

Crisis and Resilience Fund - Community Coordination Grant Guidance

Background

The Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) is a three year national programme (1 April 2026-31 March 2029) provided through the Local Government Finance Settlement to support low income households experiencing financial shocks and to strengthen long term individual and community resilience. More information can be found [here](#).

From 2026, the CRF replaces the Household Support Fund and integrates Discretionary Housing Payments into a new Housing Payment strand. Local authorities must distribute funding across four strands, one of which is Community Coordination.

The Community Coordination Grant funds place based, partnership-driven activity that strengthens referral pathways, aligns services, reduces duplication, and enhances the overall financial wellbeing support ecosystem.

Purpose of the Community Coordination Grant

The purpose of this grant is to:

- **Support the CRF's three core outcomes:**
 1. Effective crisis support
 2. Improved individual financial resilience
 3. Strengthened local level support networks
- **Bolster Doncaster's local support landscape** by improving partnerships, pathways, coordination and system navigation for residents.
- **Fund frontline resilience activities**, such as income maximisation, budgeting and debt advice, warm referrals, energy-saving support, and community outreach.
- **Create a "no wrong door" system**, ensuring that residents can access the right help regardless of their entry point into the support system.
- **Enable early intervention**, reducing repeat crisis presentations.
- **Improve visibility of services**, ensuring staff, volunteers, and residents understand what support is available and how to access it.

The grant funds activities that complement, rather than duplicate, existing local welfare support, public health programmes, Voluntary Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) activity, and Doncaster's wider prevention and early help system.

What are the Outcomes for the Community Coordination Grant

Projects should demonstrate improvements such as:

- Stronger multiagency coordination
- Clearer pathways between crisis support and resilience services

- Better alignment between VCFSE and statutory services
- Reduced duplication and improved system efficiency
- Better visibility and navigation of support for faster, warmer, more consistent referrals
- Better identification of individuals before they reach crisis
- More residents accessing debt, welfare, budgeting or income maximisation support
- Reduced emergency food use over time
- Increased reach of early intervention support

Who the Grant Is For-Target Groups

The fund is intended for any residents experiencing or at risk of financial crisis, including:

- Low-income households
- People experiencing food or fuel insecurity
- People with disabilities or long-term health conditions
- Unpaid carers
- Families with children (including those eligible for FSM)
- People experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity
- People experiencing domestic abuse
- Single person households
- Care leavers and young adults
- Older adults on low incomes

The guidance excludes people with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF). By default, NRPF individuals cannot receive Crisis Payments when payments are made under the Localism Act 2011, because these count as public funds.

The Community Coordination Grant Value

City Of Doncaster Council is investing up to £1 million in grants of up to £30,000 to VCFS organisations across the city for revenue and capital costs.

The Community Coordination Fund is open to organisations of all sizes, from small grassroots community groups to larger, well-established community anchors. The focus is on an organisation's ability to meet the criteria and deliver the required CRF outcomes.

Organisations of all sizes are encouraged to apply for the investment amount that will enable the actual scale of their support and not required to apply only for the full £30,000 available. Applications requesting any amount within the grant amount are encouraged.

Who Can Apply

The grant is open to VCFS organisation across the City of Doncaster. There is no minimum or maximum organisational turnover requirement, and the guidance does not restrict eligibility based on organisational size.

Applicants must demonstrate **strong community reach and trust** within their community to act as the main gateway for residents and partners for support.

Applicants need to evidence in their application:

- How they are embedded in their community
- Evidence of previously meeting set outcomes
- Their established networks of local support
- Robust governance and policies
- Fit-for-purpose financial systems
- Capacity to manage public funds responsibly

It is vital that there is equitable access to support across the city and so the geographical spread of applications will be a factor in panel decision making. Organisations need to clearly state the geographical area they will be supporting in their application.

Organisations can only apply once for up to £30,000 and for one geographical area. This means:

- Delivery is geographically anchored to a specific Doncaster community/area
- Support cannot be delivered citywide
- Organisations must focus on their defined area and the residents within it

Collaboration across organisations in the same geographical footprint is welcome. Collaborating organisations need to complete one application and for a maximum of £30,000.

What the Community Coordination Grant Can Fund

The Community Coordination Grant can fund activities that strengthen local crisis support networks, improve access to services, and build residents' financial resilience. Funding must support at least one of the following three

core functions:

- **Resilience Services**
- **Crisis Support Gateway**
- **Community Coordination**

Funded activities can include:

Resilience Services Delivery	Crisis Support Gateway	Community Coordination Work	Examples of Eligible Activities
<p>Activities that help residents improve financial stability, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing income maximisation support • Budgeting, debt advice, and financial capability sessions • Energy efficiency advice linked to Affordable Warmth programmes • Connecting residents with Warm Spaces, Food Ladders, or Advice on Prescription 	<p>Costs that help organisations act as community-based entry points for crisis help, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting people to apply for Crisis Payments • Offering warm referrals to Resilience Services • Providing early help to prevent escalation into crisis 	<p>Activities that strengthen local partnerships and make the system easier to navigate, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping local support services • Convening multi-agency coordination groups • Building relationships between VCFS, health, Family Hubs, Warm Spaces, and food networks • Creating No Wrong Door referral pathways • Improving cross-sector communication 	<p>Activities may include (but are not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating live directories of local services • Running local multi-agency coordination groups • Co-locating services in community centres, GP surgeries, Warm Spaces • Supporting digital or paper-based referral systems • Outreach in high risk or seldom-heard communities • Providing financial resilience workshops • Supporting or hosting Warm Spaces delivery • Supporting Food Ladders activity (pantries/social supermarkets/growing projects)

