

Women and Girls' Empowerment Fund

Guidance for Applicants (2025/26)

Contents

- [About the fund](#)
- [Background to the fund](#)
- [Meet the Funder session](#)
- [Drop-in support sessions](#)
- [Priorities](#)
- [Key Dates](#)
- [Who can apply?](#)
- [How much can we apply for?](#)
- [Examples of projects](#)
- [What can the grant be spent on?](#)
- [What can the grant NOT be spent on?](#)
- [What policies are required?](#)
- [How do we apply & how will applications be assessed?](#)
- [What support is available for applicants?](#)
- [What happens if we are awarded a grant?](#)
- [How will our project be evaluated by Salford CVS?](#)

Supported by:

Salford City Council



Salford
Women and Girls'
Commission

About the fund

The Women and Girls' Empowerment Fund will be awarding grants of **up to £1,000 or £5,000**, for community-led projects to support and empower women and girls of all ages living in Salford.

It is open to **voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE)** groups and organisations, which are [full members](#) of Salford CVS.

The fund is supported by Salford City Council.

Background to the fund

The Women and Girls' Empowerment Fund has been informed by findings from the [Women and Girls' Commission](#), launched in 2022 by Salford City Council to provide a platform for women to speak freely and find local solutions to some of the most pressing issues around inequality and other issues affecting their lives.

The Commission spoke to over 100 women at three listening events in Salford. The sessions identified three key issues of concern or interest for women and girls:

- 1. Women and poverty**
- 2. Women's safety**
- 3. Women's voice and participation**

This fund will award grants to VCSE sector groups and organisations looking to address these priority areas, acknowledging the vital role the VCSE sector plays in empowering and helping improve the lives of Salford women and girls.

Meet the Funder session

Salford CVS with Salford City Council will be hosting a Meet the Funder session to discuss the fund in more detail and how to apply.

For details or to book your place, please visit

<https://www.salfordcvs.co.uk/form/women-and-girls-empowerment-mtf>

Drop-in support sessions

Honor from the Grants Team will be hosting two drop-in support sessions on 23rd October and 30th October at our offices (Salford CVS, The Old Town Hall, 5 Irwell

Place, Eccles, M30 0FN). There is no need to make an appointment, please drop in any time between 11am-3pm.

Priorities of the fund

All proposals must address **one** of the following priorities through their projects:

A) Women and poverty	Projects to address poverty and inequality for women and girls
B) Women’s safety	Projects to improve women and girls’ safety
C) Women’s voice and participation	Projects to amplify women and girls’ voices and support participation in community/business life

While projects may address more than one of the above priorities, in the application form we ask which priority is most **closely** aligned with the activities being proposed.

Unsure if your project is a good fit for the fund? Contact the Grants Team for an informal conversation before applying (see page 8 for details).

Important dates

Organisations receiving a grant will have **up to 12 months** to spend the grant.

Fund opens	29 th September 2025
Support Drop-in sessions	11am – 3pm 23 rd October 2025 11am – 3pm 30 th October 2025
Application deadline	12.00pm (midday), Monday 17 th November 2025
Decisions expected	Within 6 weeks of the closing date
Approximate delivery period	January 2026 – January 2027
End of project report due	Within one month of project completion

Successful grant applicants will be expected to nominate a member of their team to attend a **Women and Girls celebration event** to share impact and learning from the projects.

The celebration event is expected to take place Autumn 2026.

Who can apply?

To apply, you group or organisation must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Constituted as a voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE) group or organisation
- Full member of Salford CVS at the time of application
- Currently adhere to the eligibility criteria for full membership of Salford CVS – more details available at <https://www.salfordcvs.co.uk/membership-0>
- Have an organisational bank account with two signatories who are not related to each other **OR** a holding account at Salford CVS
- Annual income over £10,000 per year for medium grants*
- Active for one year and able to produce annual accounts for one year
- Fully up to date with grant reporting to Salford CVS
- Track record working with women and girls

*By annual income, we mean total income in your organisation's last financial year. If your full (unabridged) accounts are not available to view online, you must submit a copy with your application.

Priority applicants

Although not a requirement, we are particularly seeking and will prioritise applications from groups and organisations dedicated to working for women and girls, especially those led by and with women and girls.

In practice, this means:

- Your work is primarily focused on women and/or girls, and most of your beneficiaries are, and will continue to be, women and/or girls
- Your group or organisation is mainly governed and led by women: your Board of Trustees (or equivalent) has a female Chair and a majority of female members, and (if applicable) most of your leadership team is women

How much funding can we apply for?

The amount of funding that can be applied for **depends on the annual turnover** of your group or organisation (see table below). The maximum grant thresholds should not be considered a target, and proposals are welcome for less than the maximum amount.

Grant size	Small	Medium
Annual turnover	No threshold	Over £10,000
Eligible to apply for	£1,000	£1,001 to £5,000

Please note, the application process is different for small and medium grants (see page 7 for details).

Examples of projects

Examples of projects that could be funded include (but are not limited to):

Fund Priority	Example Project
A) Women and poverty	Employability skills programme for secondary school age girls and young women
A) Women and poverty	Financial literacy skills project for women on low incomes

B) Women's safety	Workshops on positive masculinity for Year 6 children to challenge sexism and normalise respect for women
C) Women's Voice and participation	Language skills project for women with English as a second language
C) Women's Voice and participation	Leadership skills and mentoring project for women who are self-employed

What can the grant be spent on?

