

READ THIS FIRST!

Platinum Jubilee Village Halls Fund Criteria and important information for completing the Stage 1 Application Form

Please check that your organisation and the project you propose fit the following 10 points before you complete the online application.

1. The aim of the Fund is to support the modernisation and improvement of village halls so that they are fit for purpose and can provide activities which seek to achieve one or more of the following outcomes for their communities:
 - a. Improved health and/or wellbeing and/or reduction in rural loneliness
 - b. Positive impact on the local environment that contributes to net zero
 - c. Support or the local rural economy
 - d. Promotion of community cohesion

2. You can apply for a grant between £7,500 and £75,000 which will be 20% of your capital project costs including the VAT. You must be able to identify where the 80% is being sourced from. Note the minimum project costs will therefore be £37,500. There is no upper limit but you can only receive a maximum grant of £75,000.

Do not include VAT on eligible capital works if you are able to reclaim VAT.

3. The Fund shall be available to support capital improvement projects only, where the project aims to
 - a. Upgrade facilities
 - b. Extend facilities
 - c. Improve facilities
 - d. Purchase capital items
4. The Fund shall not be available for projects that solely seek to
 - a. Repair
 - b. Maintain
 - c. Renew

5. The following legal entities **will be eligible** to apply for a grant from the Fund:

- Registered Charities
 - Charitable Trusts
 - Charitable Incorporated Organisations
 - Community Associations which are registered Charities
 - Multi-purpose Church Halls, Scout and Guide buildings are also eligible where they are open for the whole community, there is no alternative village hall in the vicinity, they are not single use and they are clearly advertised as multi- purpose.
 - Charitable Companies
 - Parish or Town Councils where they are the **sole trustee** of a charitable village hall.
 - Parochial Church Councils where improvement works are being carried out to a church and where there is no village hall or other meeting place in the community. Capital works should be to enable the building to be used for a range of community activities.
6. The following legal entities **will not be eligible** to apply for a grant from the Fund:
- Community Interest Companies (CICs)
 - Companies - Industrial and Provident Societies, Co-Operatives or Community Associations where no charity registration is in place.
 - Sports Pavilions
 - School Halls
 - Parish Councils that are custodian trustees
7. Previous beneficiaries of a grant from the former Village Hall Improvement Grant Fund (2019-2022) or the Platinum Jubilee Village Hall Improvement Grant Fund (yr 2023/25) **will not be eligible** to apply for Grant Funding. If you submitted a Stage 2 application that was unsuccessful you will be eligible to reapply.
8. Your project cannot use funds from the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) as part of your 80% contribution to this application. REPF funding can be used for other elements or phases of your project that do not form part of this application.
9. Applicants must be able to demonstrate that the proposed village hall is in a local rural area with a population of less than 10,000 people (2021 census).
10. Applicants must be able to demonstrate that they have a freehold or leasehold interest in the village hall in place. If there is a leasehold interest, there must be at least 21 years left to run on the lease.

11. The following are examples of project activity that could be considered **eligible** to be funded (it is not an exhaustive list):

- Extensions
- Internal reconfigurations
- New roof and roof refurbishment which includes insulation
- Improvements which help to increase energy efficiency
- Refurbishment of toilets and kitchens
- Damp proofing
- New installation of communication systems

12. The following are examples of projects that would be considered **not eligible** to be funded (it is not an exhaustive list):

- Building projects **which have already started**
- New build village halls
- Work that is undertaken solely to ensure compliance with Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) requirements.
- Routine maintenance, defined as simple, small-scale activities (usually requiring only minimal skills or training) associated with regular and general (daily, weekly, monthly) upkeep of a building, or equipment, machine, plant, or system against normal wear and tear.
- Improvements to car parks, parking areas, adjacent recreational areas, and landscaping.
- Capital expenditure which is not to do with the physical improvement of the hall
- Architects, surveyors and specialist survey fees.
- Costs for feasibility studies or planning applications or project managers' fees.

Please see the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document for further detail on eligibility and a wide range of additional information.

Completing the Stage 1 Application Form – Important Information

- Read the eligibility criteria.
- Read a copy of the questions before you start.
- Check the FAQs for further advice.
- Make sure you have all the information to hand.

Note:

Once you have started the online form, save your application so that if you are interrupted whilst completing it you will be able to get back into the application at the point at which you saved it.

If one of your responses indicates that your organisation or project is ineligible the online form will reject your application, and you will not be able to continue.

Don't use the back button in your browser, you will be thrown out of the form and may have to start again.

You will be able to save and print your application on completion of the online form, but you will not receive email acknowledgement.

ACRE will endeavor to get back to you as quickly as possible, but response times will depend on the number of applications.