

Living Together In Bloom Seed Funding application guidance (2026-2027)

This document outlines everything you need to know about the In Bloom Seed Funding 2026, who can apply and how it works.

What is the Living Together In Bloom Seed fund?

This fund aims to remove financial and educational barriers, and empower our customers to take pride in their home and outdoor spaces. If gardening efforts are successful, you may want to take part in our SNG In Bloom 2026 Garden Competition later this year, so we can consider your garden and hard work for one of the many prizes up for grabs! The fund can provide a small amount of funding in vouchers per household, or support in other ways including access to gardening courses.

Eligibility and spend

What the fund covers

- **Growing essentials:** Seeds, bulbs, compost, soil improvers, mulch.
- **Tools and equipment:** Hand tools (trowels, pruners), watering cans, hoses, gardening gloves.
- **Structures:** Planters, raised beds, trellises.
- **Biodiversity:** Bug hotels, bird feeders, wildflower seeds.
- **Accessibility:** Lightweight tools, knee pads, adaptive equipment.
- **Waste:** Green waste bags
- **Other,** including access to gardening workshops/educational resources

What the Fund DOES NOT cover

- Power tools (unless essential and approved by the Panel).
- Ongoing maintenance contracts or professional landscaping fees.
- Non-gardening items (e.g., general outdoor furniture).
- Duplicate grants for the same household.

Application process

How to apply

Customers can apply via the Microsoft Form: [In Bloom Seed Funding Application Form](#)

SNG Colleagues may signpost and support customers to complete their application form, but all customers **must** complete an application to enter.

Selection process

Applications are reviewed via a **fortnightly micro-panel** (for quick decisions) and a **monthly review panel**. They will use the following criteria to assess applications.

	Action	Criteria
Green	Approve	Within voucher cap, clear barrier identified, commitment to enter competition.
Amber	Request more information/deferred	Requires clarification on items or tenancy status.
Red	Redirect	Not eligible or better suited for other grants

Governance and requirements

Awarding prizes

When successful applicants are selected, vouchers will be issued via email using the **Charis platform** to generate a voucher from a wide choice of retailers such as B&Q and Amazon. If digital vouchers are a barrier, physical vouchers may be arranged and distributed via local teams/stores.

Important information for participants

If you receive a grant:

- Items provided are gifted, and it is your responsibility to maintain and use them according to the instructions and within Health and Safety guidelines.
- SNG is not responsible for any injury, repairs, loss, or damage to the items once gifted.
- Any improvements made to your garden must comply with your tenancy agreement and fire safety regulations.

Evidence required from funding recipients

If your application is successful and you receive a grant, you must provide SNG with:

- **Receipts:** recipients must email a photo/copy of the receipts of what you spend your voucher on to community.investment@sng.org.uk. Failure to provide receipts will disqualify customers from future grants.
- **Photos:** before and after photos are requested to monitor impact.

Key dates (2026 timeline)

- **3 March:** Fund officially launches; applications open.
- **3 March to 31 July 2026:** Application window for In Bloom seed funding. Fortnightly micro-panel decision meetings and vouchers issued throughout until fund budget is spent.
- **8 April to 31 July 2026:** In Bloom garden competition open for applications, which recipients of In Bloom Seed Funding may wish to consider entering.