The Chagossian Fund at Sussex Community Foundation

Guidance Note and Criteria

What is The Chagossian Fund?

The Chagossian Fund is a grants programme, funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and managed by Sussex Community Foundation. The Chagossian Fund is part of the UK government’s commitment to the Chagossian Support Package – a £40m commitment to support Chagossians where they now live.

This fund is particularly aimed at voluntary sector organisations, grassroots community groups and established local charities supporting Chagossian people living in Crawley and other parts of Sussex.

Funding is offered to support one or more of the following Fund criteria:

- Education
- Health
- Employment
- Social care
- Culture

What can we apply for?

The following list is presented to provide examples, rather than being prescriptive about the focus of the Fund, as we are open to ideas and suggestions to address a range of community needs.

- English language lessons, projects addressing digital inclusion or tutoring programmes.
- Health and well-being initiatives such as cookery classes, sports and leisure activities.
- Employment and training projects through mentoring, training and advice services, including offering practical skills such as CV writing, writing job applications, digital skills etc.
- Advice and support on issues such as immigration, welfare benefits, housing, financial management and domestic abuse.
- Music, arts, culture and heritage projects including projects that celebrate and showcase local talent.

We ask you to demonstrate how your project/activity best fits the needs of the Chagossian people with whom you are working.
Where funding is used to fund group activities – such as a lunch club or other activity – the majority of participants must meet the above eligibility criteria (i.e., be from the Chagossian community).

**Who can apply to the Fund?**

Applications will be accepted from not for profit organisations including charities, community organisations and social enterprises. The fund will not be open to applications from individuals.

We would expect applicants to be based in Sussex, or demonstrate their ability to work locally, through established networks or with local partner organisations. As part of our assessment, we will want to ensure applicants are sufficiently experienced and suited to working to support the Chagossian communities in Crawley.

Applicants are only accepted from formally constituted groups with a bank account set up in the name of the organisation, rather than an individual. They would also need to submit with their proposal, a copy of their constitution or governing rules, a bank statement and their latest accounts or a record of expenditure.

For more information on our guidance please [click here](#).

**How much can we apply for?**

Most of our grants will be up to £10,000 with the potential to agree larger grants in specific circumstances. The expected range will be:

- Small to medium sized grants ranging from £1,000 to £10,000 to fund specific projects and activities to benefit the Chagossian community. This could be for a range of costs including staffing, equipment, venue hire, materials etc.

- Larger grants for larger projects or specific staff posts of above £10,000 to support community activities over one year to eighteen months. Where this is a new post, we would request a copy of any job description or information pack to go with the application.

**When do we need to apply?**

There is no set closing date for applications at the moment so applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis, though we expect to make final grants before December 2023. Decisions on applications is expected to take around four weeks.
How do we apply for a grant?

Please use our online grant application, which you can access here.

You will also need to provide us with the following supporting documents when making your application:

- A copy of your constitution or governing rules (with a minimum of three unrelated trustees/committee members)
- A recent bank statement (your account should have at least two cheque signatories)
- An up to date set of accounts or records of expenditure
- Any policies (such as equal opportunities, child protection, vulnerable adults, health and safety etc).

Please note that all first-time applicants are required to submit copies of the documents listed above to be considered for funding. If you have already received a grant from us, you will only be asked to submit your most recent accounts and a bank statement from within the last three months.

Can we use funding to support people from other communities?

We appreciate that in some cases practical delivery considerations mean that there may be a mix of nationalities in the beneficiary group of individual projects or activities. However, as this funding is specifically for people from the Chagossian community you must ensure that the majority of those you are supporting are from this community and you will be expected to evidence this.

When should the grant be used by?

Grants should be fully spent by 31st March 2024.

What reporting information will we have to submit?

Applicants will be expected to complete a short monitoring report about the use of their grants at the end of the funding period. This information would contain a minimum of information including:

- What activities were carried out
- A financial breakdown of spend against proposal
- Information on primary beneficiaries
- The impact and outcomes achieved

We would also request case studies and other materials to bring to life the work you are carrying out in the community.
What help is available to support our application?

If you need assistance with completing your application, you can speak to your local infrastructure group (in most cases this will be [Crawley Community Action](#)). You can find their [details here](#).

If you have any general queries or questions about the Fund (such as eligibility or whether your project meets the criteria) please contact the Grants Team at Sussex Community Foundation, either by email to [grants@sussexgiving.org.uk](mailto:grants@sussexgiving.org.uk) or phone us on 01273 409440.