



Questions and Answers (Q&A) from the CRF Meet the Funder event, July 29th 2026

1.Q&A about what activities, organisations, and services can be funded

- **Do you expect applications to be for new projects, or can we apply to help fund existing services?**

You do not need to set up a new project if the work you are already doing is building resilience for your members/users.

- **Can food provision / items such as baby essentials / food vouchers be funded if it acts as a gateway into resilience-building activities?**

Yes, this excerpt is taken from the [Grant information sheet](#)

Work funded by CRF helps to reduce individuals' dependence on free emergency support (especially food) and increase independence (resilience). We know food is often an effective way for organisations to engage people, and this will continue to be supported where resilience-building is part of the approach. Funding will prioritise work that goes beyond meeting immediate need by offering more holistic, wrap-around support, including links to advice, financial assistance, skills, and wider community opportunities.

- **Is the funding open to small constituted groups as well as larger charities?**

Yes, this excerpt is taken from the [Grant information sheet](#)

Small unincorporated and unregistered organisations (i.e. not a registered charity, CIC or social Enterprise) can apply and will be eligible for grants up to £3,000

- **Can organisations whose main funding comes from Leeds City Council still apply where there may be overlap in service delivery?**

Yes, in the limited cases where funding has been provided directly by LCC via CRF funding organisations may still apply. However it must be clear that the funding being

requested does not duplicate the activities and services agreed through the LCC funding.

If LCC funding is via another funding stream (i.e. not CRF) it must be clear that the CRF funding being requested does not duplicate the activities and services agreed through the LCC funding. The panel won't approve double funding of services, however we would consider applications where CRF funding would add value and expand services already currently offered

- **Can funding be used to support resilience work during normal working hours if our organisation currently operates only on Saturdays?**

Yes, funding can be used to increase the number of days your organisation delivers resilience services. If you are not able to increase the number of days you might want to work in partnership with a trusted organisation which can provide this help.

2. Q&A about the resilience- building element of the fund

- **What do you mean by resilience work done since April 2026? Does it need to relate to the subject of the application?**

Yes, work needs to relate to the subject of the application, i.e. financial resilience, supporting people to be better equipped to manage financial pressures, reduce the likelihood of repeat crises, and improve longer-term outcomes. [The infographic which gives examples of types of resilience activity is available via this link.](#)

As context, there were a number of delays in the process of rolling out this grant (many of which were out of our control), although it is very different to Household Support Fund, we understand that a lot of groups will be continuing that work in a more resilience-based way. The CRF was due to start in April and therefore the Third Sector grant coordination team chose to take the unusual step to allow this fund to be backdated taking into account the unfunded interim period.

- **If most resilience-building costs relate to physical space and delivery staff, can these costs be funded almost exclusively?**

Yes, but the grants panel do want to be reassured that the funding is not just absorbed in general running costs of the organisation, we want to see clear outcome that the funding will bring.

3. Q&A about the programme timescale and continuity of funding

Do please refer to [this document](#) for more information on how LCC and the third Sector in Leeds are approaching the CRF. You can look [here](#) for government guidance to Local Authorities.

- **This is a 3-year programme, so how does a year of funding fit into the longer-term funding model? When will funding for 2027/28 be launched?**

We have a commitment to the end of March 2027. We, like you, know how important longer term planning is, and will be advocating for early decisions about future funding. Year one is very much about testing and learning on what works. LCC are committed to making decisions on Years 2 & 3 at the earliest opportunity.

- **If this is a 3-year programme, why are there only 12-month and 7-month grants?**

The criteria for CRF are significantly different to other schemes such as Household Support Fund, therefore it is important that in year one we develop an approach which can be rolled out for years two and three. Year one Foundation grants are an opportunity for organisations to either transition or build and develop their services.

- **Do organisations have to reapply annually?**

It is too early to say but we do hope to see development within services as a result of CRF, and a test and learn approach, therefore changes to services, partnerships etc may require different budgets and a further application in future years.

- **Will there be a third funding round covering April 2027 to March 2028?**

We hope so and will inform third sector organisation in Leeds as soon as we know. LCC are committed to ensuring that funding is made available to the third sector through CRF.

- **If an organisation is successful in Year 1 but not Year 2, how will continuity and sustainability of resilience-building work be managed?**

In this case support will be provided to develop an appropriate exit strategy

4. Q&A about areas served, ward coverage, partnerships and collaboration

- **How will geographical boundaries be defined under CRF?**

We are not defining boundaries. What panel members will be looking for is *Evidence that your organisation is well connected to and trusted by the community it serves* (excerpt from the [Grant information sheet](#))

- **Can partnerships include organisations from more than one ward?**

Yes, this excerpt is taken from the [Guidance for Partnerships Document](#)

You can define your partnership based on A geographic area (e.g. an LCCAN area), A community of interest There is flexibility, but clarity is important.

