

Prosper Small Grants Criteria 2026

- **Total fund available:** £125,000
- **Grant size:** Up to £5,000
- **Type of fund:** Unrestricted flexible funding
- **Duration:** Up to 12 months
- **Location:** Wakefield District within key areas* Airedale/Ferry Fryston, City Centre, Eastmoor, Featherstone, Flanshaw, Hemsworth, Kinsley/Fitzwilliam/Rycroft, Knottingley, Lupset, Normanton, South Kirkby, South Elmsall
- **Focus:** Organisations tackling poverty and inequality, with a focus on improving the health, wellbeing, and overall fulfilment of local people
- **Deadline for applications:** 16th September 2026 – please schedule and submit as soon as you can

Eligibility Criteria

You must meet all of the below criteria to be considered for a 2026 Small Grant:

- Be a registered charity
 - We will accept applications from CIC's providing we can see that as much funding as possible is being reinvested in the organisation
 - Locally constituted and managed branches of national or large charities will also be considered
- Have an annual income of up to £250,000
 - We look at reserves in context. Organisations hold funds for different reasons at different times. We want to see evidence of sound financial management, including good processes, transparency, governance, and a clear explanation of reserves management
- Have at least three unrelated trustees, directors, or committee members
- Have a bank account in the organisation's name with at least two unrelated signatories
- Be based in or delivering work within the Wakefield district.

If you are unsure or have any questions around our 2026 Small Grants criteria please email us info@prosperwakefielddistrict.org

Small Grant focus areas for 2026

We are particularly interested in supporting organisations that:

- Work with adults (18+)
- Are based in or supporting communities within key areas across the district* Airedale/Ferry Fryston, City Centre, Eastmoor, Featherstone, Flanshaw, Hemsworth, Kinsley/Fitzwilliam/Rycroft, Knottingley, Lupset, Normanton, South Kirkby, South Elmsall
- Have not received a Prosper Small Grant within the last 12 months
- Are led by or working closely with underrepresented or ethnic minority communities.

These are our focus areas and not strict eligibility requirements. Applications outside of these areas will also be assessed by the panel.

*All areas have high deprivation as measured by the 2025 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD).

Who can't apply

- Individuals
- For-profit organisations
- Statutory bodies (e.g. schools, hospitals)
- Sports clubs where there is no wider benefit to the community
- Organisations who are using the funding to promote any religion or political cause
- Overseas organisations or activities
- Organisations without appropriate governance, financial controls, or safeguarding (where relevant)

Examples of how your grant could be used

This is an unrestricted grant - so these are just examples - not a complete list of how it could be spent.

- Core costs (e.g. staffing, expenses, rent, utilities, overheads)
- Project, event or service delivery in relation to poverty, inequality, improving health, wellbeing and fulfilment of communities
- Costs to sustain or create safe, welcoming spaces for people to connect
- Practical support during the cost of living crisis
- Skills development, capacity building, training, and pathways to opportunity
- Activities or events that bring connection, joy, or wellbeing to individuals
- Service or project-related equipment
- The set-up or pilot of a new project or service
- We are open to capital funding, and will be funded based on a case by case basis dependant on the level of cost required to complete the capital project

How to apply

- Check through the eligibility requirements to make sure that your organisation can apply. If you are unsure or have any questions please email or set up a call with Emma, emma@prosperwakefielddistrict.org
- Complete the application form
 - All forms are also downloadable on our website www.prosperwakefielddistrict.org or by request to info@prosperwakefielddistrict.org
 - If you require the application form in any other format please get in touch with Emma emma@prosperwakefielddistrict.org where we will look to support wherever possible
 - If you are unable to fill out the application form for any reason, please get in touch and we can support with the writing or discuss alternative ways that you can apply for a Prosper Small Grant



- You are invited to attend one of our informal online drop-in support sessions on 30th June or 28th July 2026. Links will be emailed to all applicants upon request and will be advertised on our social media channels
- Closing date for all applications is 16th September 2026, applications will be shared with the panel on a month by month basis, so please try and get your application in as soon as possible.

If you are funded

- You'll receive a grant letter and funding agreement via email
- You will receive full details of required reporting. Prosper will support you with reporting where required
- We will request permission to publish all successful grant holders on Prosper's website.

Key dates

- Prosper Small Grants 2026 applications open **16th June 2026**
- Online drop-in sessions to support applications will be hosted on **30th June & 28th July**
 - These sessions have been set to support with any related grant or application questions and are not mandatory.
- Applications close **16th September 2026**

Have we missed anything?

If you have any questions or would like to discuss your application further please email or get in touch or set up a call with Emma emma@prosperwakefielddistrict.org

About Prosper Wakefield District

Prosper is an independent local place-based grant funder. We have a long history rooted deep in the heart of Wakefield and can trace our records back to 1851. We started life as one of the first health insurances mainly for local mining communities and over time this has evolved to who we are today.

Our core purpose is to improve lives across Wakefield district through grants.

If you would like to find out more about Prosper, please visit our website or get in touch with the team info@prosperwakefielddistrict.org