What the Grant Cannot Fund

- Replacement of statutory Local Welfare Provision
- Duplicate provision where funding already exists from Government (e.g., HAF, Homelessness Grant)
- Economic activities that breach Subsidy Control rules
- Non CRF aligned projects lacking links to crisis or financial resilience outcomes
- General organisational running costs unrelated to CRF delivery

Monitoring & Reporting

All funded projects must support Doncaster's statutory reporting responsibilities under the national CRF requirements:

- **Provide quarterly data returns** on activity, outputs and outcomes
- **Participate in local evaluation activity** as requested
- **Provide case studies** when appropriate demonstrating impact of support
- **Attend regular monitoring meetings** to ensure delivery is on track and receive support
- **Attend regular network sessions** with other successful organisations to share learning, barriers and identify gaps in support across the system.

Branding and Communication Requirements

All materials must:

- Use the official **Crisis and Resilience Fund** name
- Reference that activity is **funded by the UK Government**
- Include CRF branding assets provided by DWP
- Ensure accessibility and multiple formats

Application Process

Applicants will be required to evidence the following:

- Geographical area of support delivery
- Any target group(s) they will be supporting
- Evidence of how they are embedded in their chosen geographical area and target group(s)
- Evidence of how they have previously successfully delivered support
- Evidence of past experience successfully meeting funder outcomes and completing required monitoring
- Provide a delivery plan outlining timeframes, approach, communication and marketing etc.
- Full costing breakdown
- Evidence of robust organisational governance and policies

Key Dates

Meet the Funder sessions held from the **27th April-1st May**, [book you place](#)

Grant Live for applications **4th May**

Grant closes **17th May**

Expected outcomes shared by the **1st June**

Contact your local Well Doncaster Officer for support:

Area	Well Doncaster Officer
North	Charlie Bonner Charlie.Bonner@doncaster.gov.uk 07483 179891
	Kate Maguire Katherine.Maguire@doncaster.gov.uk 07971 395978
	Rebecca Line Rebecca.Line@doncaster.gov.uk 07483 941794

East	Naomi Silvester Naomi.Silvester@doncaster.gov.uk 07816 955619
Central	Donna Jones Donna.Louise-Jones@doncaster.gov.uk 07977837227 Megan Green Megan.Green@doncaster.gov.uk Josh Biggs O'May Josh.Biggs-O'May@doncaster.gov.uk 07483520634
South	Sarah McCoy sarah.mccoy@doncaster.gov.uk 07977458387 Ayesha Dacunha ayasha.da-cunha@doncaster.gov.uk

Useful Definitions and Key Principles

Person Centred

Support aligns with an individual's needs, preferences, abilities, cultural background and circumstances. Services should be respectful, flexible and supportive.

Needs Based

Support must address underlying causes of hardship rather than only presenting symptoms.

Holistic

Recognises that financial distress is interconnected with health, disability, employment, housing and social support needs. Services should join up around people, not systems.

Trauma Informed

Staff and systems recognise the impact of trauma, prioritise emotional/physical safety, avoid re-traumatisation and offer choice and empowerment.

No Wrong Door

Any frontline professional or service can help a resident access the right support, with seamless warm referrals, shared information, and minimal need for residents to repeat their story. A resident goes to a community centre because they're struggling with energy bills. Even though the centre does not provide energy advice itself:

1. The staff member speaks to the resident about their situation
2. They connect them to a local energy advisor through a **warm referral**

3. They also check if the resident needs crisis support, food help, or budgeting advice
4. They ensure the resident receives full support from the right services

The resident never hears, *“That’s not something we deal with, you need to go elsewhere.”*

Accessibility

Information should be available in multiple formats and channels, with non-digital options for digitally excluded residents, and support for people with disabilities or communication needs.

Reduced experiences of material deprivation

Support that helps individuals avoid going without essential items needed for a basic standard of living. This includes being able to afford heating, adequate clothing, household goods, food, and other essentials such as maintaining a warm home, eating regular nutritious meals, paying bills without cutting back on basics, or having reliable internet.

Reduced need for emergency food parcels

Support that increases food security so that individuals no longer require emergency food aid. This may include both general measures that reduce material deprivation and targeted food specific initiatives, such as community supermarkets or low cost food.

Increased access to appropriate and quality advice services

Support that improves access to free, high-quality advice services in areas such as welfare rights, debt, housing, energy, and insulation, ensuring individuals can receive accurate, timely and actionable support.

Increased savings

Support that helps individuals build savings or financial buffers through saving clubs, financial education, or personalised advice that encourages regular saving and improved budgeting.

Reduction in priority debt

Support that reduces debts with serious consequences if unpaid such as rent arrears, utility arrears, council tax debts, or debts to government bodies.

Maximisation of individuals’ incomes

Activities that increase household income, such as benefit entitlement checks, support with claiming benefits, advice on employment, and guidance that enables people to increase income or reduce expenditure.

Decreased need for Crisis Payments and Housing Payments

Support that reduces repeated or future reliance on crisis financial help, by addressing underlying issues and improving financial stability so residents do not reach crisis.

Other (Resilience Building Services)

Any resilience focused support that strengthens financial stability but does not fall within one of the defined categories.