- **Will funding be distributed across all wards as HSF was, or will it be purely competitive and targeted at the most deprived areas?**

Funding will be distributed across Leeds, with consideration given to geographic coverage through the funding panel process. LCC has offered support to the panel, with final decisions not being made until after the closing date to give the panel the opportunity to look at geographic spread, in line with other considerations.

- **What happens if multiple organisations apply to serve the same area without being part of our existing anchor work?**

The panel is looking for evidence that organisations are well connected to and trusted by the community it serves. The panel is also looking for evidence of joined-up working. This does not need to be a formal partnership bid, but applicants should demonstrate how they connect people to other organisations, services, or support within their area or community avoiding duplication of services.

After funding has been agreed, work will be undertaken to link up providers in local areas.

- **Do we have to apply as a partnership?**

You can choose to apply as part of a formal partnership bid, or as an individual organisation. If you apply as an individual organisation, the panel is looking for evidence of joined up working, as outlined in the question above.

5. Q&A about how much funding to request and how awards will be determined

- **There is no maximum grant amount. Are there any guidelines on how much to apply for?**

This excerpt is taken from the [Grant information sheet](#)

There is no upper limit to grants for incorporated or registered organisations and partnerships. Applicants should apply only for the level of funding necessary to deliver their proposed activity, taking into account the finite nature of the fund and the need to distribute resources fairly across Leeds

- **Will applications that request too much funding be considered for partial funding or will the request fail totally?**

Yes, applications will be considered for partial funding if the panel thinks the amount requested is too high for the activities proposed. Partial funding for certain projects may also be an option if the amount requested in total by all applicants exceeds the amount of funding available for Round 1. We would only confirm part-funding of a project after working with the applicant to look at a new set of expectations and outcomes with reduced funding.

- **Are organisations expected to work out a reasonable funding request by dividing the total available funding across the anticipated number of funded organisations?**

You could use this as a guide, but please don't be bound by it as some organisations will be planning very large projects, some will be working in partnership and in other cases smaller organisations will be in receipt of smaller grants. We will not be making decisions until all applications for round 1 have been considered, you can re-apply for round 2, Also see response to the question above

- **What date can project budgets start from, given that this depends on when funding decisions are made?**

Project budgets can start from early September, particularly if funding existing resilience work. However if you are applying to start a brand new project or recruit new staff you may wish to start your budget later to take into account the time taken to get set up.

6. Q&A about deadlines and decision-making

- **What date in September will grant decisions be made, so organisations can plan their budgets?**

We are aiming to finalise decisions at the end of August, and let applicants know early/mid-September but as we don't yet know the volume of applications and don't want to make a firm commitment we may not be able to deliver on.

- **If funding runs from September to March but decisions are made in mid-September, won't recruitment and setup reduce delivery time?**

It will, please just work this into your budget and the delivery you feel you can deliver.

7. Q&A about accountability and reporting requirements

- **Will there be set reporting requirements against the outcomes, similar to the HSF?**

There will be specific reporting requirements for each outcome. Please take the time to read them by hovering above the outcome in the Jotform application or take a look at each of the [worksheets in the CRF monitoring spreadsheet](#).

It is vital that you understand and choose carefully the monitoring requirements before submitting your bid. We are happy to chat over any questions around this.

- **Do organisations need to provide the interim report before they have received any funding?**

For organisations receiving 12 month grants your first instalment (half the amount awarded) is paid on receipt of a signed grant agreement in September.

Interim reporting in October releases the second instalment of a 12 month grant which covers the advance payment for October to March.

For organisations awarded a 7-month grant this will be paid in advance on receipt of a signed grant agreement in September.

- **Is the interim report expected to cover resilience work delivered between April and September?**

Yes, we would like to see as much evidence as you have already gathered, we know many of you doing this work are likely to be already gathering some form of evidence as you do the work.

- **What sort of evidence is required from organisations that have been delivering resilience work since April?**

In the interim report we expect you to fill in a short Jotform and complete a monitoring spreadsheet as this is how we account for spend and outcomes with Leeds City Council and Central Government. In the interim report we will accept your best estimates for data on the monitoring spreadsheet, given that details of CRF monitoring requirements weren't known at the time.

- **How is it practical to ask organisations to report within potentially two weeks of being notified they have been successful?**

This requirement for an interim report is only for applicants who have received a 12 month grant and who have told us in their application that they have been doing resilience activities since April. See the response above about 'accepting your best estimates' at the interim report stage.

- **Are the monitoring spreadsheets and reporting templates available now so we can assess the level of monitoring required?**

The [monitoring spreadsheet is available now on the Forum Central and Leeds Older People's Forum websites](#), but the Jotform end of project report isn't finalised yet.