**Community Connectors Grant Application Process**

| **Organisation name** |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Address** |  |
| **Structure**  Private/Limited/Charity/CIC etc. |  |
| **Company or Charity number** |  |
| **Founding date** |  |
| **Number of employees** |  |
| **Number of volunteers (if relevant)** |  |
| **Turnover** |  |
| **Sector** |  |
| **Name of contact** |  |
| **Role in** |  |
| **Email address** |  |
| **Phone number** |  |

**Community Connector Project:**

| **Community Connector project name** |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Amount of funding requested**  *Please note this is capped at £30,000* | **£** |

| **Question 1: Tell us about the community in Bristol that your project will support.**  Include details about the location, demographic, social or economic factors etc. Most importantly tell us the number of potential entrepreneurs or businesses you will support.  *Max 250 words.* | |
| --- | --- |
| Number of entrepreneurs or SME businesses supported |  |
| Wards/areas of Bristol you will engage |  |
| Demographic breakdown of the entrepreneurs or business leaders you will engage | **Age:**  **Ethnicity:**  **Gender:** |
| **Question 2: What do you plan to do?**  Provide details of your project. Who will you target? How will you deliver? What will be the project outputs? For example, your project could include outreach, engagement, support to access BrisBES, a new business hub, referral into the BrisBES service, business support outputs etc.  *Max 500 words.* | |
| **Question 3: What are the outcomes from your project?**  For example, job creation, increased access to funding, business startups etc.  *Max 300 words.* | |
| **Question 4: Why is the Community Connectors Grant relevant for your community project?**  Tell us about any added value to your community that securing this grant will provide. Look at alternative sources of funding and then explain why the Connector grant is better placed to meet this need. Explain what the legacy of your project will be.  *Max 300 words.* | |

**Community Connector Grants – Guidance**

**Overview**

The Community Connector Grants are offered as part of the Bristol Business Enterprise Support project – BrisBES. **In total £100,000 is available for this grant scheme, capped at £30,000 per application.**

BrisBES has received £910,000 from the UK government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is a central pillar of the UK government’s support offering and provides £2.6 billion of funding for local investment by March 2025. The Fund aims to improve pride in place and increase life chances across the UK investing in communities and places, supporting local business, and people and skills. For more information, [click here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus). The Community Connector scheme is the latest version of the Community Gateway Partnership which has been delivered in partnership with Bristol City Council and YTKO for nearly ten years.

The original grant scheme was developed to help smaller community organizations to contribute towards a business support project without the burden of taking on the risk and overheads of a large contract. Furthermore, it allowed YTKO (as contract holder) to work with existing community groups without displacing their networks. It also maximized the opportunities to reach underrepresented individuals in Bristol effectively.

The latest iteration of the Community Connectors scheme will work with community groups/community ambassadors/organizations etc. to help individual entrepreneurs or SME businesses to access funded support. This activity could include different approaches but must result in:

* Engagement of a particular community group – either through events, workshops, coffee mornings etc.
* Referrals into business support in terms of pre-start support for individuals
* Referrals into business support in terms of existing SME businesses

Activity that has previously been funded includes:

* Creation of a business hub – fitting out an existing space and allocating staff time
* Delivery of business coaching, workshops and 1-2-1 peer groups targeted at a specific community
* Creation of a pop-up shop to host smaller businesses

**Eligibility**

To qualify for consideration for a Community Connector Grant you must be looking to deliver a community-based project in Bristol. YTKO and Bristol City Council are particularly keen to see projects which focus on North, East and South Bristol (including the South Bristol Regeneration Area) – geographic-based projects must deliver an impact in one of the target wards: Ashley, Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston, Barton Hill, Bedminster, Bishopsworth, Easton, Eastville, Filwood, Frome Vale, Hartcliffe and Withywood, Henbury and Brentry, Hengrove and Whitchurch Park, Hillfields, Horfield, Knowle, Lawrence Hill, Lockleaze and Upper Horfield, Southmead, St George (Central, Troopers Hill and West), St Judes, Stockwood, St Pauls, Windmill Hill.

For demographic communities the project will not need to be in a target ward but must support the BrisBES demographic targets for these key demographics:

* Women/non-binary/agender
* Young people
* Disabled and neurodiverse
* Ethnic minorities
* Refugees

All projects that address the above priorities will be considered but we would recommend that projects are developed to meet a budget of between £5,000 and £30,000.

The vast majority of costs are eligible under this grant (staffing, materials, IT equipment etc.) however **structural building costs are ineligible**. Fit out of an existing space is eligible – for example to make it into a central business hub.

**Scoring of Applications**

Scoring of applications will be completed in partnership between YTKO and Bristol City Council. Each of the quality questions will be marked out of 5 points with a weighting applied as below. At least one representative from YTKO and Bristol City Council will mark each application.

A grant application will be approved for funding when it exceeds the award threshold provided below.

| **Classification** | **Score** | **Scoring Methodology** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Major Concerns** | 1 | No response submitted or an unacceptable response which fails to address the question. |
| **Minor Concerns** | 2 | The response fails to address adequately one or more elements of the question and provides a low level of confidence of successful delivery |
| **Good Confidence** | 3 | The response addresses well all elements of the question and provides good level of confidence of successful delivery |
| **Very Good Confidence** | 4 | The response addresses very well all elements of the question and provides very good level of confidence of successful delivery |
| **Excellent Confidence** | 5 | The response addresses in an excellent and robust manner all elements of the question and provides excellent level of confidence of successful delivery |

**Scoring weighting:**

| **Question** | **Weighting** |
| --- | --- |
| **Question 1: Tell us about the community in Bristol that your project will support.** | **25%** |
| **Question 2: What do you plan to do?** | **30%** |
| **Question 3: What are the outcomes from your project?** | **25%** |
| **Question 4: Why is the Community Connectors Grant relevant for your community project?** | **20%** |

**The scoring threshold for award is set at 70%.**

**Worked example:**

| **Question** | **Score out of 5** | **Weighting** | **Final score** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Question 1** | **3** | **25%** | **15%** |
| **Question 2** | **4** | **30%** | **24%** |
| **Question 3** | **3** | **25%** | **15%** |
| **Question 4** | **5** | **20%** | **20%** |
| **TOTAL** | | | **74%** |

**Applications will be scored and allocated funding until the grant pot is used up.**