

## **Manchester Active Community Walking Grants 2025.**

### **INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE NOTES.**

#### **Overview.**

Manchester Active is offering Community Walking grants for walking activity in 2025. We want to support groups to deliver walking activity in their communities, acknowledging the important contribution that walking can play in benefitting both physical and mental health. Walking activity also helps people get to know their local area better and can help with carbon reduction priorities when used as a mode of travel.

Applicants can apply for a grant of between **£100** and **£1,500**.

Manchester Active is a not-for-profit organisation established and overseen by Manchester City Council. We are responsible for driving sport and physical activity across Manchester; inspiring and encouraging everyone to lead a more active and healthy lifestyle.

#### **Dates:**

- Grant opening: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024.
- Grant closing: **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024 (midnight)**.
- We aim to communicate our decision in January 2025.
- Activity must be delivered by the **end of December 2025**, with most delivery expected March-September.

#### **Aims of the Manchester Active Community Walking fund (applications must meet at least one of these aims):**

1. To enable/encourage people to walk more to benefit their physical health.
2. To enable/encourage people to walk more to benefit their mental health.
3. To use walking as a way of tackling social isolation and loneliness.
4. To encourage residents to get to know their local area better and increase their usage of Manchester's many parks and green spaces.
5. To increase walking in groups under-represented in sport and physical activity (as defined by Sport England).
6. To increase walking activity and access to nature by families, children and young people, including under 5s.
7. To increase walking as a mode of travel, reducing car usage and thereby carbon emissions.

**Successful applicants must:**

- **Deliver their walking project within the Manchester City Council boundary area.**
- Sign up to the **Manchester Active Provider Portal**, where they will upload requested documents, including public liability insurance (£10M), safeguarding documentation and staff qualifications/certificates where relevant.
- Read, sign and return the Manchester Active Grant Agreement specifying the project details prior to the transfer of any approved funding.
- Deliver their project by the end of December 2025.
- Attend the Manchester Active ‘Manchester: Let’s Walk!’ workshop training where relevant.
- Keep in touch with Manchester Active throughout the duration of the project, sharing information on the project’s progress, including successes and any challenges faced.
- Collect evidence and feedback throughout the project, which may include photos, videos, quotes and participant and organisation feedback.
- Collate and provide all final evaluation information as above, within a month of your project’s completion, allocating staff time to enable this.
- Use the Manchester Active logo and branding in conjunction with the project.

**Notes:**

- The funding should contribute to longer-term sustainable walking activity.
- We welcome innovative and creative ideas to encourage those in your communities to walk more.
- We cannot fund items that do not align with Manchester Active’s commitment to carbon reduction and sustainability e.g. disposable water bottles or one-use disposable ponchos. We encourage applicants to source any purchases from local independent suppliers where possible, in the Manchester area.
- The walking grant can fund activity which includes the usage of wheelchairs and mobility scooters, pushchairs and non-motorised scooters.
- Upon deciding the successful applicants, the panel will consider the aims of the fund, the spread of applications across the city and the engagement of target and under-represented groups, as detailed in the application form.
- Requests for funding to continue an existing activity will be considered if they can demonstrate significant development of/or expansion to the project.
- Capital works (e.g. path improvements) cannot be funded.

**Ideas for the Community Walking grant may include, but are not limited to:**

- Wet/cold weather gear for participants to borrow (e.g. walking boot, ponchos, waterproofs, backpacks etc.)
- Walker incentives / rewards / recognition.
- Volunteer expenses / recognition / rewards (when part of a wider programme).
- Staffing for the start-up of walking activity - planning and initial delivery.
- Marketing and promotion.
- First Aid kits and training.
- Other relevant training.
- Portable seating to support less mobile participants.
- Refreshments during/after the walk.
- Resources for the development of themed walks or trails.
- Creation of maps to encourage walking (including encouraging usage of cleaner/quieter routes).
- Costs associated with the delivery of indoor walking (e.g. in a sports hall or community room).
- Walking-focussed events, when part of wider plans for walking development.

**Please send your completed grant form to [L.kinrade@mcractive.com](mailto:L.kinrade@mcractive.com) by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December (midnight) who will acknowledge receipt of your application.**

**If you would like to discuss the grant further before applying, need additional support or have any feedback on the grant process, please email [L.kinrade@mcractive.com](mailto:L.kinrade@mcractive.com)**