

## Digital Support Derbyshire Small Grants 2026–2028 Guidance Notes

In April 2026, Digital Support Derbyshire were awarded further funding from Derbyshire County Council to continue the successful Digital Inclusion Small Grants Scheme. This will support Voluntary and Community Sector Partners within the Digital Support Derbyshire Network to address the identified digital inclusion needs of local communities across Derbyshire.

### Purpose of the Grants

The aim of the grants is to assist local providers of digital inclusion support across Derbyshire to enable more residents to be digitally included, connected and confident.

### Priorities of this Grant Pot

The DSD Governance Panel are currently looking for groups and services that would meet at least one or more of the following priorities:

- Providing one-to-one digital support, either in people's homes or in a community setting.
- Increasing the number of Digital Champions in Derbyshire (volunteers who help others build skills and confidence online).
- Cascading digital skills to reach more people and add value. For example, by training Digital Champions who would then support group members to become Digital Champions themselves.
- Working in geographical areas where there are currently gaps in digital inclusion support across Derbyshire. A map of current digital inclusion projects is available on [Digital Support Map - Rural Action Derbyshire](#)
- Projects that combine resources and work in partnership with other groups.
- Projects that take an innovative approach and test new ways of delivering support.
- Digital Health and NHS app work, utilising the DSD Digital Health toolkit or working with primary care and their GP surgeries.

### What will we fund?

- New services or activities that meet one or more of the priorities above. This could include DSD Small Grants projects extending their service by adding a new digital inclusion activity or working in a new digitally excluded location.
- Revenue costs associated with delivering your project. Including salaries, rent, training for increased capacity or expansion projects.
- Reasonable capital costs (quotes required). However, if seeking funding for devices for participants to use within your project, we will signpost you to the Device Recycling Project in the first instance.

## Eligibility

To be eligible to apply, an organisation must be:

- A voluntary, community, Faith and Social Enterprise group with a constitution/a written set of rules that constitute what they do.
- Based or working in Derbyshire (excluding Derby) and a DSD Member (if you're not already a member, please contact [s.tock@ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk](mailto:s.tock@ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk) to sign up).

## What and who cannot be funded?

Applications will not be accepted from groups/organisations that are:

- Trading for profit or are statutory services or are intending to redistribute grant awards.
- Aimed at increasing the membership of a particular political party or the promotion of one religious belief.
- Projects that have already taken place or are activities based outside of Derbyshire.
- Running activities that don't contribute to the priorities of the DSD Grants Programme.
- Applying for devices and equipment for projects that could be provided via the Device Refurbishing Project.

## Amount of Grants

Applications can range from £5,000 - £10,000. The grant amount should take the number of people you intend to support into consideration, the length of the project and the type of support e.g. group or one to one.

## Timeframe

All projects need to start on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2026. There are two options for running times:

- 18 months: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2026 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2028 (this is the preferred option)
- 12 months: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2026 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2027 (please discuss with the DSD team beforehand)

## How to Apply

Applications are via this link [APPLICATION FORM - DIGITAL SUPPORT DERBYSHIRE SMALL GRANTS 2026-28 – Fill out form](#). A copy of the questions to enable you to prepare and collect the required information beforehand is available on our website. Please take time to carefully read through the questions and consider what your project could realistically achieve, as this information will also be used alongside future monitoring.

Projects are also offered an opportunity to have an informal discussion with the DSD team prior to making the application. Details will be provided on dates and times.

**Applications will be open from 9am on the 25<sup>th</sup> May to 1pm on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026.**

## How decisions are made

Applications will be considered by the DSD Governance Panel, made up of representatives from RAD, DCC and a voluntary sector representative. Successful applicants will be informed within 2 weeks of the decision being made. You will be asked to complete a grant agreement form along with details of your group's bank account.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

All recipients of grant funding are expected to complete monitoring and evaluation documents. DSD will request a monitoring report every 6 months and an additional final report on completion of the project. Monitoring will be linked to the information given in your initial application; it is therefore important to keep us updated on any changes, delays or setbacks.

## **Payments**

Grants will be paid in three stages:

- 50% at the start of the project
- 40% after the first 6 months (on satisfactory completion of the first monitoring report)
- 10% after the project has finished (on satisfactory completion of the final report)

## **Feedback on unsuccessful applications**

If your application is unsuccessful, DSD can offer you feedback on your application and signpost you on to other organisations offering advice on funding.

If you have any questions or need further information, please email Sam Tock: [s.tock@ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk](mailto:s.tock@ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk).