

SNG ConnectED Communities Fund - 2026 guidance notes

What is the ConnectED Communities Fund?

SNG (Sovereign Network Group) is dedicated to enhancing customer wellbeing and building thriving, resilient communities. Our goal is to empower local groups to take action, driving projects that champion fairness and equality, celebrate diversity, and create places where everyone feels they truly belong.

Our **ConnectED Communities Fund** provides grants between £300 and £2,000 to create meaningful action and positive impact for people from all walks of life, making inclusion a lived reality for all.

We will prioritise groups that operate within defined SNG communities where we have homes and whose work will directly benefit SNG customers. We are particularly interested in projects and initiatives designed to support activities which challenge inequality, advance equality and celebrate diversity. We will prioritise applications from smaller grassroot groups (income under £250,000) that specialise in delivering services for people from marginalised groups such as ethnic minorities, LGBTQ+, religious groups, disability groups, women's or men's groups and those led by or incorporating lived experience.

Grants will assist in:

- enhancing equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) across SNG areas
- promoting EDI initiatives
- supporting communities and residents with protected characteristics
- advancing community cohesion and diversity
- tackling inequalities

We will be focussing our **ConnectED Communities Fund** on the following priorities:

Cohesive communities

- Activities which celebrate, encourage or raise awareness of diverse cultures/identities by bringing people together with an aim to build strong and cohesive communities and/or reduce prejudice or hate crimes and incidents.
- Bringing communities together for improved community cohesion and improving connections across generations.
- Creating safe spaces individuals feel comfortable and supported, free from discrimination, harassment, or judgment.

Social inclusion

- Investing in the development of more inclusive and age friendly communities.
- Encouraging and supporting young people from underrepresented groups to achieve their aspirations and transition from where they are to where they want to be.

- Providing mental health support or promoting mental and emotional health, including holistic activities like creative arts to build confidence and reduce stigma around mental health challenges.
- Activities which provide support for protected characteristic, minority, disadvantaged groups by reducing isolation, building resilience and independence, helping people stay safe, or helping people stay healthy

Raising awareness/education

- Workshops/networking events that amplify those from underrepresented backgrounds
- Support for events or speakers that raise awareness and deepen understanding of the multiple dimensions of EDI
- Events celebrating heritage through storytelling, food and intergenerational activities

Examples of the types of projects we might fund

- Cultural awareness/ history projects and activities that celebrate diversity
- Events that embrace inclusion and belonging
- Projects that address underrepresentation and promote active participation
- Workshops/networking events that amplify women and girl voices
- Local interventions that support and increase the visibility and acceptance of marginalised groups
- Activities that support people with learning disabilities
- Activities that promote intergenerational connections
- Celebration events
- Educational workshops
- Additional equipment required for existing groups or assistive technology
- Projects which are supporting issues faced by marginalised groups

Projects must be taking place in an SNG community and be actively promoted to SNG customers.

Who is SNG?

SNG (Sovereign Network Group) is a leading housing association, striving to provide quality, affordable homes and places, that people love for generations.

We have deep roots in the south of England, with over 85,000 homes focused in a core area covering Berkshire, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, London, Oxfordshire, the Isle of Wight, the West of England and Wiltshire.

We're driven by our social purpose, with customers at the heart of everything we do. We build homes and provide great services, but our work doesn't stop at the front door – we invest for the long-term, creating great places to live, working with customers and partners to support them in realising their potential. [Read more about who we are.](#)

Eligibility criteria

To apply for this fund, you must meet the criteria below **and** you must be able to demonstrate how you will engage with and benefit SNG customers in the target regions.

1. Eligible groups are:
 - Not for profit
 - Registered charities
 - CIO's
 - CIC's limited by guarantee
 - Community and voluntary groups
 - Community benefit societies.
 - Social Enterprises (not for profit)
2. Groups must have a written constitution or governing document. The governing document must include the groups aims or purpose, objectives and a dissolution clause or asset lock which states what would happen to any funds should the group have to close.
3. Groups must be governed by a voluntary trustee or management committee, with a minimum of three members, with at least two of whom are unrelated.
4. We cannot accept applications from:
 - Individuals
 - Organisations based outside of the UK
 - Companies that pay profits to directors, shareholders, members
 - CIC's limited by shares
 - Organisations applying on behalf of another organisation
 - Groups with no written governance (e.g. a group of volunteers without a written constitution)
 - Statutory services (e.g. schools, Town and Parish Councils) unless the group can evidence that their project in question is not statutory in nature and has a wider community benefit.

5. Activities we will not fund:
 - National appeals
 - Activities which are of a wholly political or religious nature
 - Retrospective funding
 - Activities that are statutory in nature
6. Groups must have a bank account in its name, with at least two unrelated signatories.
7. Groups must have relevant and up to date insurances and policies in place for its work including safeguarding, health and safety, GDPR and equality and diversity and we may request copies of these documents for due diligence purposes.
8. We do not set an upper organisational income limit; however, we will prioritise funding groups with smaller incomes.
9. If you have an existing funding relationship with SNG this will be taken into consideration when our panel makes its funding decisions. We are unlikely to make multiple awards through our grant programmes unless groups can evidence clear need and distinction from an existing funded programme.
10. We welcome applications from existing SNG partners and grantees as well as new organisations to SNG.

What will we need to know about your organisation?

At the point of applying, you will be required to provide data about your organisation, including your charity/company number (where applicable, or equivalent) and contact details.

We will also require some additional information about your organisation to ensure we can prioritise groups in line with the funds objectives below and will require some additional information about your organisational leadership and beneficiaries.

We are particularly interested in projects and initiatives designed to support activities which challenge inequality, advance equality and celebrate diversity. We will prioritise applications from smaller grassroot groups (income under £250,000) that specialise in delivering services for people from marginalised groups such as ethnic minorities, LGBTQ+, religious groups, disability groups, women's or men's groups and those led by or incorporating lived experience.

- We will ask that you confirm that at least 50% of your organisation's management (trustees and senior management) and staff identify with one or more of those identities and have experience of the civic and democratic barriers they are trying to address.
- We will ask you to confirm your organisation income
- We will ask you to outline your target beneficiaries

If your project is successful, you will also need to provide additional organisational data, including additional contact details and banking information.

SNG Communities

We will prioritise funding groups who are delivering in the following SNG Communities and evidence the impact on SNG customers and communities within their application.

London	
Area	Number of homes
Brent	Over 5000 homes
Westminster	Over 1000 homes
Lambeth	Over 1000 homes
Ealing	Around 700 homes
Barnet	Around 500 homes
Harrow	Around 500 homes
Hackney	Around 300 homes
Newham	Around 300 homes
Tower Hamlets	Around 300 homes
Hounslow	Around 200 homes
Kensington and Chelsea	Around 200 homes
Islington	Around 100 homes
Hammersmith	Around 100 homes
Haringey	Around 100 homes
Richmond upon Thames	Around 100 homes
Three Rivers	Around 100 homes
Newbury & Reading	
Area	Number of homes
Newbury	Over 500 homes
Hungerford & Kintbury	Over 500 homes
Greenham	Over 500 homes
Thatcham	Over 500 homes
Burghfield & Mortimer	Over 500 homes
Lambourn	250-500 homes
Downlands	250-500 homes
Ridgeway	250-500 homes

Hertfordshire	
Area	Number of homes
East Hertfordshire	Around 4000 homes
Oxfordshire	
Area	Number of homes
Faringdon	Over 500 homes
Abingdon	Over 500 homes
Didcot	Over 500 homes
Blewbury & Harwell	Over 500 homes
Watchfield & Shrivenham	250-500 homes
Ridgeway	250-500 homes
Wantage & Grove	250-500 homes
Steventon & the Hanneys	250-500 homes
Botley & Sunningwell	250-500 homes
North Hampshire	
Area	Stock density
Basingstoke	Over 500 homes
Kempshott & Buckskin	Over 500 homes
Hatch Warren & Beggarwood	Over 500 homes
Whitchurch, Overton & Laverstoke	Over 500 homes
Bramley	250-500 homes
Oakley & The Candovers	250-500 homes
South Hampshire	
Area	Number of homes
Southampton	Over 500 homes
Test Valley (Mid)	50-250 homes
Four Marks & Medstead	50-250 homes

