

Cost of Living Grant 2024 – Frequently Asked Questions

How many organisations will be funded?

Given that the total fund size is £1,000,000 we expect that we could fund a minimum of 66 organisations if they each applied for £15,000. However we have not set a target for how many organisations we are aiming to fund.

Have you earmarked funding for specific types of groups or communities - e.g. older people, LGBTQIA+

No, but during the Assessment Panel phase, balancing will take place which will look at ensuring there is spread of funded activity across the city factoring in different communities of identity and geography.

Is there a maximum size of charity?

No, there is a question asking your organisation's annual income but applicants will not be penalised based on the amount provided.

When will we be notified of the decision?

We expect to be able to notify all applicants in September.

Can you apply twice for one organisation?

No, you can only make one application per organisation.

Can organisations of faith apply?

Yes, faith organisations can apply but not for activities that promote religious beliefs. We know that faith organisations deliver key community activities and welcome applications from them.

Are beneficiaries from the previous Cost of Living Grant eligible to apply for this grant?

Yes, the previous Cost of Living Grant was a targeted programme which is not connected to this funding programme.

Where can I find out if my organisation is based or working in a deprived ward?

You can view some key data on Manchester wards through the intelligence hub https://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/200088/statistics_and_intelligence/2168/deprivation

If we submit earlier, is there a greater chance of success?

No, all applications will be judged according to the assessment criteria. Submitting your application earlier does not mean there is a greater chance of being successful

Please can I clarify guidance notes about existing Manchester City Council grantees: where OMVCS support is only part funding of a project or activity, are we excluded from any further contribution whatsoever from any further contribution even if we are seeking support of different budget lines?

Budget lines not already funded by Manchester City Council can potentially be covered as long as it is not for costs that are listed in the "we will not fund" section

which can be found within the Prospectus. You will need to clearly demonstrate within your application what the Cost of Living investment would add that is not already covered by Manchester City Council funding.

If you are in any doubt, please get in touch with us at omfunds@manchester.gov.uk as soon as possible to allow time for us to review and respond to your query before the application deadline.

Can we apply for Rent Costs, and Certificates, for example ESOL Certificates?

Yes, we can contribute to core costs such as rent and training costs that are needed for the delivery of activities that are to be funded under the grant.

The grant can be used for any costs that are directly linked with delivering activities as long as they are not in the 'We will not fund' section within the prospectus.

The application allows you to evidence how your costs respond to community needs and the impact this will have on the individuals you plan to support.

It is also important to point out that applications will be scored on the assessment criteria, which includes "value for money", meaning that costs should be realistic and proportionate to the work and impact described in the application.