



MAKE A DIFFERENCE GRANT PROGRAMME 2026

Application Guidelines

About the programme

- BAVO's Make A Difference Grant Programme provides £100,000 to support community and voluntary groups making a difference in Bridgend County Borough.
- Applications must be submitted by 12 noon on 6 October 2026, with all required documents.
- Micro grants: up to £500. Project grants: up to £3,000. Only one application per organisation is permitted in any 12-month period.
- For a paper copy of the form, visit the BAVO website. For a Welsh-language version, email grantsadmin@bavo.org.uk.

Eligibility

- Constituted voluntary or community organisations based in Bridgend County Borough and serving Bridgend residents may apply.
- Successful applicants must be BAVO members or have applied and be eligible for membership.
- Applicants must have no outstanding balances to BAVO or overdue grant returns.
- Private businesses, profit-making organisations and statutory bodies (including local authorities, schools, and town/community councils) are not eligible.
- Organisations/Projects not serving Bridgend county Borough are ineligible.

What can/can't be funded?

- Funding should demonstrate a clear benefit to people and communities in Bridgend County Borough.
- Examples include energy costs, room hire, project expenses, events, a wide range of projects including cultural/green/environmental, equipment, training, repairs and maintenance, and volunteer expenses.
- Request for Food purchases / refreshment costs are limited to £100
- Main grants will fund an amount toward salaries, and up to 10% of management overheads subject to Terms and conditions (see ** below)
- Microgrants will not fund management or overhead costs, and are not intended to fund salaries.

Information required

- New organisations (under 18 months): evidence of activity in Bridgend; signed constitution with at least three Board members; recent bank statement (within three months) showing two unrelated signatories; management information; completed application and budget; annual turnover below £50,000.
- New successful organisations receive 50% upfront, with the balance released after receipts for the first payment are provided.
- Existing organisations: governing document (or Memorandum and Articles); registration number where applicable; management committee with at least three officers; recent bank statement showing two unrelated signatories; most recent annual accounts/income and expenditure (no more than 20 months old); turnover below £50,000.
- Local church groups and local branches of nationally constituted organisations are exempt from the turnover limit, provided funding is ring-fenced for Bridgend activities and beneficiaries.
- All supporting documents must be submitted with the application to grantsadmin@bavo.org.uk. Clearly include your group's name.

Grant amounts and conditions

- Micro grants of up to £500 provide a quicker route for small events or items.
- Main grants are up to £3,000.
- Awarded funds must be spent within 12 months; unspent funds must be returned to BAVO.
- Successful applicants must promptly sign and return the offer letter. If this is not completed, the grant may be reallocated, without further reminders.
- Retrospective funding is not permitted.
- Management/overhead costs for main grants are subject to the terms set out below **.

Assessment

- Applications missing required information or attachments will not be considered. Applicants are responsible for providing the completed questionnaire, recent bank statement, constitution, relevant policies and any other items requested.
- BAVO staff will conduct a preliminary review and may request clarification or further information.
- The Grant Assessment Panel aims to meet in early October 2026, with successful applicants notified by the end of October. Do not chase for a response.
- Funding is limited. BAVO's decision is final and there is no appeals process.

Monitoring and promotion

- Successful applicants must meet with BAVO to understand reporting requirements and provide a project report and/or case study within 12 months of the award.
- Monitoring information must be sent to grantsadmin@bavo.org.uk by the deadline in the signed terms and conditions.
- BAVO may arrange project visits.

- Receipts/invoices, or clearly defined bank-statement evidence, must be provided for expenditure.
- Successful applicants must acknowledge BAVO funding on relevant social media and use the 'Supported by BAVO' logo/frame which we will provide.
- The BAVO 'Make A Difference' grant must be referenced in your annual accounts.

Costs guidance

- ** Overheads are ongoing organisational costs not directly linked to a specific activity, such as rent, utilities, insurance, internet/telephone, stationery, accounting, bank charges, software, administration/management salaries, appropriate volunteer expenses, governance, and website costs.
- Direct project costs include materials/equipment, event venue hire, workshop facilitators, catering, transport and event-specific marketing. Grants should primarily support activities, equipment and services that directly benefit the community.
- ** The contribution towards general organisational overheads and management costs must not exceed 10% of the total grant request. / Do not claim overheads twice. If specific items are included (for example, paper, broadband or telephone costs), do not also try to claim a separate percentage for general overheads.
- If staff wages are included, confirm whether staff are paid the National Minimum Wage or Real Living Wage. BAVO supports the Real Living Wage and encourages employers to pay at least the current rate of £13.45 per hour.

Next steps and support

- Ready to apply? Submit your completed application and supporting documents by **12 noon on 6 October 2026**.
- For queries or application support, email grantsadmin@bavo.org.uk or call 01656 810400.
- BAVO administers the programme and can provide support and advice with applications.