Theale	250-500 homes
Tilehurst	250-500 homes
Reading	250-500 homes
Ise of Wight (IOW)	
Area	Number of homes
Ryde	Over 500 homes
Newport	Over 500 homes
Cowes	250-500 homes
Pan	50-250 homes
Osborne	250-500 homes
Carisbrooke & Gunville	250-500 homes
BCP (Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole)	
Area	Number of homes
Burton & Grange	Over 500 homes
Christchurch	Over 500 homes
Commons	250-500 homes
Kinson	250-500 homes
Canford Heath	250-500 homes
Creekmoor	250-500 homes
Poole	250-500 homes
Weymouth	250-500 homes
Ringwood	50-250 homes
Ferndown	50-250 homes
Bearwood & Merley	50-250 homes
Hamworthy	50-250 homes
Newton & Heatherlands	50-250 homes
Alderney & Bourne Valley	50-250 homes
Bournemouth	50-250 homes
Branksome	50-250 homes
Boscombe & Pokesdown	50-250 homes
Highcliffe	50-250 homes
Milton	50-250 homes
Fernhill & Hordle	50-250 homes
Binsted, Bettleu & Selborne	50-250 homes
Central Meon Valley	50-250 homes
Lymington	50-250 homes

Dorset	
Blandford town	500+ properties
Blandford outer and Tarrents	250-500 properties
Chickerell and Chesil Bank	50-250 properties
Child Okeford and Irwene Minster	250-500 properties
East Verwood	50-250 properties
Ferndown Town	50-250 properties
Gillingham	250-500 properties
Milbourne, Winterbourne & Okeford Fitzpaine	500+ properties
Parley and Hampreston	50-250 properties
Shaftesbury	500+ properties
St Leonards	50-250 properties
Sturminster Newton & Stalbridge	Over 500 properties
Wareham, Sandford and Holton Heath	50-250 properties
West Moors	50-250 properties
West Verwood	50-250 properties
Wimborne	50-250 properties
Devon	
Area	Number of homes
Plymouth	Over 500 homes
Exeter	Over 500 homes
Torquay	50-250 homes
Paignton	50-250 homes
Honiton	50-250 homes
Tiverton	50-250 homes

Wiltshire	
Area	Number of homes
Andover	250-500 homes
Swindon	250-500 homes
Chippenham	50-250 homes
Devizes	50-250 homes
Trowbridge	50-250 homes

Bristol & Gloucestershire	
Area	Number of homes
Bristol	Over 500 homes
Chipping Sodbury	50-250 homes
Gloucester	50-250 homes
Cheltenham	50-250 homes

For more details, please view this [map of SNG homes](#) which shows our properties by location.

If you have a potential project within these areas but you would like more information about our grant eligibility or the location of our communities, get in touch with us at - grants@sng.org.uk

What funding is available?

Grants from £300 to £2,000 are available. The fund opens on 12 January 2026, and closes on 23 February 2026. Successful applicants will be informed by 20 March 2026. All projects should be fully delivered by 31 March 2027.

How to apply

To apply for funding, you will need to register your project on the [ActionFunder website](#). ActionFunder is a digital community engagement platform that connects funding bodies with non-profits with the goal of supporting thriving local communities. By launching your project on ActionFunder, you will have the potential to match with multiple different funding pots, not just this fund.

Application top tips

Here are some of our top tips to consider when completing your application:

- **Do you meet the eligibility criteria?**

Your **application will not be considered if you do not meet the key eligibility criteria listed above**. Please carefully consider if you are eligible to apply before submitting your application. If you are unsure, please don't hesitate to contact us at grants@sng.org.uk.

- **Pay close attention to your budget**

One of the main reasons that funding applications are unsuccessful is due to poor budgeting. Above we identify the things we will and won't fund, please read these carefully before producing your project budget.

