



The Beautiful South Fund guidance notes

We know from the work we do that south Manchester is a beautiful place full of people who look after and support their communities and one another. The Beautiful South Fund offers grants to grassroots organisations and groups who have a community initiative or idea in mind to make south Manchester even more beautiful.

These guidelines were updated in April 2025 following a review by the Beautiful South Fund Panel. Some changes were made to eligible costs to ensure that the Fund is meeting its aim of supporting grassroots community groups and small neighbourhood projects.

Who can apply for funding?

Charities, not-for-profit organisations, community groups and individuals can apply for funding of **up to £1,500** for projects, whether they are big or small, that help improve and bring people together within Southway neighbourhoods. No organisation, community group or individual may apply for more than £2500 per year.

The theme of the fund is **neighbourliness**, and your project should aim to:

- Improve physical or mental wellbeing of local residents.
- Encourage friendly or social contact and local connections.
- Increase opportunities for people to get involved in their community.
- Improve the local environment and green spaces.
- Help or support communities to ease the impacts of a rising cost of living.

To be eligible for a grant:

- Your project or activity should need **no more than £1,500. Due to increasing demand for the fund, it is expected that most successful applications will be for around £500-£700.**
- Your project or activity must benefit Southway communities (our core areas are the council wards of Burnage, Chorlton Park, Didsbury East, Didsbury West, Old Moat and Withington).
At least 50% of the beneficiaries of all grants awarded must be Southway tenants.
- You must have an organisation/group bank account for the grant to be paid into. If you are applying as an individual, you could use the bank account of an organisation that you work with, or Southway may be able to purchase items for you.
- You must be willing to complete an end of project survey and, if requested, to provide evidence of how the grant money was spent.



We want the Fund to support as many projects, events and people as possible across all our neighbourhoods, so we may offer less than the amount requested, and we will not normally consider a second application from organisations/groups/individuals whilst they have a grant in payment.

Priority is given to organisations/groups/individuals who have not received a grant before. If you do re-apply to the Fund, please make sure you explain what other steps you have taken or considered to secure funding for your project. Note that applicants cannot apply for more than £2500 in one year.

If you want to discuss your project/event, please contact us on **0161 448 4200**.

What can we apply to the Beautiful South Fund for?

The aim of the Beautiful South Fund is to support small, grassroots community groups and projects for example, street parties or social groups.

The costs we can cover include:

- Equipment and materials for activities / events
- Room hire for external venues (not your own building)
- Refreshments (not alcohol)
- Reasonable out of pocket volunteer expenses
- Reasonable costs for external tutors / speakers / specialists (not to exceed £35 per hour)
- Promotion / publicity costs

The Fund will **not** usually pay the following costs:

- Staff costs for admin / facilitation
- External tutor / speaker travel expenses (this should be included in overall costs)
- Organisation running costs
- Capital costs e.g., building works / refurbishment

We will not award funding to projects or activities that:

- Statutory organisations such as local authorities and schools have a legal obligation to provide
- Promote political or religious beliefs
- Have already taken place or start before funding is awarded
- Are carried out for profit

We may also refuse grants to organisations or groups who have not provided monitoring information when requested for a previous Beautiful South Fund award.



Application process

1. To request funding please complete The Beautiful South application, available on our website and send it to d.roege@southwayhousing.co.uk and m.ward@southwayhousing.co.uk.

Please contact us if you need help to complete the form.

We will acknowledge receipt of your application within a week.

2. Awards are made by The Beautiful South Fund Decision Making Panel. This panel is made up of Southway tenants and supported by Southway staff. The panel meet every two months to assess applications; the deadlines for applications for 2025-26 meetings are:

Application deadline	Panel meeting
Monday 12 th May 2025	Monday 19 th May 2025
Monday 30 th June 2025	Monday 7 th July 2025
Monday 29 th September 2025	Monday 6 th October 2025
Monday 10 th November 2025	Monday 17 th November 2025
Monday 19 th January 2026	Monday 26 th January 2026
Monday 16 th March 2026	Monday 23 th March 2026

Meeting dates may change – keep an eye on Southway social media for updates

We can sometimes consider applications outside these meetings; please contact us to discuss your application if you need a decision between the deadline dates.

3. A panel member or a member of Southway staff will contact you to confirm the panel's decision or to ask for more information as part of the decision-making process. If you are not awarded a grant, we will explain the reasons for the decision.

