

Leicestershire County Council Multiply Grants 2022-25 Guidance Notes for Applicants

1. Introduction and Strategic Background

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a £2.6 billion fund which replaces the previous EU Structural Funds. As part of the Government's 'Levelling Up;' the primary goal of the UKSPF is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK agenda.

The UKSPF provides investment into three local priorities: communities and place; support for local businesses; and people and skills. Multiply is one element of the UKSPF, with £559 million funding made available nationally to local authorities and devolved areas across three years. The aim of the fund is to create opportunities for adults to develop numeracy skills to help improve employment prospects and life chances, specifically adults aged 19 or over who don't already have a maths qualification at level 2 or above (equivalent to GCSE grade 4).

Leicestershire County Council's Multiply Grants programme is therefore a way for the Council to invest in high quality provision, which enables adults to improve their functional maths literacy, thus enabling them to improve their opportunities to access employment, training and education.

The Council's [Strategic Plan](#) outlines the Council's key priorities for the county and the organisation, by focusing on the outcomes that will make life better for people in Leicestershire. The strategic outcomes are based on the following five themes:

1. **Clean, green future** – The environment is protected and enhanced and we tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and unsustainable resource usage
2. **Great communities** – Leicestershire has thriving, inclusive communities in which people support each other and take responsibility for their local area
3. **Improving opportunities** – All children get the best start for life and have access to a good quality education, and everyone has the opportunities they need to fulfil their potential.
4. **Strong economy, transport and infrastructure** – Leicestershire has a productive, inclusive and sustainable economy and infrastructure meets the demands of a growing population and economy.
5. **Keeping people safe and well** – The people of Leicestershire are safe and protected from harm, and have the opportunities and support they need to take control of their health and wellbeing.

Multiply has the potential to reach adults across Leicestershire over the next 3 years, improving their functional numeracy skills to ensure they are well placed to access appropriate opportunities to enter meaningful employment, training or education. People who improve their numeracy skills are more likely to gain employment, have higher wages and have better health and wellbeing outcomes, therefore the Multiply Grant programme is a significant opportunity for the Council to invest in the skills development and wellbeing for Leicestershire's communities.

2. Objectives of the Multiply Grants Programme 2022-2025

To help deliver the Multiply programme in Leicestershire, £600,000 is available for voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector organisations to apply for.

The maximum total which can be awarded to a single organisation/project is £60,000 over 3 years, as follows:

Year	Maximum amount of Grant Funding Available per project, per year
2022-23 (Nov 2022 to March 2023)	£10,000
2023-24 (Apr 2023 to March 2024)	£25,000
2024-25 (April 2024 to March 2025)	£25,000

There is the possibility of organisations applying for less than £60,000 over the 3 years of the programme. If your organisation is interested in delivering a smaller scale provision, please contact the Grant Officers to discuss this.

We are therefore looking for VCSE sector organisations, who are able to deliver provisions which achieve the outcomes described in section 4 of this document, for County residents, aged 19 or over, who do not currently have the equivalent of Level 2 maths qualifications.

Ideally, we are seeking to fund a range of projects which will provide geographical coverage across the County, so we will be interested in understanding the areas of Leicestershire your proposed target participants will live.

Grant funding can be used for any aspect delivery of projects, which meet the Multiply Grants criteria, as outlined below in section 3.

3. Multiply Grants Criteria

We are seeking opportunities to invest in community-based provisions, to be delivered by registered charities or social enterprises/CICs, which can fulfil the following criteria:

- Organisations interested in applying for funding to deliver Multiply provision should:
 - Operate locally, i.e. based within Leicestershire or Leicester City
 - Have been operating locally for a minimum of at least two years
 - Annual income/turnover in the last 2 financial years should ideally be a minimum of £50,000 each year (if your income is lower than this amount, please contact the Grant Officers to discuss this)
 - Have a track record and experience of engaging, working with, and supporting progression routes for adults into employment, training and education
 - Be able to support with learning and skills development
 - Be able to support people with budgeting, money management and other financial or numeracy-based skills
 - Develop and deliver provision that is learner-centred and utilises creative solutions to existing challenges

In terms of service provision, we are seeking to award grants to organisations who can deliver projects/activities which help adults with low levels of numeracy skills to achieve some or all of the following:

