001-£100,000, and up to £40,000 for learning and evaluation projects
Location	Cheshire West and Chester
Deadline	• First application window: 7 October 2026 to 4 November 2026 • Second application window: 16 November 2026 to 14 December 2026.
Contact	CIF@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
Website	What is the Community Investment Fund? Cheshire West and Chester Council

Common Ground Award 2026–2027 by Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) (England)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support community cohesion and resilience by investing in capital projects that help bring people from different backgrounds together. Funding is for the construction, renovation, expansion or improvement of community facilities, spaces and equipment that enable social connection across communities
Specific Eligibility Criteria	• Applicants must directly support at least one of the following: encouraging social mixing, understanding and reducing divisions between communities; reducing prejudice, discrimination and hatred towards individuals and communities because of their background; and resolving conflict and addressing tensions between communities • open to eligible VCSE organisations in England with an annual income under £5 million, including charities, CIOs, CICs, community benefit societies and eligible unincorporated groups. Consortium applications are welcome • not eligible: public sector bodies, profit-making organisations, individuals, or educational institutions. • funds capital costs only, including building works, community space improvements, furniture, laptops and other equipment that supports community activities
Grant amount	• Individual organisations: £20,000 to £50,000 capital funding, with exceptional awards up to £100,000 • Consortiums: £100,000 to £250,000 capital funding
Location	England
Deadline	12 th October 2026 Closing Soon!
Contact	CGA@communities.gov.uk
Website	Common Ground Award 2026 to 2027: prospectus - GOV.UK

The National Lottery Solidarity Fund (England)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support organisations in England that tackle the root causes of poverty, disadvantage and discrimination by building community power, creating systems change, working in solidarity across communities, being led by lived experience and sharing learning to influence long-term change
Specific Eligibility Criteria	• Organisations working in England that can demonstrate how their work builds power, creates systems change, works in solidarity, is led by and accountable to people with lived experience, and shares learning

	- eligible applicants include charities, CIOs, CICs, voluntary and community organisations, co-operatives and community benefit societies - organisations must have at least two unrelated trustees/directors and be able to manage large, long-term funding
Grant amount	£1 million to £5 million from 5 to 10 years
Location	England
Deadline	Ongoing
Contact	SolidarityFund@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk
Website	The Solidarity Fund The National Lottery Community Fund

Paul Hamlyn Migration Fund (The UK)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Support organisations working towards migrant justice by addressing the root causes of injustice faced by migrant and diaspora communities, building collective power, fostering solidarity and creating long-term systemic change
Specific Eligibility Criteria	- Open to not-for-profit organisations of any size across the UK, including newly established and unincorporated groups - organisations should demonstrate anti-racist practice, centre care and wellbeing, shift power to migrant and diaspora communities and work collaboratively towards transformational change - projects should address the root causes of inequalities affecting migrant and diaspora communities, build collective power, strengthen solidarity or support migrant justice infrastructure - priority will be given to organisations led by migrants and diaspora communities, organisations with annual turnover under £500,000, those working with historically underfunded groups and regions, and organisations with limited access to other funding sources
Grant amount	Up to £60,000 per year for grants lasting 3 to 4 years, or up to £50,000 per year for grants lasting 5 years.
Location	The UK
Deadline	Rolling
Contact	information@phf.org.uk
Website	Migration Fund Paul Hamlyn Foundation

Henry Smith Foundation Domestic Abuse Counselling Fund (the UK)	
Focus/Aims of Fund	Sustain access to specialist domestic abuse counselling by funding organisations that provide longer-term counselling to victim-survivors of domestic abuse, helping them recover from trauma, rebuild confidence and improve wellbeing. The fund is part of the Safer Futures Programme.
Specific Eligibility Criteria	- Specialist domestic abuse organisations with at least three years' experience delivering counselling to victim-survivors of domestic abuse - counselling must be person-centred, trauma-informed, holistic, and longer-term (minimum 12 sessions) - applicants must be charitable organisations registered and working in the UK, including: (CIOs), (CICs) and other not-

	for-profit charitable organisations whose work closely aligns with the funder's strategy • annual income must be below £2 million (based on the most recent published accounts)
Grant amount	£250,000 over five years (£50,000 per year).
Location	The UK
Deadline	Expression of Interest Deadline: Wednesday 21 st October 2026, 5pm.
Contact	Contact - Henry Smith
Website	Domestic Abuse: Counselling Fund - Henry Smith