We’ve launched the 2nd year of our 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 as we recover from the impact of the pandemic.

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 for projects that support one or more of our Community Investment priorities listed below:

* Supporting families – community events, youth projects, arts.
* Increase financial resilience- help people become more confident about managing money, debt management and maximise their income.
* Support physical and mental wellbeing - tackle social Isolation amongst older residents and or others in the community affected by loneliness.
* Employment and skills – access to training, work experience, local enterprises and start-ups.
* Race and equality – tackles inequalities, promotes and celebrate diversity within our communities
* Investment in community safety - projects that contribute to tackling climate change such as gardening and tree growing or other safety concerns.

**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. Your project should be no more than 1 mile from Origin homes so that our residents can primarily benefit.
* 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 Origin staff.

* 21 May – 30 June (decision in July 2021)
* 5 July – 13 August (decision in September 2021)
* 23 August – 1st October (decision in November 2021)

**\*New for 2021-2022\* - Resident Fastrack Applications**

Origin residents and resident groups are encouraged to apply to the fund for projects that benefit their communities. All applications requesting funding of £500 or under and the project/activity is at least 6 weeks from the date submitted will be fast-tracked and receive a response to the request within 1 calendar month. The Community Development team will support residents with their idea and application to increase the chance of successfully securing funding.

**How to apply**

You must read our Terms and Conditions before applying for our community fund.

Once you are happy with all the terms and conditions, you must complete the application form on our website.

Link to Resident fast-track application form (Origin residents and for projects under £500 only)

Link to Application form.

**Contact us**

## If you have any questions or wish to discuss your idea with us, email. 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. The grant must be used within six months of receipt, unless otherwise agreed in advance with Origin Housing in writing.
3. In exceptional circumstances, the grant can be withdrawn or withheld at Origin Housing’s discretion.
4. Any part of the grant that is not used for the project must be refunded back to Origin Housing.
5. 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.
1. The grant is made on a 'one-off’ basis and does not carry any commitment to future funding.
2. The project must be **delivered within 1 mile of our properties** and engage Origin residents through targeted promotion with impact demonstrated through reporting of **number of beneficiaries that are Origin residents**.
3. The project leader needs to return completed evaluation, monitoring forms and financial breakdown of how the grant was used **no later than one month** after the end date of the project **if the project duration is less than 6 months**. We require quarterly progress report for **projects that are 12 months long (highlighting total number of beneficiaries, number of Origin residents and progress so far with few pictures)**. Failure to do so will make the organisation ineligible for future grants. **A template monitoring form to be used for reporting at the end of your project have been attached to this award letter.** Monitoring and evaluation reports should be submitted by email to community.development@originhousing.org.uk
4. The Origin Housing logo will be attached to all publicity materials and shared with Origin Housing.
5. Origin Housing may use your name in any publicity material.
6. The project shall comply with any legal obligations that may be relevant to carry out the scheme, such as planning, licensing, employment, health and safety, insurance and equal opportunities legislation.
7. Origin Housing reserves the right to share the information you have provided with relevant parties (e.g. Charity Commission) where appropriate.
8. Any Value Added Tax (VAT) payable by your organisation is your responsibility and Origin Housing shall not be obliged to pay any additional amount.
9. 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, and your organisation agrees to provide these to Origin Housing if it is deemed necessary before project commence.  Full payment may be delayed if all the necessary documents are not provided.
* Public liability insurance
* Evidencing that all staff and practitioners are DBS checked to the required standards for the project being undertaken.
* Risk Assessment
* Quotation to support listed expenditures on the application
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.  Ask us for a form to be completed by holding organisation and your organisation. 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).