evnia

Multi-Year Strategic Grants Funding Guidance

Guidance for Applicants











Charity Number: 1108278

Long-term Financial Resilience

Evnia is committed to tackling poverty across the West Midlands by supporting organisations that help people move beyond immediate crisis and build more stable financial futures.

This multi-year strategic grants programme is for long-term work that strengthens financial resilience for individuals, families and communities. It is intended for established community organisations with the insight, partnerships and delivery capacity to address the causes and consequences of hardship over time.

Evnia prioritises work that benefits:

- Children and young people
- Disabled people
- People from minority backgrounds

Funding will be awarded to a small number of strategic partners whose work is strongly aligned with Evnia's charitable aims, regional priorities and annual strategic themes.

What this fund is for

The multi-year strategic grants support activity that builds long-term financial resilience and reduces the likelihood of repeated crisis.

This year, applications should focus on **Housing: reducing moving costs and preventing rent arrears**. We are interested in work that helps low-income households maintain tenancies, move safely when needed and avoid homelessness, eviction or avoidable debt.

The need this fund aims to address is housing instability, which is a major barrier for people living in poverty in the West Midlands. Unaffordable moving costs and rent arrears can trap people in substandard housing and may ultimately lead to eviction. Through increased rent or eviction, households can face unrecoverable expenses.

Evnia would fund a Housing Stability Scheme to provide financial assistance and practical support for low-income individuals and families who need to move or are at risk of eviction.







The initiative would work through delivery partners and could administer a rent deposit and arrears relief fund, with clear financial safeguarding and direct payments to relevant third parties. Examples:

Small grants for critical housing costs

Such as first month's rent, moving van fees or clearing modest rent arrears

Practical support for people who need to move or are at risk of eviction, delivered through trusted partners

Rent deposit and arrears relief schemes

With payments made directly to landlords, removal firms or councils and never to households

Support targeted at people ineligible for statutory help

Recognising that Discretionary Housing Payments for deposits and removals are extremely limited and tightly means-tested

Partnership approaches

Combining financial assistance with advice, income maximisation or tenancy sustainment support

The primary audience is low-income households at risk of homelessness or stuck in unsuitable housing because they cannot meet upfront costs. This includes families in poverty, including working poor households and those on benefits, as well as individuals with additional vulnerabilities.

Funding available

Grant size: Up to £125,000 per organisation
Duration: 1–3 years
Number of partners: Approximately 1–2 organisations per funding cycle
Geographical Focus: West Midlands only
Programme Focus: Long-term financial resilience aligned to Evnia's annual strategic themes

Funding should be proportionate to the scale, duration and complexity of the proposed work. Applicants should explain why the amount requested is needed and how it will lead to measurable change.

Expected outcomes

Applications should show how the proposed work will contribute to housing stability and long-term financial resilience, including some of the following outcomes and impact:

Homelessness prevention:
Each grant should help prevent a household from entering homelessness or relying on costly temporary accommodation. Partners should track the number of tenancies saved and moves enabled.

Financial stability:
Beneficiaries are able to avoid high-interest debt that they might otherwise need for moving costs or rent arrears. Outcome data may include the value of rent arrears cleared and the percentage of supported households still sustaining their tenancy after 6–12 months.

Improved housing stability:
Households are better able to move into, remain in or sustain suitable accommodation without being pushed into further hardship.

Targeted support for those most at risk:
Low-income families and individuals with additional vulnerabilities can access timely, trusted and practical help.

Safeguarded delivery:
Financial assistance is administered through partners, with payments made directly to landlords, removal firms or councils and never to households.

Stronger wraparound support:
Where appropriate, the housing stability offer may be combined with income maximisation, welfare benefits advice or tenancy sustainment support to improve future financial resilience.

Eligibility Criteria

You can apply if your organisation:

- Is a not-for-profit organisation
- Operates in, and delivers benefit within, the West Midlands
- Has a governing document and organisational bank account
- Can demonstrate sound governance, safeguarding and financial management
- Has experience of working with people experiencing poverty, hardship or financial exclusion
- Can deliver activity over a longer period and report on learning and impact

Eligible organisation types include:

- Constituted community groups
- Registered charities and Charitable Incorporated Organisations
- Companies Limited by Guarantee
- Community Interest Companies
- Community Benefit Societies

What we will fund:

The multi-year strategic grants may support direct project delivery, partnership development, staff time, volunteer costs, outreach activity, specialist advice, evaluation, reasonable overheads and other costs that are clearly connected to the proposed work.

