



CLARION
HOUSING GROUP

Clarion Futures Communities Grants

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Clarion Futures

About us (in brief)...

Clarion Housing Group was formed following the merger in 2016 of Affinity Sutton Group Limited and Circle Housing Group.

Clarion Futures is the *charitable foundation* for Clarion Housing Group.

“Our mission is to provide people with the tools and support they need to overcome their challenges, transforming lives and communities for the better”

Clarion Futures consists of three core parts; **Communities**, Jobs & Training, and Money & Digital

Each core part is broken up into geographical regions – I work for the **London South Communities Team** and cover Croydon, Merton and Sutton.

Clarion Futures (as a whole) will invest £150 million over ten years.

Clarion Futures Communities

Our ambitions...

...at a glance:

- make our estates more welcoming
- support our community centres
- support our young people to make a better start in life (through sports, arts, education programmes)
- support our older people and residents in sheltered schemes
- offer **positive outcomes** to our residents and those participating in projects we fund such as; learning a new skill, volunteering, certificated training, work tasters and jobs, enterprise skills, life skills

*We do this by:

- commissioning organisations to deliver local projects
- **providing grants** to organisations, groups and residents to run local projects

*(*we do more, but these two approaches are the most relevant to today)*

MUST ENGAGE CLARION RESIDENTS IN POSITIVE ACTIVITIES



1

National Community Grant programme

- Administered by Groundwork
- Up to £5k per project
- On line application
- Specific monitoring requirements
- **Resident led!** Clarion customers in the form of a resident panel make the final decision on applications

2

Local Micro-grants

- Administered by local Clarion Futures Communities team
- Usually around £500 per project
- Basic monitoring requirements in the form of a single page report
- Clarion Futures Communities team assess applications

National Community Grant programme...up to £5k

Essential Criteria (available in full on line)

- ***Your project will primarily support Clarion residents***
- You must be a **member of a community, voluntary or charity group**
- You are a **charity or constituted group** with a governing document in the name of your group
- Your group/organisation's **annual income** last year was **less than £500,000**
- Your group/organisation's **management committee** consists of at least 3 unrelated members
- You are requesting a grant of between **£1,000 and £5,000**
- Your project should consider **equality and diversity**
- Your group/organisation has the **relevant insurance and policies** in place
- Your project has received **written permission from the Landowner** if relevant (e.g. for open spaces projects)
- Your project will be **completed within 12 months** (or you have agreed a slightly longer timescale with Groundwork)
- Your group/organisation has **not received a grant from this programme during the previous funding round**
- Your group/organisation has **met the terms and conditions of any previous grant(s) awarded** through this programme

Micro-grants...usually up to £500

Essential Criteria (some aspects may change depending on type of micro grant and if it is for a specific theme such as “older people”)

- ***Your project will primarily support Clarion residents*** and the communities in which they live
- You are applying for funding for **up to £500.00**
- You have a **bank account**
- Your project and application will be **assessed by its outcomes** which could be:-
 - Improving open spaces (e.g. community planting days, community area improved)
 - Volunteering (number of hours volunteered)
 - New activity (e.g. an innovative idea, trying something different)
 - Youth Social Action Project or training (doing something positive to improve the neighbourhood or benefit others)

Insider info...

What to consider when applying for a Clarion Futures Communities grant ...

- It's a very competitive process so **make your project stand out**
- How will you ensure your project will **primarily support Clarion residents** and the communities in which they live?
- How have you identified a **need** for your project? Have you engaged with people from the area? Have you looked at the needs of people living in the area and will your project meet that need?
- Does your offer **positive outcomes**? (*volunteering, learning a new skill, certificated training, life skills (e.g. budgeting)?*)
- Does your project fit with our **ambitions**? *Supporting young or older people, make our estates more welcoming or support our community centres*
- **Be clear about the budget** you need
- Is your project **value for money**? *What is the cost per person and what is the benefit?*
- Are you **working in partnership** with anyone to deliver it?
- Have you got any other funding for the project whether **in-kind funding or cash money**? **Is this funding secured (if not, can you deliver your project without it??**
- How can you **evidence and measure the impact** and benefit of your project?

Insider info...

Why are applications unsuccessful...?

Examples I have come across include:

- Not effectively demonstrated need
- Another project was more in need of the funding and there is a limited pot of money
- Low number of Clarion residents will benefit
- Could be unlucky and be one of a few organisations applying for funds for very similar projects
- Not value for money

It is a very competitive process!

Help is at hand

Just ask...

Talk to us at Clarion Futures – we are here to help!

You can run your project idea past us before applying, talk to us about needs and gaps that exist in our communities

Contact:

John Horwood, Neighbourhood Investment Officer

John.horwood@clarionhg.com

Groundwork also offer support to organisations, build capacity, and signpost to other sources of help and funding if you are not eligible for this grant or are unsuccessful in your application.

Q&A



**THANK
YOU**

Clarion Housing Group

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