

Solidarity Fund

Launch Webinar



Why the Solidarity Fund matters

- Short term grants address urgent needs. But they do not allow communities space on changing the root causes and breaking the cycle of inequality
- Throughout the development phase, we heard the desire to work long term on changing systems



What the Solidarity Fund offers?

- 10% of our England portfolio
- £25M in 2025/6, growing to £50M from 2026/7
- Around 10 organisations in 2025/6, increasing thereafter
- Phase one (2025/6): long term core grants 5-10 years, £1-5m
- Phase two (2026/7): development funding and more than a funder approach.



Five criteria of Solidarity Fund



Systemic change

**Lived experience
accountability**

**Strengthening
solidarity**

Building power

**Cultivating
knowledge**

Systemic change

Systemic change means addressing the deep-rooted structures and policies that keep people in poverty or facing discrimination.

We want to support organisations that go beyond short-term fixes including on providing services, and focus on shifting power, reshaping decision-making, and creating long-term solutions.

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Lived experience accountability

Accountability ensures that those most affected by injustice have the power and resources to lead change.

The Solidarity Fund will prioritise organisations where people with direct experience of the issues being tackled are in leadership positions, shaping solutions and influencing decisions.

Strengthening solidarity

Strengthening solidarity is about connecting issues and bringing people together to challenge inequality.

We want to support organisations that recognise the interconnected nature of social injustices and work across different communities and organisations to build alliances for systemic change.

Building power

Building power within communities is essential to lasting change.

This means ensuring people have the skills, confidence, and resources to organise, influence decisions, and challenge systems that affect their lives.

We aim to support organisations that are helping people take collective action and strengthen their ability to shape their own futures.

Cultivating knowledge

Cultivating knowledge is about making learning useful for action.

We are looking to fund organisations that generate and share knowledge in ways that grow community power, shift public understanding, and influence systems and decisions.

This could include research, storytelling, or other forms of knowledge that help communities organise and advocate for change.

Who can apply?

- Not-for profit organisation in England
- Work accountable to lived experience
- System change ambition
- Working on building power, knowledge and solidarity
- Manage £1-£5M over 5-10 years



The change we'll fund



Imagine campaigns that reshape national policy or stories that shift public opinion.

We want to back work that:

Delivers lasting change to the root causes of poverty, disadvantage or discrimination

Brings people together across issues and geographies to act in solidarity

Builds power and learning by equipping communities to organise, speak out and influence systems

Funding details & timeline



Here's how it works:

- **Grant size:** £1 million-£5 million per award
- **Duration:** Spread over 5-10 years, with phased payments
- **Cohort rounds:** Launch on 11 June 2025; cohort starts together thereafter
- **Grant-making moments:** Decisions in December 2025 and March 2026

Reaching Communities – our flagship open grants



Our flagship **Reaching Communities** programme remains the cornerstone of locally delivered, open-access funding.

From April 2025, its criteria is aligning with our England thematic priorities to support community spaces, health, children and young people, and the environment. It funds up to five years, projects and activities that meet immediate local needs and foster connections.

How they differ:

- **Reaching Communities:** Open to all eligible groups; funds projects up to five years, aligning with missions of the fund and England priorities
- **Solidarity Fund:** Low volume of applications cohort-based, long-term core grants (5-10 years) for systemic change, and building power, knowledge and solidarity.

Process and decision making



Our Two-Stage Process & Decision Making

1. Outline proposal

1. Share your vision, approach and budget overview
2. Decision in up to three months by the Peer Review Panel, chaired by a Head of Funding Development

2. Full proposal

1. Detailed plan, risk assessment and governance
2. Decision in up to five months by the Solidarity Fund Decision Panel, including external experts and England Committee members

Panels meet in December 2025, March 2026, and then June and September 2026

Next Steps



- Launch date of 11 June 2025,
- Explore our blogs on each criteria
- And reach out to solidarityfund@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk if you have any further questions.