Most reasonable costs necessary to run your project, including (but not limited to):

- Venue hire and event costs
- Purchase or hire of equipment/materials
- Sessional worker/facilitator and/or staffing costs
- Volunteer expenses (linked to a project)
- Refreshments (including for participating staff and volunteers)
- Promotion
- Public liability insurance
- A contribution to overheads/management costs (must be proportionate to the project)

What can the grant not be spent on?

- Alcohol
- Retrospective costs (i.e. costs that have already been incurred or for activities that have already happened before a grant has been awarded)
- Costs for work that statutory bodies (such as schools or local authorities) have a duty to fund
- Projects or activities taking place outside Salford, unless a clear rationale is given

What policies and other documentation are required?

All organisations will be expected to have the following policies in place at the time of application:

- a) Health and Safety policy
- b) Equality/Diversity Statement or Policy
- c) Public Liability Insurance (cost can be included in budget)
- d) Risk assessments

...and if applicable to project activities:

- e) Volunteer Policy
- f) Safeguarding Adults policy
- g) Safeguarding Children policy

Please note: If your project involves working with children or adults at risk you will need to include a copy of the Safeguarding Policy.

How do we apply & how will applications be assessed?

To apply for a small grant (two stage application process)

Stage 1: Complete the simple Expression of Interest (EOI) form and submit it by email to grants@salfordcvs.co.uk in Word format before the application deadline. Alternatively, applications can be posted to: Salford CVS, The Old Town Hall, 5 Irwell Place, Eccles, M30 0FN

We do not want filling in this form to be a barrier to applying. If you have any questions or wish to access support completing the EOI form, we are hosting two support drop-in sessions on 23rd October and 30th October at our offices (Salford CVS, The Old Town Hall, 5 Irwell Place, Eccles, M30 0FN). There is no need to make an appointment, just drop in any time between 11am-3pm.

After the closing date, Salford CVS will review all EOIs and undertake eligibility checks. In the event of more EOIs being received than can progress to Stage 2, a shortlisting process will take place based on agreed criteria.

Stage 2: Applicants will be invited to attend an in-person conversation with representatives from Salford City Council and Salford CVS. This will be an informal and friendly conversation about what you would like to do with the grant (rather than a 'pitch') so please be reassured lots of preparation won't be necessary.

The panel will then discuss the proposals and agree the awards. All applicants will be informed of the outcome by email and unsuccessful applicants will be provided with a summary of feedback where possible.

To apply for a medium grant (one stage application process)

Complete the application form for a medium grant and submit it by email to grants@salfordcvs.co.uk in Word format before the application deadline.

Alternatively, applications can be posted to: Salford CVS, The Old Town Hall, 5 Irwell Place, Eccles, M30 0FN

On receipt of applications, Salford CVS will undertake eligibility checks. All eligible applications will be independently scored by a panel consisting of representatives from Salford CVS and Salford City Council, who will meet to discuss the proposals and agree the awards. Unsuccessful applicants will be provided with a summary of feedback from the assessment panel.

What support is available for applicants?

Accessibility

We want our grants programme to be accessible to everyone. If any part of our application process is a barrier to applying, please contact the Honor from the Grants Team at honor.johnstone@salfordcvs.co.uk or phone 0161 787 7795.

Support with your application

If you have any questions or concerns about completing the application form, or you would like to discuss your project proposal with a member of the Grants Team, please contact the Honor from the Grants Team at honor.johnstone@salfordcvs.co.uk or phone 0161 787 7795. The Grants Team are also available to provide a pre-application read-through and feedback.

Drop in support session

Honor from the Grants team will be hosting two drop-in support sessions on 21st October and 28th October at our offices (Salford CVS, The Old Town Hall, 5 Irwell Place, Eccles, M30 0FN). There is no need to make an appointment, please drop in any time between 11am-3pm.

Wider development support

The Development Team at Salford CVS offer practical support to VCSE organisations with developing policies, accessing volunteers, and accessing wider funding. For further information, visit our website at:

www.salfordcvs.co.uk/development-support

See our online Safeguarding in Salford resources:

www.salfordcvs.co.uk/safeguarding-salford

You can also contact our Development Team by phone 0161 787 7795 or email at:

office@salfordcvs.co.uk

What happens if we are awarded a grant?

Successful applicants will be notified of their grant by email. Please read the offer letter attached to the email in full, which contains important information about the grant including the amount awarded, any conditions, and next steps to claim the grant. Once the required documents have been received we aim to issue the grant by bank transfer within 5-10 working days.

How will our project be evaluated by Salford CVS?

Salford CVS has a three-fold approach to evaluation:

- **Assessing impact** – the difference your project made in words, numbers, stories, quotes and photos
- **Gathering learning** – what you have learned as an organisation, how your organisation has developed and what you would do differently next time
- **Providing assurance** – demonstrating good management of public money

In practical terms, this means providing feedback to Salford CVS in the shape of a simple report form when your project is complete. We may also select your project for a monitoring visit (in person or remotely) to help us understand how you are getting on and if you're in need of any support.

As guardians of public money, Salford CVS requires all funded organisations to keep receipts for all project spend. We undertake spot-audits every year and you may be asked to provide evidence of your spending.

With your help in providing simple feedback Salford CVS can demonstrate how grants and investments can make a real difference to the health and wellbeing of local people. This is important in helping us report back to our funders and wider partners, and helps secure investment in our sector over the years to come.

Any further questions?

Please contact the Grants Team by phone 0161 787 7795 or email honor.johnstone@salfordcvs.co.uk