Forest of Dean Food Network Small Grants 2025-26

This is **a one-off fund of £35,000** for not for profit and community groups – both constituted and non-constituted (a minimum of three people), to contribute to activities which enables or improves the equity of access to food for all communities in the Forest of Dean District. This is a fund to support activity in your community to strengthen resilience and provide equal opportunity for the whole community.

The fund is centred around food which is purposefully broad to encourage new ideas as well as old.

Famed chef, author, and culinary educator James Beard said, "**Food is our common ground, a universal experience**," highlighting how sharing meals transcends cultures, builds connections, and tells stories of heritage, making it a fundamental, unifying human activity.

We are inviting requests over £200 to the region of £2,500*

*whilst we have this upper limit, we recognise that there may be projects which may need more funding. We would encourage these applicants to contact Fran Palmer *in advance of applying (contact details at the end of this form)*

The funding is managed by the Forest of Dean District Council's Community Team and the Forest Food Network (members of that network are not excluded from applying for funding).

Applications are now welcome and will be considered on a first come basis and funds will be available until depleted.

Who may apply

All applicants must:

- 1a) Be a not for profit or registered charitable organisation with a constitution or set of rules which lay out the aims of the organisation and how it operates and be able to demonstrate how they develop relationships and support networks with the people they are involved with *OR*
- 1b) Be a Community Interest Company *OR*
- 1c) Be a group of people (minimum of three people) who have come together for a specific project/activity and have a plan of action which clearly identifies what they intend to do, how the award would be spent and what difference their project/activity will make to their community and must align to the funding priorities and criteria

- 2) Be able to demonstrate that they are inclusive and enable equitably – irrespective of age, gender, ability, sexual orientation, race or creed
- 3) Have a bank account in the name of the organisation and have at least two unrelated signatories to that account *OR*
- 3b) Have the support of a constituted organisation who has agreed to be the banker of your project
- 4) Demonstrate that the initiative does not duplicate any other existing effective arrangements or projects
- 5) Explain if they are working in partnership with others and who they are.

Please ensure that you get an *acknowledgement of receipt* of your application once submitted. This will be *your* responsibility to do so.

What happens after applications have been completed?

- Applications will be assessed by the Forest Food Network Officer to make sure that they meet the criteria and all information received. Applications will then be sent to the panel members for a decision.
- Upon the receipt of a completed application, you will receive notification of our decision for funding under £500 within 21 working days and for funding over £500 within 28 working days.
- Successful applicants will receive a funding agreement to sign and return.

Please contact Dom van Marsh within the communities' team for any questions you have regarding this process on 01594 810000 or email FFN.SmallGrants@fdean.gov.uk