- Increased confidence with numbers as a first step towards formal numeracy qualifications
- Improved ability to manage money
- Build numeracy skills in the workplace (in conjunction with employers)
- Develop numeracy skills to gain access to specific jobs
- Prepare for Functional Skills Qualifications
- Enable parents / carers to help their children with maths
- Support people in the criminal justice system to develop numeracy skills
- Support those leaving (or who have just left) the care system to develop numeracy skills
- Seek to engage 'hard to reach' learners

Please also note the following:

- Grants will only be available for services/activities where the beneficiaries are residents of Leicestershire County (excluding the City of Leicester).
- Grants cannot be awarded for existing activity, which is already being funded/commissioned by an existing funder.
- However, organisations can apply for funding for the continuation or expansion of an existing project, provided this is not already funded.
- Projects should also aim to develop the capacity to be sustained beyond the period of funding
- National charities/social enterprises are eligible to apply for a Multiply Grant, as long as they can clearly demonstrate that they currently operate a locally based service/provision.
- All applications will need to clearly explain how the Multiply Grant funding will be used to deliver a local service which is available, accessible and specifically targeted to adults living in Leicestershire.

Beneficiaries/target client groups to be supported through Multiply Grants funding will include (but will not necessarily be limited to) the following:

- Adults aged 19 or over who do not currently have up to the equivalent of Level 2 qualifications (i.e. GCSE's Grade C - A* or 4-9)

This could include:

- Adults who have social care needs, such as disabilities, mental health issues or other challenges
- Adults who are economically inactive and/or financially disadvantaged and/or living in communities in areas of (multiple) deprivation
- Adults who are socially isolated (including rurally isolated) who experience challenges or a lack of opportunities with regards to accessing employment, education or training

4. Outcomes and Outputs

Examples of outcomes and outputs we expect to see from Multiply funded projects include:

Indicative Outcomes:

- a. Increased number of adults achieving maths qualifications up to, and including, Level 2.
- b. Increased number of adults participating in maths qualifications and courses up to, and including, Level 2.
- c. **Increased number of adults participating, acquiring and evidencing skills through non-qualification provision, or towards a qualification, including online learning.**
- d. Improved labour market outcomes.
- e. **Increased adult numeracy (by supporting learners to improve their understanding and use of maths in their daily lives, at home and at work).**

The Multiply Grant programme will be primarily interested in investing in provision which broadly focus on outcomes **c** and **e** above

Indicative Outputs:

- a. Number of adult numeracy courses run in a local area through Multiply.
- b. Number of people participating in Multiply funded courses, broken down by ethnicity, sex/gender, age and disability to enable Public Sector Equality Duty monitoring
- c. Number of people achieving a qualification, broken down by ethnicity, sex/gender, age and disability to enable Public Sector Equality Duty monitoring.
- d. Number of courses developed in collaboration with employers.
- e. Number of people referred from partners onto upskill courses.
- f. Number of different cohorts participating in numeracy courses (e.g. learners in prison, parents etc).

5. Monitoring & Evaluation – Demonstrating the Outcomes of your Project

Please note that the monitoring of your grant award will be based on performance related to the Outcomes/Outputs above

It is expected that at the beginning of each quarter, grant recipients will be asked to submit monitoring information, detailing the activities which have taken place and the outcomes achieved as a result of the funding throughout the previous quarter, including relevant case study examples.

Please also note that if your organisation is successful in being awarded a Multiply Grant, you will be required to contribute management information/statistics in relation to the individual learners who have participated in your programme delivery, as per Page 11 of the [Multiply Technical Guidance](#). This is likely to include a requirement to provide personal information related to the learners supported through your provision.

Furthermore, if your organisation is awarded grant funding from the Multiply programme, there is an expectation that you will be involved in an informal 'learning and sharing' network with other providers awarded a Multiply grant.

6. Administration of Multiply Grants 2022-25

It is the Council's intention to provide grant payments in instalments throughout the period of funding (November 2022 to March 2025). Interim or advance payments to assist with cash flow may be considered in exceptional circumstances, at the discretion of the Council.

The Council reserves the right to review the amount of grant to be paid to your organisation if your project delivery costs are less than originally estimated, or if there are concerns with performance or overall delivery of your project.

Where the applicant has stated on the application form that they can reclaim VAT, the grant offer is based on the net value of the eligible scheme costs.

