

# Fund it Forward 2024

Cheshire Community Foundation are happy to announce the return of the Fund it Forward Programme. This programme will fund projects across Cheshire which have a lasting impact and contribute to reducing disadvantage over multiple years.

## Introduction

There are stark extremes in the latest data on income, living standards, education, employment, community, opportunity, and quality of life in different parts of Cheshire. Living in poverty makes life more challenging in almost every way.

Our research also makes clear that there are many other forms of disadvantage facing communities in Cheshire. We know that people may be deprived of opportunities, skills, or support. They may experience real or perceived challenges in accessing help due to their age, where they live, health and caring status, religion, life circumstances (e.g. experiences of crime or abuse), ethnicity, sexuality, or their gender identification. This programme seeks to address this.

## What will it fund?

This programme will support projects which:

- Work with people living in the 20% most deprived areas, according to the [Indices of Multiple Deprivation \(IMD\)](#) at the LSOA level. Additional data can be found using this [mapping tool](#).
- Are based within Cheshire West and Chester, or Cheshire East.
- Can clearly demonstrate the long-term impacts of the disadvantage which their target group face
- Can demonstrate how their project will address effects of disadvantage on a long-term scale, rather than solely addressing the immediate need.

All projects will need to either help **improve social mobility** for their target group, or address the **long-term impacts** of disadvantage for people who experience inequity due to their:

- Age
- Health
- Ethnicity
- Status as a carer
- Life circumstances (such as asylum seekers, victims of crime, ex-offenders etc.)
- Gender/sexuality
- Employment status or access to employment.

**All applicants will be required to meet our general [eligibility criteria](#), as well as our [Grantmaking principles and minimum standards](#).**

## What can organisations apply for?

Applicants will be able to apply for grants of up to £10,000.

Examples of funded projects could include:

- Helping ex-offenders rebuild their lives through volunteering, small enterprise or mentoring
- Supporting people with health challenges to find new ways to be active, or to access services, volunteering, training or employment opportunities
- Specialist support for young people leaving care

## Timeline and How to Apply

The programmes will open for applications on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024, with a deadline of **13<sup>th</sup> October**. You will hear a decision on your application in mid-January.

Depending on demand, we may choose not to take every application through a full assessment. This decision will be made on how closely your application fits the programme aims. If we decide not to take your application through the full process, you may hear back from us sooner than the above date.

We will ask you in your application to tell us about your theory of change for your project: the issue you want to challenge or problem you want to solve, the actions you will take, the outputs you think you'll deliver, and the short and longer-term outcomes of the work you want to do. You can read more about how to identify and describe your project's theory of change [here](#).

All applications must be made online via [Cheshire Community Foundation's website](#).

If you have any questions, you can email us to arrange a chat via [grants@cheshirecommunityfoundation.org.uk](mailto:grants@cheshirecommunityfoundation.org.uk) or call the grants team on 01606330607.