

Rough Sleeping and Homelessness Initiatives – Oxford City Council Grant Scheme 2025-26 Application Guidelines

Purpose of fund

As part of Oxford City Council's commitment to deliver the priorities set out in Oxford's Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-28 we are inviting organisations external to the Council to apply for grant funding to support initiatives that prevent rough sleeping and support those experiencing rough sleeping in the city to move off the streets and find sustainable accommodation.

- This fund is intended to support impactful activities that provide assistance to vulnerable single individuals who are experiencing homelessness or rough sleeping or who are at risk of homelessness in Oxford.
- This fund is intended to help deliver initiatives meeting the criteria as set out in the relevant funding scheme, in this instance it is the Rough Sleeping Recovery and Prevention Grant (RSPARG) funding that the City Council has been allocated by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). (See Appendix 1)
- The fund is intended to support the aims and priorities of [Oxford City Council's Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-28](#).

How much can I apply for?

Organisations seeking funding can apply for up to £50,000 per initiative.

If the scheme is oversubscribed, the City Council may decide to part fund some applications. Applicants will need to detail how they could scale their proposals.

Who can apply?

Applications for funding will only be accepted from organisations that operate and deliver initiatives in Oxford city. You can apply if your organisation is a:

- Voluntary or community organisation
- Registered charity
- Not-for-profit company or community interest company
- Social enterprise
- Faith based organisation

What the Grant Scheme can Support

Applications should align with and help deliver the City Council's Oxford City Council's Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-28 and Oxfordshire's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2021-26.

Applications should deliver initiatives that meet the relevant MHCLG funding criteria (see Appendix 1).

Some examples of the type of initiatives the fund can support, but is not limited to include:

- Practical support for individuals experiencing homelessness or rough sleeping which can include but is not limited to, education, training and employment, access to food, clothing, and meaningful activities.
- Community engagement or participatory events with individuals experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping.
- Support and training to upskill staff teams of homelessness initiatives, to improve outcomes for individuals accessing them.
- Support for individuals experiencing homelessness or rough sleeping to recover from homelessness and sustain independent accommodation, in particular support for those at risk of returning to the streets after they have been housed
- Preventative services, prioritising resources based on an assessment of an individual's support needs.
- Interventions that support individuals to move off the streets in the winter time.

There will be a strong preference for bids that:

- Are aspirational for the futures of individuals experiencing homelessness or rough sleeping.
- Are co-produced with individuals experiencing homelessness or rough sleeping.
- Include trauma informed thinking.
- Interact with and add value to existing services.
- Encourage multi agency working.
- Support individuals rough sleeping to move off the streets.
- Address a gap in provision, enhance accessibility or inclusion in existing services. Projects should not duplicate existing services.
- Benefit people from minority groups
- Reduce silo working between services/organisations and disciplines.
- Support individuals who are experiencing homelessness or rough sleeping and who have multiple support needs.

What the Fund Cannot Support

This fund is **not** intended for:

- Initiatives to support individuals under the age of 18.
- Initiatives which statutory organisations would normally be expected to provide under their statutory duty.

Application Process

1. Complete the [online Rough Sleeping and Homelessness Initiatives Grant Scheme Application Form](#).
2. Submit the form by 3 November 2025.
3. Scoring questions. Each question will be marked out of 10 on the basis that your answer matches criteria in the following way:
 - 0 - Will not deliver / meet the criteria at all
 - 2 - Unclear if the criteria will be delivered / met or not
 - 4 - Will deliver / meet the criteria partially
 - 6 - Will deliver / meet the criteria fully
 - 8 - Exceeds the criteria
 - 10 - Will deliver / meet the criteria in an exceptional way
4. Applications will be reviewed to also ensure alignment with Oxford City Council's Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, available budget, and relevant MHCLG funding criteria.
5. Applicants will be notified of the outcome within 3 weeks of the closing date.

Conditions

- Successful applicants will be expected to provide a short summary of how the funding was used and its impact by the end of the financial year.
- Grants for successful applications will be awarded subject to a Grant Assistance Agreement between the successful application and the City Council.
- Funds must be spent by **31 March 2026**.

Successful Applications: Monitoring, reporting and evaluation

Successful applicants are expected to provide regular updates on the progress of their initiative.

We will ask you to send us an update mid-way through your project to let us know how things are going and then provide a more in-depth report at the end of the project.

Mid-term update

We will request a short update to help us understand more about:

- How many people have been supported by the project
- The profile of service users benefitting from the project including age, gender and ethnicity
- The progress the project has made so far towards outcomes identified in the bid
- What have been the successes of the project?
- What have been the challenges (and how they are being managed)?
- Any significant issues or updates that we need to be aware of?

In some cases we may want to discuss this update with you further.

Final report

The end of grant report should cover what your project has achieved, learning and the change our funding has helped to create. We will ask for a full narrative report including information on the impact of the project against identified outcome areas, and a financial report. Any photos, videos and feedback from service users would also be useful to include.

Data protection

The data on this form will be used by Oxford City Council staff to assess grant applications and monitor grant awards. Please [visit our Oxford Community Impact Fund website](#) or contact us at roughsleepingteam@oxford.gov.uk for more information.

The data on this form will be used by Oxford City Council staff to assess grant applications and monitor grant awards. It will be stored on Oxford City Council's networks to meet operational and legal requirements. Full information can be found in [Oxford City Council's Data Protection Policy](#). Any data protection queries can be emailed to us at roughsleepingteam@oxford.gov.uk.

Appendix 1- MHCLG funding requirements for Rough Sleeping and Homelessness Initiatives – Oxford City Council Grant Scheme

Initiatives/projects funded from the Oxford City Council grant scheme are required to deliver outcomes in line with the intentions of the Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant funding:

- Reduce and prevent rough sleeping by stabilising current numbers, providing tailored support for individuals facing the most complex challenges, and promoting long-term recovery.
- Increase prevention services to support accommodation outcomes and ensure fewer people sleep rough for the first time before accessing services.
- Deliver targeted interventions for individuals transitioning from asylum accommodation, with a focus on preventing rough sleeping and facilitating access to sustainable onward housing solutions.
- Develop partnership working across local authorities and the voluntary, community and faith sector (VCFS).
- Strengthen multiagency approaches to improve safety and public confidence in town centres where rough sleeping and street activity intersect.
- Put plans in place in advance of winter 2025/26.