We’ve launched a community fund to support our communities in London and Hertfordshire. This funding will be invested in projects that make a difference to our communities. This is all part of our vision to build strong communities where people can thrive. It is now more important than ever to support our residents and communities to recover from the impact of COVID-19.

Here is all you need to know about our community fund and the terms and condition you must read before making an application.

**Who can apply?**

Origin Housing resident groups, local voluntary and community groups, charities, social enterprises and any not-for-profit organisations. Individual residents can also apply if they provide evidence that other residents will be involved and that the project is inclusive.

**What will we fund?**

We award grants of **up to £2,000** for projects that address a need in the local community and benefit our residents. We are particularly keen to receive applications that support our [Together strategy](https://www.originhousing.org.uk/media-hub/news/our-new-resident-engagement-strategy-together) priorities to invest in communities or projects that tackle the impact of COVID-19. These priorities are:

* Supporting families - food projects, activities, community events.
* Activities for young people - training and personal development, sports, arts, and events.
* Activities for older people – wellbeing, activities to tackle loneliness.
* Gardening or environmental projects.
* Financial management – advice and skills.
* Digital inclusion- improving access, training or equipment solutions.
* Employment and training – developing skills, local enterprises and start-ups.

**What are the requirements?**

To be eligible for our community fund, you must:

* Deliver a project/s in our communities. Our priority areas are where we have the most of our homes. In order of size these areas are: Camden, Enfield, Stevenage, Watford, Barnet, Brent, Islington and Harrow.
* Demonstrate how you will engage our residents and how your project will have direct impact on Origin residents
* Be able to demonstrate community support or need in our communities.
* For charities/community groups - you should have at least one of these governing documents: a constitution, memorandum of understanding, rules and a bank account with two signatories.
* If you are freelance or self-employed, you must show evidence that you've been in operation for at least a year and have been adversely affected by COVID-19.

## Deadline and assessment

You can apply during the application windows below. Your application will be assessed by members of our resident panel Spotlight and staff.

* July – 16 August (decision in September 2020)
* September – 18 October (decision in November 2020)
* November – 12 December (decision in January 2021)

**How to apply**

You must read our Terms and Conditions before applying for our Community fund. Click here to read them.

As the application requires supporting documents, we recommend you download the application as a document, fill out your application on there, and save it as you go along.

Once you have completed all sections of the application, please copy your responses into our online form here and submit the application.

* Word document application
* Online form­­­

## Contact us

If you have any questions or wish to discuss your idea with us, email [community.development@originhousing.org.uk](mailto:community.development@originhousing.org.uk) or call **0300 323 0325 (**ask for Community Development Team)

**Terms and conditions**

1. The grant will only be spent on the purpose detailed in the application unless otherwise agreed in advance by Origin Housing in writing.
2. If your application is successful, you will be notified by email (or post if requested) confirming the final award amount, and you will be told if extra documents are needed to process payment.
3. The grant must be used within six months of receipt, unless otherwise agreed in advance with Origin Housing in writing.
4. In exceptional circumstances, the grant can be withdrawn or withheld at Origin Housing’s discretion.
5. Any part of the grant that is not used for the project must be refunded back to Origin Housing.
6. Repayment of the grant can be required at the sole discretion of Origin Housing if:
   * Origin Housing finds that any false information has been supplied
   * the work undertaken is not the work for which the grant was approved (if Origin Housing has not been informed of, and approved, these changes in accordance with point one);
   * the grant has not been spent within six months of receiving it unless otherwise agreed by Origin Housing;
   * your organisation becomes insolvent or goes into administration, receivership or liquidation, and the grant has not already been spent on its intended purpose, or;
   * There is any other breach of any of the conditions in this form.
7. The grant is made on a 'one-off’ basis and does not carry any commitment to future funding.
8. The project leader needs to return completed evaluation, monitoring forms and financial breakdown of how the grant was used **no later than three months** after the end date of the project. Failure to do so will make the organisation ineligible for future grants. **A template monitoring form will be forwarded to successful applications on confirmation of the grant.**
9. The Origin Housing logo will be attached to all publicity materials.
10. Origin Housing may use your name in any publicity material.
11. The project shall comply with any legal obligations that may be relevant in order to carry out the scheme, such as planning, licensing, employment, health and safety, insurance and equal opportunities legislation.
12. Origin Housing reserves the right to share the information you have provided with relevant parties (e.g. Charity Commission) where appropriate.
13. Any Value Added Tax (VAT) payable by your organisation is your responsibility and Origin Housing shall not be obliged to pay any additional amount.
14. Origin Housing requires all organisations signing for an award to hold the following documentation. By signing this form you hold the relevant documents for the project Origin Housing are pledging against, and your organisation agrees to provide these to Origin Housing if it is deemed necessary.

Funded organisations/groups must ensure that:

1. A bank account is in operation into which payment can be made. We cannot pay into individual bank accounts; if your group does not have an official bank account you will need to ask an organisation to hold the money for you. If you are applying as an individual resident with no resident group with a bank account in your area, we may have to hold money for you (contact us if you need help with this).
2. All legal and insurance liabilities associated with the project are fulfilled.
3. Appropriate safeguarding measures are implemented such as DBS checks.
4. A completed evaluation and monitoring form with appropriate information is provided at the end of the project.

If you have any concerns or questions about the above requirements or anything else related to this application form please contact the Community development team on [community.development@originhousing.org.uk](mailto:community.development@originhousing.org.uk).  
  
Documents that may be required if applicable:

1. Public liability insurance
2. Statement evidencing that all staff and practitioners are DBS checked to the required standards for the project being undertaken.
3. Risk Assessment
4. Quotation to support listed expenditures on the application