It is good practice to plan your budget for the whole year and get quotes for all the items included.

The more detail you can include the better, but we also understand that some things may change over the course of your project and will work closely with you to resolve any issues that arise.

Please note the caps on the following budget items:

Core Costs: max. of 10% of the total amount applied for.

Capital/Equipment Costs: max. of 25% of the total amount for unless your project is in the category of additional equipment required for existing groups or assistive technology.

- **Evidencing need and linking to SNG communities**

We want to know how the money they provide will make a positive difference. Using statistics, quotes and other testimonies can help bring your application to life and showcase why you are best placed to deliver the project. This can be figures to show why the project is needed in your community (through using local surveys, council websites, Government reports) or through testimonies of how your previous work has benefited the community.

Particularly important for this fund is demonstrating both of the following:

How your activities will directly benefit SNG communities - This means understanding whether we manage homes in the area your project takes place in, and if so, how your project can offer support to local customers. [See where our homes are here.](#)

How your activities will directly benefit people from marginalised groups such as ethnic minorities, LGBTQ+, religious groups, disability groups, women's or men's groups.

- **Be clear and concise in your language**

Try to avoid using complex jargon and abbreviations. If you are submitting a written application, keep your writing concise and stick to the key details of your organisation and project. It can be helpful to share a draft with someone who doesn't know about your project to see if they understand what you are aiming to achieve. If you would prefer to submit a video application, you can do this via the ActionFunder platform.

- **Consider how you will monitor and evaluate progress**

It is important to read over what will be expected of you in terms of reporting on your project and incorporate this into your project model to save you time and difficulty later (see more details regarding reporting expectations below). Consider how you will track financial information as well as other key project data both numerical and qualitative.

Selection process

All projects that meet the criteria set out above will be reviewed and assessed by our grants panel to determine which projects will be offered funding.

If your project does not meet the eligibility criteria, it may be rejected before the panel meeting, and you will receive a notification of this via ActionFunder.

We may request further information from you following the panel discussion, and in some cases, may encourage you to reapply for funding with amendments to your project.

The fund will close on 23 February 2026. All applications will need to be submitted for consideration by this date. Successful applicants will be informed by 31 March 2026.

Should we offer you funding, you will have the opportunity to accept or reject the grant via the ActionFunder platform. Before a payment can be approved and released to the applicant, all checks will need to be completed in respect of relevant permissions, policies, and insurances.

We will provide feedback to all shortlisted applicants who are unsuccessful at the panel. Please note, we will be unable to provide feedback for applicants do not progress to the shortlist for panel.

Communications and branding

By uploading your project to ActionFunder, you consent to ActionFunder's terms and conditions which allows for the material you upload to be used for marketing and promotional purposes by both SNG and ActionFunder. Please read [ActionFunder's terms of use](#) for more information.

Successful applicants must acknowledge financial support of SNG in its documentation and publicity material by following our communications protocol and brand guidelines. If you are successful in securing funding, our Grants Team will be in touch to share the guidelines.

Reporting requirements

If your application is successful and you receive funding from us, you will be required to meet our reporting requirements for your grant. You will be asked to complete a light touch update mid-way through the project, and an end of project report. You will be notified about the reporting requirements through the ActionFunder platform when the funding has been awarded.

We would also love to hear updates throughout the duration of the project, which you can do via ActionFunder, including what has gone well and any challenges. You will be able to post comments, videos and photos to keep us updated.

At the point of funding being awarded, we will also put you in touch with one of our Community Investment and Partnership Leads for your location. They will be in contact to introduce themselves and discuss potential future partnership opportunities.

Timescales

The fund opens on 12 January 2026, and closes on 23 February 2026. Successful applicants will be informed by 31 March 2026. You will be notified via the ActionFunder platform if your application is successful.

Task/activity	Date
Fund goes live	12/01/2026
Application window closes	23/02/2026
Successful applicants are informed	31/03/2026

Useful Links and Resources

- [SNG homes map](#)
- [ActionFunder resource materials](#)
- [Our Actionfunder web page](#)
- [Our web page](#)