

2025 Small Grants Round Application Guidance & Criteria

We are a community-rooted grant maker, committed to improving the lives of people living in the Wakefield district. We do this by providing grants, fostering partnerships and encouraging investment where it is needed most.

We are proud to be working with and supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector to deliver vital services to the district.

This year, we're excited to launch our first ever round of unrestricted small grants, offering flexible funding of up to £5,000 per organisation.

What's different for 2025?

Unlike previous rounds, these grants are unrestricted. This means you can use the funding where you need it most - whether that's paying core costs, running a project, buying equipment, or something else entirely.

All we ask is that you can share with us how your organisation supports connectivity in your community.

What we mean by connectivity

We're looking to fund organisations that help people connect. We believe that connection underpins wellbeing, belonging, opportunity, and support, and it is one of Prosper's key priorities. Your work might support connection in one or more of the following ways. If you are unsure about if or how the work that you are doing relates to connectivity, please get in touch and we can assist.

- **Social and emotional connection** - creating opportunities for people to come together, reduce isolation, and build relationships.
- **Tackling social exclusion** - improving access to services or reaching those on the edge.
- **Opportunities** - connecting people with new opportunities, and or/developing skills and confidence.
- **Transport connectivity** - helping people get where they need to go.
- **Digital inclusion** - tackling barriers to access, tech use, or digital literacy.
- **Collaborative working** - working in partnership with other VCSEs to build stronger networks and shared solutions.

You don't need to tick every box. Just tell us in a few words how your work helps people feel more connected.

Eligibility criteria

These grants are intended for groups or organisations operating within the Wakefield District. We welcome applications from community and voluntary groups operating for the benefit of Wakefield communities. This includes locally constituted and managed branches of national or large charities.

You must:

- Be a **VCSE organisation** (charity, CIC, constituted community group, sports club, etc.)
- Be based in or delivering work within the **Wakefield district**
- Have a **bank account in your organisation's name**
- Be working in a way that **promotes connectivity** (see more info. below)
- Have an income of **less than £250,000 per year** with 6 months or less unrestricted reserves

Who cannot apply for this grant

- Local Authority
- Schools
- For profit organisations
- Individuals

Funding may not be applied for:

- Organisations that promote any religious or political cause.
- Activities which a local authority has a statutory duty to provide.
- Initiatives where the funds are to be re-allocated out to other groups or individuals.
- Local branches of national charities unless locally managed, financially autonomous and not in receipt of financial support from the national body.

How the grant can be used

Because these are unrestricted grants, you can use the funding for:

- Core costs (rent, bills, staffing)
- Project or service delivery
- Equipment or resources
- Capacity building and training
- Volunteer expenses
- Anything else that supports your mission and community

We simply ask that you tell us how this funding will help you do what you do better and how it supports connectivity.

How to apply

1. **Check that you are eligible**, and your work fits the connectivity theme.
2. **Complete the short application form** - available on our website www.prosperwakefielddistrict.org or by request to info@prosperwakefielddistrict.org.
3. Closing date for grant applications is **Wednesday 6th August 2025**

Support with your application

We know that small organisations are often overstretched. If you need help filling in the form or want to talk through your idea, we're here for you.

We are also holding an online Q&A session on **Tuesday 24th June 2025**. The link will be available on the website and Prosper Wakefield District social media channels.

What happens when you apply?

- Prosper Wakefield District will check to ensure your application meets our main eligibility criteria. If we have any queries, we will contact you either by email, telephone or in writing.
- Support and advice is available for groups, but groups must be aware that any support provided will not necessarily influence a successful outcome.
- All eligible applications will be assessed, and decisions will be made by a panel. The panel details will be available upon request.

If your application is successful:

Your group will be sent an award letter via email within 6 weeks of the closing date.

Monitoring

We are working to make this process as simple as possible.

Once you have received the funds, we will arrange a 30-minute online telephone call to chat more about your organisation goals and how the grant will help your organisation.

We recognise that measuring the impact of unrestricted funding can be challenging, so we're not asking for formal monitoring or detailed results. However, we do ask that all successful grantees share a brief update within six months to let us know how the funding has supported or is continuing to support your organisation. This can be done by email, and we'd love to receive testimonials, photographs or videos (photos we can use publicly would be great!).

We look forward to hearing from you.

Team Prosper