

Food Resilience Small Grants 2025 Funding Information

For any queries, please contact Jill Loader at jill.loader@casomerset.org.uk

Citizens Advice Somerset is an independent charity providing free, confidential, and impartial advice for people who live and work in Somerset. Our goal is to help everyone find a way forward, whoever they are, and whatever the problem.

This food resilience grant scheme is being funded through NHS Somerset and is for community or resilience groups which support or directly work to tackle food insecurity and develop food resilience in Somerset communities.

Grants of £500 to £1500 per application can be applied for via the 'Request for Funding' application form on the Citizens Advice Somerset website (link to follow).

All applications need to demonstrate how the funding will increase community food resilience.

Please read the following information carefully before completing the 'Request for Funding' form.

Who can apply?

- Constituted community groups with a bank account in the name of the group and at least 2 signatories
- 2 or more community organisations working in partnership
- Informal community groups (with a constituted group as an umbrella organisation which can hold funding on their behalf)
- Registered charities

Applicants should have an annual turnover of less than £250,000 in the last financial year or over the previous 12 calendar months.

Funds

Grants of between £500 to £1500 are available.

Please note that the total amount of funding available is limited and a lot of interest is anticipated.

If the fund is oversubscribed, applications will be prioritised based on evidence of need and equitable geographical spread.

If approved, we will advise you accordingly and the grant will be awarded within 40 working days of the closing date.

Examples of what could be supported

The Food Resilience small grants are intended to support local projects that support people in preparing and cooking healthier meals and/or promote the long-term availability of good quality, affordable food in communities. This could include projects such as:

- Food preparation and cookery skills
- Community food growing
- Cooking projects and community kitchens
- Community larders or pantries
- Food elements of community-based provision, activities or events where the project works with those experiencing socio-economic barriers

Eligible costs for your project might include:

- Venue hire
- Independent trainers' fees
- Equipment – e.g. kitchen utensils, white goods, storage equipment etc.
- Training for volunteers – including accredited training in areas such as food hygiene or to support volunteer development and good mental health
- Hourly rate for staff delivering project activities
- Limited volunteer expenses (maximum 20%)
- Limited transport expenses (maximum 20%)
- Seeds, plants and gardening equipment
- Food security elements of community-based provision or activities where the project works with those experiencing socio-economic barriers - please note applicants are not expected to 'means test' people using the project for accessing food but are expected to have a clear idea of who might benefit from their projects
- Insurance
- Membership fees for appropriate umbrella organisations
- In exceptional circumstances 'hard to source' food stock, such as dried herbs and spices, can be included

Please note that this list is not exhaustive, and we aim to be flexible with what we can fund. If you have a good idea, chat with us to see if we can fund it before applying.

What is meant by socio-economic barriers:

Those who are financially at risk, including families whose children are eligible for free school meals, low-income households, those who have recently lost employment and those recently diagnosed with a severe health condition which impacts financial stability.

Those who are marginalised, may have complex needs and may be less engaged with public services, including people who are homeless, those with substance dependencies, those with existing mental health problems, victims of domestic abuse or other forms of gender abuse, refugees, asylum seekers, those with no recourse to public funds, Gypsy/Traveller communities and minority ethnic communities.

Thought should also be given to access to transport.

What will not be supported

- Grants are not available to individuals.
- Grants cannot be used to pay for individual meals, individual food parcels or any other provision that benefits a single person.
- Grants are not available to private organisations operating as a business to make a profit.
- Direct costs of emergency food provision i.e. purchasing more food stock
- Projects that do not benefit people in Somerset
- Activities which have already taken place or materials which have already been bought
- Projects that solely benefit an individual e.g. meals, individual food parcels or any other provision that benefits a single person
- Rent and overheads for current lease/property arrangements
- Underwriting of current wages or salaries
- Volunteer expenses of more than £200
- Landscaping projects other than for food growing
- General fundraising appeals or activities
- Animal, wildlife or conservation projects
- Projects which clearly duplicate existing provision or where there is no clear need or demand

- Projects which promote religion or politics (note - applications from faith groups where there is clear benefit for the wider community irrespective of religious beliefs are acceptable)

Funding

There will be one round of grant funding, opening **Monday 6th January 2025** and closing at 5pm on **Sunday 16th February 2025**.

The funding must be spent, and feedback given to the Food Resilience Project by 30th of June 2026.

We will send you a link to an online Monitoring and Reporting form, which you will need to complete when your funding has been spent. We would like to know how many people your project has benefited and their ages, and which area of Somerset the funding benefited. We would also like to know what you've spent your funding on, the difference your project has made and a short story or case study about your project, if applicable. We would love to see any photos or videos, and these can be sent directly to jill.loader@casomerset.org.uk

If you do not use the funding as explained in your 'Request for Funding' form, we have the right to take back the funding.

If you need to discuss changing how the funding will be spent, please contact jill.loader@casomerset.org.uk

If your application is unsuccessful, we will provide brief feedback in writing.