We may also consider core or unrestricted elements where they are necessary to deliver the agreed outcomes and where the applicant can show a clear link to Evnia's charitable purposes.

We will not fund:

- Individuals or sole traders
- Statutory organisations, including schools and NHS bodies
- For-profit organisations
- Research projects
- Bid-writing or application costs
- Contingency or fundraising costs
- Recoverable VAT
- Loans, interest payments or debt repayment on behalf of an organisation
- Alcohol, tobacco, vapes or illegal substances
- Gambling-related activity
- Political activity or religious activity that promotes a particular faith

Submitting an application

Application steps:

1. Arrange an initial discussion with the Organisational Funding Manager – Please contact communitygrants@aurigaservices.co.uk. Applications that miss this step will not be accepted.
2. Submit a completed application along with supporting documentation by **12 noon on 11th December 2026** (applications may close early depending on demand).
3. Provide supporting documents and a project budget with the above.
4. Respond to any follow up queries or clarification requests.
5. Receive a funding decision and feedback approximately 1 month after submission.
6. Projects must start February or March 26 at the beginning of a month.

Applicants should allow enough time to develop a clear proposal, agree partnership arrangements where relevant and gather the required documents.

Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed against:

- Strategic fit: Alignment with Evnia's charitable aims, West Midlands focus and annual theme.
- Need and evidence: Clear evidence of hardship, barriers and gaps in existing support.
- Impact: A credible explanation of the difference the work will make.
- Reach and equity: Meaningful engagement with Evnia's priority groups.
- Delivery capability: Appropriate experience, staffing, partnerships and governance.
- Financial management: A realistic budget and proportionate use of funds.
- Learning and sustainability: A clear approach to monitoring, learning and long-term value.

Evnia will carry out due diligence before making an award. This may include reviewing governance, finances, policies, safeguarding arrangements, organisational track record and the proposed grant agreement.

Documents required

You will be asked to provide:

- Governing document, such as a constitution or articles
- Latest annual accounts or management accounts
- Proof of organisational bank account
- Safeguarding policy
- Data protection policy
- Equal opportunities policy
- Public liability and employer's liability insurance, where applicable
- Project budget and income/expenditure breakdown
- Job descriptions for funded posts, where applicable
- Partnership agreements or letters of support, where relevant

Monitoring, reporting & before you apply

Monitoring will be proportionate to the size and duration of the grant. Funded partners will be expected to report on delivery, learning and impact throughout the grant period.

Reporting may include:

- Number of people supported
- Equalities information, where appropriate and safely collected
- Types of hardship addressed
- Changes in financial resilience, confidence or stability
- Progress against agreed outcomes and milestones
- Beneficiary feedback and case studies
- Partnership learning and changes to local referral routes
- Expenditure against the agreed budget

Evnia values honest learning. Funded partners should tell us what is working, what is changing and where delivery needs to adapt.

Before submitting an application, check that:

- Your organisation is eligible
- Your work will benefit people in the West Midlands
- Your proposal focuses on the theme or this year and long-term financial resilience
- Your budget is realistic and clearly linked to the activity
- You can provide the required documents
- You can monitor and report on outcomes, learning and expenditure

Interested applicants should arrange an initial discussion with our Organisational Funding Manager by emailing **communitygrants@aurigaservices.co.uk** otherwise applications will NOT be considered

Grant agreement and payments

Successful applicants will be asked to sign a grant agreement setting out the purpose of the grant, payment schedule, reporting requirements, permitted use of funds and key conditions.

Payments will be staged over the grant period. Continued payments may depend on satisfactory progress, appropriate use of funds and completion of agreed monitoring requirements.

Decisions, feedback and appeals

Funding decisions are discretionary and will be based on the quality of applications, available budget, strategic fit and the overall balance of the portfolio.

There is no formal right of appeal against funding decisions. Applicants may request feedback, which will be provided wherever possible.