

The Midcounties Co-operative Community Fund Criteria

The **Midcounties Co-operative Community Fund** is for the benefit of communities where The Midcounties Co-operative trades. Funding is currently ring fenced to specific key locales of The Midcounties Co-operative core trading area which are detailed below; please be aware that groups based outside of these areas will not currently be eligible to apply.

The base of your group should be no more than five miles away from the nearest Midcounties trading branch located in the areas of:

Buckinghamshire
Berkshire
Gloucestershire
Northamptonshire
Oxfordshire
Shropshire
Staffordshire
Swindon
West Midlands (Walsall, Wolverhampton, Sandwell and Dudley)
Worcestershire

We also provide funding for specific post codes in the following areas:

Warwick CV1, CV3, CV5, CV7 CV8, CV10, CV32, CV36
Birmingham B43, B62, B72, B90, B94, B97
Powys/Shropshire Border SY15, SY20, SY8, LD7

- Groups must be either a registered charity and/or a fully constituted community group holding a bank account in the name of that group and have been established for a period of at least one year; evidence of this should be made available if requested.
- The person making the application for funding must have a direct ongoing involvement with the group and be a member of The Midcounties Co-operative, with at least 3 months membership prior to application. You will be asked to provide details of this membership number at the first stage of the application process.
- We cannot support individuals, groups promoting or linked to political issues or businesses
- Groups may only be in receipt of one award in any 3 year period.

Examples of what can be funded are:

- The purchase of equipment
- The costs of putting on a local event or workshop
- Staff costs to enable the employment of individuals, contribution to rent costs (related to activities / service delivery)
- The cost of attending a conference or event which provides training for volunteers
- Additional activities to expand an existing funded project
- Activities that meet an identified need in the local community, funding to support an organisation to achieve a quality or other standard, relevant to their activities.
- Assisting the development of a local service or venue for the good of the community

Exclusions:

- Non-members or where membership has not been in place for at least three months prior to application
- Individuals
- Groups which are currently a Midcounties Co-operative Local Fundraising Partner (exclusion only applies during the term of the partnership)
- Statutory (Government funded) organisations, including schools or NHS linked organisations*
- Religious worship - The Community Fund welcomes applications from religious or faith groups for projects that are designed to benefit the wider community. However, projects that are deemed to promote a particular religion are excluded from the scheme.
- Groups who are not constituted/have been in existence for less than one year
- To fund trips abroad or overseas activities
- To fund improvements to property not owned by the applicant, or leased to the applicant for a period of less than 15 years
- Third party applications (groups who distribute funding to others)
- Party political activity
- Requests for support in excess of the upper limit of £2k where 75% of the overall project costs have not been raised
- Groups who have received funding from The Midcounties Co-operative Community Fund within the last three years

*please note – whilst schools are not eligible to apply, independent groups within schools such as PTA's can apply