Rochdale Borough Council (RBC) created the ‘Innovation Fund’ (‘the Fund’) as part of the Local Welfare Provision programme, which has been in place since the introduction of the Welfare Reform Act 2012. The Fund provides financial assistance to small community projects each year and is delivered within existing allocated budgets.

The Fund focusses on achieving:

* Support to vulnerable residents impacted by welfare reform to help them avoid crisis point;
* Offering support to smaller community groups and start up organisations;
* Engagement and promotion of personal & financial independence;
* Response for people who are on low incomes to help them avoid crisis point.

These focuses are within the wider context of housing and fit with the interdependencies of the housing service.

**For 2024 total grant funding will be split across 5 project groups, each of which has its own deliverables and aims while still feeding into the focuses listed above.**

Project Groups:

* Private Rented Sector support
* Support for veterans
* Debt and Welfare Advice
* Housing support for low income singles and families
* Support (relevant to housing and the wider context) for volunteering and grass roots organisations

The fund is aimed at organisations that are either based in the Rochdale Borough or organisations providing support for people in the borough. It is for improving the provisions of housing welfare and organisations should focus on how they can help people in the borough from a housing perspective.

The Grant Application process will be available on the CHEST (please see below for details) for 4 weeks. Organisations can apply within 1 of 2 categories; £0-£10,000 or £11,000 - £25,000.

Organisations in receipt of the fund will have to report to Rochdale council bi-annually, to evidence deliverables set out in the application. The fund is for a period of 12 months from April 2024 – March 2025, organisations must be ready to mobilise funds within this period. If organisations appear to be failing to mobilise funds they must notify the authority as soon as possible, at this point RBC reserve the right to withdraw funding if necessary.

The fund is only open to registered charities, social enterprises, not for profit, community interest companies, community benefit societies and co-operative societies.

Applying through the chest:

Below is a link RBC’s website explaining how to register on the CHGEST and how to apply.

 [Search our open quotations and tenders | Doing business with us - tenders and contracts | Rochdale Borough Council](https://www.rochdale.gov.uk/business-licensing/tenders-contracts/4)

For relevant GDPR and code of conduct with the information provided please see the CHEST.