Year	Maximum Amount of Grant Funding Available	Payment Schedule
2022-23 (November to March)	£10,000	1 x payment (Autumn 2022)
2023-24	£25,000	2 x payments (April 2023 & Oct 2023)
2024-25	£25,000	2 x payments (April 2024 & Oct 2024)

The Grants officers will also work with successful applicants to develop a schedule of performance monitoring, based on the duration of the grant award

7. Who can apply for a Multiply Grant?

- Grants are available for registered charities and social businesses/enterprises or Community Interest Companies, who operate a 'not for private profit' business model, i.e. where any income generated is re-invested back into the social aims of the group/community.
- Applying organisations ideally need to have had a minimum income of £50,000 in the last two financial years each (2021-22 and 2022-23) to be eligible to apply (this will be checked on the Charities Commission website or Companies House if required)
- Grants cannot be awarded to non-constituted groups
- Organisations that apply for funding will need to demonstrate why the funding is essential to enable them to deliver the project (i.e. demonstrate that they are unable to undertake the project activity with existing financial resources)
- Applications will not be accepted from the following:
 - Private, profit-making businesses/companies/commercial enterprises
 - Individuals (unless it can be clearly evidenced that the individual is running a social enterprise where any income generated is re-invested into achieving social aims)
 - Local Authorities or other statutory/public sector agencies
 - Schools, academies, colleges, universities or other academic institutions
- Ideally, we are seeking to award a single Multiply Grant to each successful organisation, therefore your organisation will only be permitted to submit one grant application to this programme.
- Please note, organisations who have demonstrated unsatisfactory management of previous community grants, contracts or commissioned services from Leicestershire County Council may be considered ineligible to apply for a Multiply Grant.

8. Application Process

Applications for the Multiply Grants will be completed through an online application form, via the Leicestershire Communities website.

A Microsoft Word version (blank template) of the application form will be also available on the website. This is mainly for the purpose of initially drafting your application, prior to completing the online form.

You will be required to include the following details in your application:

- Details about your organisation, including your track record and experience
- A breakdown of how the grants will be used in each year of funding (i.e. up to £10,000 in Year 1, up to £25,000 in Year 2 and up to £25,000 in Year 3)
- A description of what you intend to use the funding for, with a breakdown of the specific costs/items of expenditure related to the activities you intend to use the grant funding towards, in each year of funding/project delivery
- Details of how your provision will help to improve functional maths literacy in adults aged 19 and over, who don't already have a maths qualification at level 2 or above
- The target number of beneficiaries and the geographical areas the individuals will come from
- An explanation of why the provision is needed, including evidence of need/demand
- The outcomes, impacts and benefits your provision is expected to achieve

You will also need to read and agree to the information contained in a Data Protection Declaration document on the website.

9. What happens with my application?

- 1) Once your online application form has been submitted, you will receive an electronic copy of the application form via email, along with a reference number for your application.
- 2) Your application will then be assessed by Council officers, to ensure it meets the grant eligibility criteria. Where required, the Grant Officers will contact you to request any additional information as necessary, regarding your grant application. The Grant Officers will remain in contact with you to ensure all queries are resolved before the application is referred for a final decision.
- 3) If your application is not accepted as being eligible for funding at the application stage, you will be advised of the reasons for this.
- 4) Your application will then be considered by a Panel of Council officers for a final decision.
- 5) Your organisation will then be informed of the panel's decision, i.e. whether your application has been successful, partially successful, or unsuccessful.

10. How will the grant be paid?

If your application is successful, you will receive a letter from Leicestershire County Council confirming the funding offer, along with a Grant Agreement document and associated paperwork.

You will need to agree to the Grant Agreement and the conditions within this document, and also complete and return a form giving your organisation's bank details, along with a copy of your bank account paying in slip, or a bank statement clearly showing the organisation's bank details.

Payment will be made in instalments based on satisfactory monitoring information being submitted to the Grants Officers (see sections 5 and 6).

You will also be required to provide a breakdown of planned spend for each year in relation to the activities agreed/approved for funding from the Multiply Grant programme. If the Council have any concerns regarding how the Multiply funding has been used by your organisation, the Council reserves the right to request more detailed financial evidence of how the grant has been spent.

Where the applicant has stated on the application form that they can reclaim VAT, the grant offer is based on the net value of the eligible scheme costs.

11. Access for All

Where appropriate, schemes should comply with the Equality Act 2010. Further information about the Equality Act can be found on the [Government's website](#)

12. Disclaimer

Leicestershire County Council reserves the right to vary the terms of the grant programme.

Further information:

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Email: multiply@leics.gov.uk