



Mahtsen CIC

Funding readiness and application support

Mahtsen CIC is a women-led, grassroots Community Interest Company based in Manchester. Since 2020, Mahtsen has worked to bring communities together and support people of all ages, genders and backgrounds, with particular expertise in working with women, children, families, refugees, asylum seekers and Eritrean, Ethiopian and wider Horn of Africa communities.

Through culturally appropriate, community-led and trauma-informed activities, Mahtsen promotes wellbeing, inclusion, health awareness, cultural connection, confidence and community engagement. Its work is shaped by the voices and lived experiences of the communities it serves.

As Mahtsen's work and community reach grew, the team recognised that sustainable external funding was essential to maintain existing activities and respond to increasing community needs. The organisation had strong grassroots ideas and trusted relationships with local communities, but limited experience of grant fundraising and needed support to understand the funding landscape, identify suitable opportunities and develop stronger applications.





Thank you so much for all the support and guidance you have given Mahtsen CIC this year.



Over the past year, Manchester Community Central has worked closely with Mahtsen CIC to build the organisation's confidence and skills in fundraising. Support included identifying suitable funding opportunities through Macc's funding portal and website, understanding funder criteria, prioritising opportunities and strengthening funding applications.

Manchester Community Central also provided guidance on monitoring and evaluation, demonstrating impact and communicating Mahtsen's community outcomes more clearly to funders. Alongside this support, Mahtsen was connected with wider voluntary, community and social enterprise sector opportunities, including networking events, focus groups and partnership meetings. These opportunities enabled the organisation to learn from others, share its own grassroots experience and build valuable relationships across Manchester.

Since receiving this support, Mahtsen CIC has successfully secured funding through a number of grant programmes, including We Love Manchester, Hate Crime Awareness activities, Your Neighbourhood Funding and other community grant opportunities. These resources have helped Mahtsen turn community ideas into practical activities and sustain programmes that support wellbeing, inclusion, community safety, cultural connection and participation.

The benefit goes beyond individual funding awards. Mahtsen now has stronger relationships with local funders, a better understanding of funding requirements and greater confidence in planning and submitting future applications. The team is better equipped to identify opportunities, develop sustainable projects, demonstrate impact and secure resources that can make a lasting difference to the communities it serves.



“Thank you so much for all the support and guidance you have given Mahtsen CIC this year. Your support has helped us better understand funding applications, improve the way we present our work and become more confident when applying for funding.”

“With your guidance, Mahtsen has successfully secured funding for our Coffee Morning for Mothers through We Love Manchester, Hate Crime Awareness work, Neighbourhood Sports funding, and a small Christmas grant through Forever Manchester. These opportunities have made a real difference to the communities we support.”

“I have really valued how approachable, encouraging and understanding you have been. Your guidance has helped us turn our community ideas into stronger funding applications and sustainable projects.”

“We are very grateful for your continued support and look forward to working together in the future.”

Selamawit Reda, Founder & Managing Director, Mahtsen CIC



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