Supporting your neighbourhood, protecting the planet

Southway has made a pledge to become a zero carbon organisation by 2038. We are fully committed to creating sustainable communities; reducing emissions, and bills, and increasing education around the critical issues of greener energy and 'low-carbon' living.

Please think about the steps you can take to reduce the carbon footprint of your project:

- *Use compostable tableware at events*
- *Reuse items when you can, during projects and after they're completed*
- *Buy local – and only buy what you need*
- *Encourage people to walk and cycle to your event/group*



What happens if we are awarded a grant?

If you are awarded a grant, a panel member or member of Southway staff will contact you to discuss the next steps; this will include:

- How and when payment will be made; the panel may decide to release funds in stages or ask Southway staff to pay suppliers directly
 - If you are awarded part-funding towards a larger project, the grant will be paid to you once you confirm that full funding has been secured.
- The information and records we will ask you to keep about your project
- How you can promote your Beautiful South Fund award and your project, for example, on social media and in Southway communications

Can we re-apply to the Beautiful South Fund?

There are no restrictions on re-applying to the Fund so if your application is declined, you can re-apply straight away but please take any comments made by the panel into account in your new application.

If you are awarded a grant, no further applications will be considered until the first grant has been spent and you have provided end of project information.

Telling us how your project went

At the end of your project/funding, we will ask you to complete a short survey telling us how the project went, including how many people participated, the outcomes you achieved and any learning from the project. This helps us to understand our communities and to be able to share good practice across our neighbourhoods.

We love to hear about the projects funded by the Beautiful South Fund so you don't need to wait until the end of your project to tell us about it – you can contact us any time to update us and share photos or feedback. Please make sure that you have permission to share photographs or personal details of people involved in the project with us.

If you use social media, please tag us in your posts about the funded project/activity/event: @SouthwayHousing on X (formerly Twitter) or @southwayhousing on Facebook.

A Beautiful South Fund panel member or member of Southway staff may contact you during or after the project for an update on your progress. If you have any concerns about your project or are unable to complete it as planned, please contact us as soon you can.

You must record how the grant is spent and keep receipts for items bought with it; we may ask you for this during or after your project. Any grant money that has not been spent by the end of the project must be returned to Southway.



Previously funded projects

In 2025/26 Beautiful South Fund grants were awarded to:

- Merseyfest - £2000 for a family fun and information day hosted by BMCA
- Dahlia Frenzy! - £1790 to install planters in front of Dahlia House
- Merseybank Crafts for Everyone - £492 for summer holiday crafts sessions
- Friday Night Club - £670 for outings for young adults with various disabilities
- Creativity in the Kitchen - £1621 for cookery classes across south Manchester
- Withington Pride - £980 for an inclusive celebration event in Withington
- Blackpool Lights - £820 for a coach trip to take food club members to Blackpool
- School Uniform Days - £500 for school uniform trade and give away days
- Abs-ulous Health and Fitness - £1700 for fitness and nutrition classes
- Gazebo - £157 for a gazebo to increase capacity for events in Merseybank
- Grosvenor Gardens Regeneration - £775 to create a raised garden
- Christmas Lights Switch on - £500 for a family Christmas Lights event in Burnage
- Cost of Living Christmas Support - £1300 for relief support across south Manchester
- Christmas at Gorton Mill House - £230 for meals for older tenants and residents
- Day Trips - £850 for a trip to Blackpool for Dahlia House residents
- Flower Troughs - £125 for plants and soil to refresh troughs at Minehead Court
- Winter Wonderland - £1950 for a family fun event at Westcroft Community Centre
- Christmas Get Together - £750 for Christmas Events in Merseybank
- Disability Dispatch Service - £1575 for food pantry deliveries to disabled residents
- Inspiring Fitness in the Community - £1639 for fitness classes in south Manchester
- Easter wreaths and crafts - £875 for crafts for older tenants and residents
- Men's Health Event - £750 towards a Mandem Meet up event in Withington
- Easter Trail - £659 to host an Easter Trail on the Arrowfield estate
- Quilling is Fulfilling - £609 for materials to run quilling sessions at Holland Court
- Ice Queens - £1085 to run a girls youth session in Withington
- Spring activities - £600 to run spring activities in Merseybank