

# Rough Sleeping and Homelessness Initiatives – Oxford City Council

## Preventing Homelessness Budget Grant Scheme 2026-27

### Application Guidelines

#### Purpose

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 day centre provision/activities that provide assistance to vulnerable single individuals who are experiencing homelessness or rough sleeping or who are at risk of homelessness in Oxford.
- 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 a maximum of £70,000 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.
- The funding is available for the financial year 2026/27

#### 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

The fund can support applications for the provision of day centre initiatives delivered in the City. Such provision 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.

The fund can support the following projects/initiatives regarding day centre provision for those experiencing homelessness or rough sleeping or who are at risk of homelessness:

- Strong partnership work and signposting to services to suit individual's support needs, with the aim to end homelessness and rough sleeping
- General advice, guidance and signposting to more specialist service
- Support to those experiencing rough sleeping to get off the street
- Access to projects and activities for individuals to take part in
- Vocational skills training and employment support
- Workshops and basic training in life-skills, money-management etc.
- Library facilities
- Computer suites
- Access to food and drink
- Laundry facilities and showers
- Clothing store

Organisations applying for funding will need to have access to suitable premises to deliver day centre provision from.

There will be a strong preference for bids that:

- Are sustainable and will continue beyond the funding period
- 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.

## Application Process

1. Complete the online Oxford City Council Preventing Homelessness Budget Grant Scheme Application Form
2. Submit the form by **11 December 2025**
3. Applications will be reviewed to ensure alignment with Oxford City Council's Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and available budget.
4. 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.
- The funding period is 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027. Any funds allocated for 2026/27 must be spent by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027.
- ***At the time of this grant scheme application process, the Council's Preventing Homelessness Budget has not yet been approved. The Council will only conclude the grant award and enter into Grant Assistance Agreement once the level of the Preventing Homelessness Budget is made available. Decisions around the level of Preventing Homelessness Budget is made as part of the Council's overall budget approval process.***

## 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 – October 2026 - to let us know how things are going and then provide a more in-depth report at the end of the project (end of project is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027, with report due April 2027).

## 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?
- Any other information as applicable that is relevant to the bid and demonstrating the purpose of the grant is met

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.