

Sussex Community Resilience Forum: Criteria CR2 Programme 2026

The Sussex Resilience Forum (SRF) is a partnership of organisations across East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton and Hove that work together to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies. Members include emergency services, local authorities, health partners, utility providers and other key organisations. The SRF is responsible for assessing risks through the Sussex Community Risk Register and coordinating multi-agency planning to reduce the impact of incidents on local communities.

The SRF recognises that communities are critical in responding to incidents and play a vital role in supporting recovery. The Sussex Community Resilience Fund has been established by the SRF to support voluntary and community sector organisations to play a stronger role in building local resilience.

The programme is administered on behalf of the SRF by Sussex Community Foundation. The Foundation manages the application process, assessment and grant distribution, and provides support to applicants throughout the process. Decisions on funding are informed by SRF priorities and the risks identified in the Sussex Community Risk Register which is available at [Community Risk Register for Sussex: 2026](#)

This grant programme supports voluntary sector organisations in Sussex to plan and deliver projects that help communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies identified in the Sussex Community Risk Register. Projects should reduce risk, strengthen local resilience, and support people most likely to be affected by disruption.

What we want to fund

We will fund practical, community-based work that helps Sussex residents and local groups prepare for emergencies such as severe weather, flooding, storm damage, coastal or transport disruption, public health emergencies, utilities failure, and other major incidents identified in the Sussex Community Risk Register. Funded activity should improve preparedness, reduce harm, and help communities recover more quickly when disruption happens. These could be:

- Emergency planning;
- Community response training;
- Volunteer coordination;
- Welfare support;
- Communications campaigns;
- Equipment;
- Work with vulnerable or isolated residents.

Grants up to £5,500 that must be spent within 12 months of being awarded are available. We will be awarding grants to around 10 organisations in 2026.

Who can apply

Applications are welcome from not-for-profit, voluntary and community organisations based in or working for Sussex communities, including registered charities, CIOs, CLGs, CICs limited by guarantee, unincorporated associations, community groups, community benefit societies, CASCs and registered societies.

Statutory bodies such as local authorities are also eligible. Applicants (not including statutory bodies) must have an annual income of £2 million or less, be governed by at least three unrelated trustees or directors, and have at least two unrelated bank signatories.

Organisations must use income and assets for charitable purposes only and must benefit communities in Sussex.

What projects should achieve

Funded projects should deliver one or more of the following outcomes:

- Better community preparedness for local emergencies;
- More people know what to do before, during and after an incident;
- Stronger support for vulnerable residents;
- Improved local coordination, communications or volunteer response;
- Reduced impact of disruption on daily life, services and wellbeing.

What we will prioritise

We will especially welcome applications that:

- Focus on one or more risks in the Sussex Community Risk Register;
- Work with people and places most at risk and in areas of high deprivation;
- Work with communities experiencing deprivation, health inequalities or other socio-economic challenges, recognising that emergencies and disruptions can have a disproportionate impact on these groups;
- Engage and support seldom-heard, under-represented or marginalised communities, ensuring resilience activities are inclusive, accessible and shaped by the needs of those most at risk of being overlooked;
- Build lasting resilience, not just short-term activity;
- Include partnership working with local organisations, statutory services or emergency responders;
- Offer good value for money and clear evidence of need;
- Are realistic, practical and measurable;
- Projects that are delivered within 12 months of receiving a grant award.

What applicants must show

- Which risk or risks their project addresses;
- Why the project is needed locally;
- Who will benefit and how many people may be reached;
- How the project will reduce risk or improve preparedness;
- How success will be measured;
- How the work will continue beyond the grant, where relevant.

All organisations will be required to provide a short progress update six months after receiving the grant, outlining activities delivered, progress against objectives, challenges encountered, and any early outcomes achieved.

All organisations will be required to provide a final monitoring report within 12 months of receiving the grant award, demonstrating how funds were used, outcomes delivered, lessons learned and the impact on community resilience.

Not eligible

We cannot support applications from:

- Individuals;
- Companies and CICs limited by shares;
- Organisations that do not benefit Sussex communities;
- Organisations that unlawfully discriminate.

Please do get in touch with the grants team at Sussex Community Foundation if you have any questions relating to meeting the eligibility criteria. You can contact them via grants@sussexcommunityfoundation.org and you should reference this fund in your email.

We will not fund activity that has no clear link to local resilience or emergency preparedness.

How to apply

Applications will be made via Sussex Community Foundation who are managing this grant programme. Applications are made via their funding portal and any enquiries relating to any aspect of your application or application process must be made through them. They can be contacted via grants@sussexcommunityfoundation.org or you can call them on 01273 409 440 during office hours. Please reference this fund when making contact.

You can access the funding portal by clicking on this link: [Login](#)

This fund will open for applications on Monday 2 November and close on Monday 14 December 2026. The outcome of your application will be circulated mid-March 2027. Please plan your project delivery around these dates.

Applicants should provide a short summary of their project, the community need, expected outcomes, budget, and evidence that they meet eligibility criteria. Before applying, organisations should check that their governance, accounts and bank arrangements meet Sussex Community Foundation requirements.

The following links will be helpful for those making an application to this fund.

National Risk Register: [National_Risk_Register_2026.pdf](#)

Community Risk Register for Sussex: [Community Risk Register for Sussex: 2026](#)

HMG Resilience Framework: [Resilience Framework \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

National Resilience Standards for LRFs: [National Resilience Standards for LRFs](#)

Areas of deprivation: [Overall \(IMD\) | Local Deprivation Explorer](#)

Seldom Heard Groups:

- [A guide to inclusive social research practices - GOV.UK](#)
- [How to co-produce with seldom heard groups | Healthwatch Network](#)

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