

Local Impact Fund – Guidance for Applicants

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Public

Overview

As part of Maximus' delivery of the Restart Scheme we are delighted to launch the Local Impact Fund (LIF). Through this fund our aspiration is to make a positive impact across the communities we serve, reduce inequalities, and enable access to employment for all, particularly to those in the most deprived communities. The funds are available across West and South Yorkshire, Nottingham and Derbyshire.

However, we are particularly keen to invite applications for projects based in:

Calderdale / Kirklees / Bradford / Wakefield / Barnsley / Doncaster / Rotherham / Ashfield / Nottingham / Bolsover / Mansfield / Derby City¹.

Grants are open to Charities, Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise / or other community-based organisations who meet the criteria.

We are looking to fund activities, initiatives, and projects that:

- Support access to jobs or are likely to stimulate local labour market recovery in one of the localities listed above.
- Increase employment and training opportunities for economically disadvantaged group(s).
- Address a gap in local service delivery that is not currently funded, or where other sources of funding have been exhausted.

Application Process

The application process is in two stages:

Stage 1 is to **complete the Expression of Interest form**.

Maximus will review expressions of interest once the window closes. We aim to notify within 10 days of the EOI closing if you are successful in reaching stage 2.

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/mgVmxVbiRY>

The applicant window is expected to close at 17:00 Friday 4th September 2026.

Stage 2 you will be invited to **meet with a small panel and present** how you intend to use the grant, along with sharing the anticipated impact. This is an opportunity to showcase your experience, knowledge, and passion, bringing the funding application to life. Decisions will be made at the end of the week and will be communicated as per the timeline below.

Panel interviews were expected to take place during week commencing 28th September 2026.

Criteria

Alongside our investments in local organisations to deliver community projects and initiatives, which to date have provided hundreds of thousands of pounds to dozens of partners, **this cycle we are expanding the scope of our Local Impact Fund grants to cover impactful research and policy work.**

Why we are expanding the scope of the Local Impact Fund

The labour market and local economies are rapidly changing, with structural and systemic challenges. AI is transforming the structure of the labour market. The number of young people not in education, employment or training is at the highest level for more than a decade. The disability employment gap remains stuck at more than 30%. And access to housing, quality childcare, transport and healthcare are limiting access to quality jobs and local economic growth. We believe that quality research and policy work can help identify best practice and achieve lasting change.

Through this funding, our aim is to have a shared goal of:

- Make a lasting positive impact within the local communities
- Reduce inequalities
- Improve access to employment opportunities, particularly in the most deprived communities

Organisations must be able to demonstrate how the project or activity will directly benefit those living in the community you aim to reach. Please highlight if your community is based in one of the areas highlighted above. Ideally, we would encourage a maximum of 6 months' impact in your delivery plan. (Subject to approval)

Your project must address one or more of the following priorities:	
Young People (NEET) training & skills	Provision for care leavers
Digital Inclusion	Transport, travel & connection
Confidence building in relation to employment	Young People (NEET) confidence & social skills

Please make sure you clearly demonstrate the need and impact of the project, whether your project has innovative ways of working and that your cost breakdown is feasible.

All organisational types are invited to apply. We are looking for grass root delivery that bridges a gap in service or local need.

- Charities, not for profits and social enterprises
- Collaborations are encouraged.
- For profit organisations they **MUST** link with at least one local third sector organisation and be able to clearly demonstrate how the funding will be devolved to benefit community organisations and communities.
- You must be able to provide your governing document, 1 year of accounts and a bank account in the organisations name.

- If your organisation works with children or vulnerable adults, you will need to have a safeguarding policy in place.

Some examples of eligible activity include:

- Specific employability support for care leavers.
- Creation of a work placement initiative specifically for those with a disability or long-term health condition.
- A project addressing travel from a rural community to and from areas with a high density of employment opportunities.
- Creating employment opportunities for young people.

We cannot fund

- The long-term lease of an existing asset or building
- On-going running costs such (as) utilities, rent or mortgage payments
- Activity already funded by local or national funding streams
- Any activity for profit making purposes.
- Activities that promote specific religious beliefs
- Political activities.
- Goods or services that have already been purchased or ordered
- School activities that are included within the curriculum (activities led by schools that engage the community will be eligible/considered).
- Endowments / loan repayments.
- Items that can only benefit an individual.
- Costs already incurred
- Any overseas activity

Measurement and reporting

The Local Impact Fund has been created to deliver a positive and meaningful impact on the lives of local people and evaluation of project's success will be key to determining the success. You will be required to attend in person or online regular monitoring meetings, as well as submitting evidence of spend and regular good news stories.

At the end of the project a final monitoring (debriefing session) will be completed, along with a feedback form and the opportunity to offer verbal feedback.

Further considerations

As part of our social value approach, Maximus are able to offer additional support to organisations where needed. Utilising our wide range of skills and competencies we would like to offer expertise in areas such as HR, Payroll, Business Development and Procurement in order to support Third Sector or smaller organisations to develop and grow – this will be discussed with the lead contact during the application process.

Thank you for interest in the Local Impact Fund.

Please send any queries to localimpactfund2b@maximusuk.co.uk