

The Grand Ideas fund is currently accepting applications for community projects that will make a difference to the lives of our residents and their communities.

Community and residents groups, voluntary groups, social enterprises, registered charities, schools, statutory organisations or parish/town councils can apply to the scheme.

The majority of the projects we support require funding of £1,000 or less. Applicant groups must have a bank account, equal opportunities policy and constitution as a minimum.

Projects must support one or more of the following priorities outlined in our community investment strategy:

Employment, Education, Skills and Training

We aim to support residents in developing skills and accessing training opportunities in order to enter into, and sustain, employment. We are particularly interested in projects which aim to increase employability, gain qualifications and help people progress into work.

Health and Wellbeing

We aim to support residents to live happy, healthy and fulfilled lives, with access to the care and support services they need. We are particularly interested in projects which aim to reduce isolation, build connections and friendships.

Community safety and infrastructure

We aim to ensure that our communities are safe places to live and are equipped with the infrastructure they need to shape their aims and aspirations. We are particularly interested in projects which aim to make our communities feel safer and increase a sense of belonging and pride.

Environment

We aim to make our neighbourhoods greener and cleaner places to live and to assist our residents to live more sustainable lifestyles. We are particularly interested in projects which actively engage people in improving spaces or places as well as projects which support greener lifestyle choices.

Financial inclusion

We aim to ensure that everyone is able to access the basic financial services products that are needed to participate in a modern society. We are particularly interested in projects which increase the confidence of people to manage their money.

Eligible projects

Your project should fit one or more of our five priority themes (see page one). It must benefit Sanctuary residents and should aim to make a positive difference to the community.

Your project should also demonstrate that it will achieve one of the impacts contained in the impact framework. Details are available on our [impact framework document \(PDF 45KB\)](#).

We are committed to supporting the communities that we work in. Our Grand Ideas Fund supports organisations and groups that are already doing great work in our communities to help them to achieve more. We prioritise projects which come from our communities and will work with an in the local communities where our residents live.

It is important to us that you demonstrate effective partnership working as part of the project or activities you're planning; we feel that your project will be more successful as a result. Sanctuary will prioritise applications which can tell us who you are working with and how you will deliver the project together.

We will expect you to show that you have secured or anticipate securing additional investment to contribute to the project from other sources, for example cash or materials or volunteer time. We will only consider applications where there is additional funding to the same value or greater than the amount you have requested from Sanctuary.

Projects which only benefit one person will not be eligible for funding.

There are some specific priority areas of the country where Sanctuary has a large amount of housing. These areas have a dedicated local neighbourhood team who work in the community. If your project is in one of these areas, your application will be passed to the local neighbourhood team for consideration. These areas include:

- Cherwell (includes Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington)
- Chester*
- Hackney, London
- Scotland (Glasgow, Aberdeen and Dundee)
- Shiregreen, Sheffield
- Rochford **
- Torbay

*If your application is for funding in the Chester area, we have a fund called **Chester Community Chest** which you can use to apply for funding. Details are available on the [Chester & District page](#). You will not be able to apply for both Chester Community Chest and the Grand Ideas Fund for the same project.

If your application is for funding in the Rochford area, we have a fund called **Maureen's Gift which you can use to apply for funding. Details are available on the [Rochford Housing page](#). You will not be able to apply for both Maureen's Gift and the Grand Ideas Fund for the same project.

How much funding can you apply for?

Up to £1,000 per application (including VAT, if not exempt).

If you have a great idea for a larger scale project (i.e. over £1,000) please contact us on 01905 335 411 or email community@sanctuary-housing.co.uk.

What happens once you have submitted your application?

We will contact you within five working days to confirm receipt of the application.

All applications will be assessed on the first day of the following month (or the next working day if the 1st is a weekend). You will be notified of the decision the same week by email or by phone.

You should have a minimum of 6 weeks between submitting your application and the project starting to ensure adequate time is given.

If your application is successful, we will expect you to agree to the conditions of the funding which includes: recording your expenditure, working with us to monitor your progress and sharing stories. We will provide you with a Sanctuary contact to help you to make sure that your project is a success.

Is there anything you can't use the money for?

Yes, there are a few things that our funding cannot be used for. This includes:

- Building, maintenance or structural improvements
- Ongoing running costs e.g. insurance, utility costs, rent, salaries
- Funding individuals or projects which only benefit one person
- Fixtures and fittings e.g. chairs, tables etc. unless the project cannot run without the specialised equipment
- Sponsorship or projects which are motivated mainly by marketing or branding
- Alcohol

Find out more

If you want to talk your idea through with someone, or ask a question about the Grand Ideas Fund, please call us on **01905 335 411** or email community@sanctuary-housing.co.uk