

Belfast
Harbour
**COMMUNITY
IMPACT FUND**
2026

Applicant Guidelines



belfast-harbour.co.uk

The Fund aims to deliver measurable social impact by strengthening community relationships and partnerships.

Overview of the Fund

The Community Impact Fund is a strategic investment programme designed by Belfast Harbour to support projects that deliver meaningful, measurable, and long-term social impact across the Greater Belfast area.

The Fund focuses on building strong partnerships with high-performing organisations to create sustainable change and strengthen communities.

Funding Available

Up to £200,000 is available annually, typically awarded as **four grants of up to £50,000 each** for projects lasting up to three years, subject to annual review.

Purpose of the Fund

The Fund aims to deliver measurable social impact by strengthening community relationships and partnerships. This is done through supporting long-term sustainable outcomes, and aligning investment with strategic priorities and societal needs.



Funding Themes

Applications must align with at least one of the following themes:



Work readiness and opportunity

Projects that support individuals to gain skills, confidence, and access employment.

Examples include but not limited to:

- Training and employability programmes
- Apprenticeships and mentoring
- Youth employment initiatives

Expected outcomes:

- Increased employment opportunities
- Improved skills and qualifications
- Greater independence and confidence



Homelessness Prevention & Housing Stability

Projects that help prevent homelessness and support stable, independent living.

Examples include but not limited to:

- Tenancy sustainment support
- Early intervention services
- Wellbeing and wraparound support

Expected outcomes:

- Reduced risk of homelessness
- Improved housing stability
- Increased resilience and independence



Community Connection

Projects that strengthen community cohesion and promote inclusion and wellbeing.

Examples include but not limited to:

- Arts, cultural or environmental initiatives
- Community-led events and programmes
- Inclusive and intergenerational activities

Expected outcomes:

- Stronger community cohesion
- Reduced isolation
- Increased participation and wellbeing



Programme Principles

We prioritise projects that:

- Demonstrate clear, measurable impact
- Align with strategic priorities and values of Belfast Harbour
- Support vulnerable or hard to reach communities
- Deliver sustainable, long-term outcomes
- Show collaboration and partnership working
- Provide strong accountability for funding



Eligibility Criteria

To apply, organisations must:

- Be a registered charity, CIC, or constituted not-for-profit organisation
- Demonstrate strong governance and safeguarding arrangements
- Operate within agreed geographic areas (Greater Belfast focus)
- Provide evidence of financial stability
- Demonstrate ability to deliver measurable impact
- Align with at least one of the funding themes



What We Will Not Fund

The Fund does not support:

- Statutory services
- Political or campaigning activities
- Religious promotion
- Commercial or profit-making ventures
- Divisive or controversial activity as determined by Belfast Harbour
- Retrospective funding requests
- Overseas projects
- Activities that present reputational risk to Belfast Harbour

Application Process

Applications will follow a structured process:

1. Application Submission
2. Due Diligence Checks
3. Assessment Panel Review
4. Final Approval
5. Funding Agreement and Reporting Setup



Monitoring and Reporting

Funded organisations must provide:

- Agreed KPIs and outcome measures
- Mid-year progress reports
- Annual impact reports
- Financial accountability reporting
- Case studies demonstrating impact
- List of Board Members
- Previous two year's audited accounts

How Applications Are Assessed

Applications are evaluated using a weighted scoring framework:

Criteria	Scoring
Strategic Alignment	20
Community Impact	25
Measurable Outcomes	25
Organisational Capability & Governance	15
Partnership & Collaboration	0
Sustainability & Long-Term Impact	15

What Makes a Strong Application

We are particularly interested in organisations that:

- Can clearly evidence impact and outcomes (not just deliver activity)
- Demonstrate collaborative working and partnerships
- Show how funding will create lasting change
- Have strong governance and delivery track records
- Align with regional strategies and priorities

Due Diligence Requirements

Successful applicants will undergo checks including:

- Safeguarding review
- Governance review
- Financial assessment
- Reputational checks
- Verification of delivery capability



Key Dates

Programme launch:

26 June 2026

Closing Date:

11th September 2026



