

**Grow & Eat Community Grant**

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

What is the Grow & Eat Grant?

The Grow & Eat Grant is part of the Grow & Eat project, a collaboration between North Tyneside VODA, Public Health and Active North Tyneside.

The aim of “Grow & Eat” is to raise awareness of the benefits of growing-your-own, and to help communities in North Tyneside make more efficient use of their space, in order to grow food and improve their health and wellbeing.

The Grow & Eat grant aims to help beneficiaries improve or create their own community garden or growing project, by providing funding towards this goal. Successful applicants demonstrate a keen commitment to developing their space into an active and useful hub for their community, where people can come together to socialise, be active and learn about the benefits of healthy fresh food, through the shared activity of gardening and growing food.

**To reach as many organisations, groups and individuals as possible, the Grow & Eat grant is organised in three tiers, which serve different types of applicants and can cover a wide variety of funding needs in the borough.**

**Tier 1:**

Individuals and informal or non-constituted groups can apply for a starter kit up to the value of £250 in order to develop a communal space for growing, which they have identified in their local area as suitable for this activity. The starter kits will include things such as raised planter-building kits, gardening tools or hand tools, equipment, compost, plants, seeds and other items and will be customisable according to the group’s needs. Applicants will need to have permission from the owner of the land to use the space in this manner.

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| **PLEASE NOTE: The funding cannot be used to develop a private space that can’t be accessed by the public and doesn’t provide a community benefit.** |



**Tier 2/Main tier**:

Applicants which will be considered for the main tier of the grant include organisations in the VCSE sector, based in North Tyneside or benefitting North Tyneside residents. Applicants can apply for support of up to £500 to help them create a new, or improve an existing garden or growing space. In their application they will need to outline the plan for the space as well as discuss the anticipated benefits for the community.

**Tier 3:**

Tier 3 of the Grow & Eat grant refers to the maximum amount of funding that eligible organisations can apply for. In addition to the criteria outlined above for Tier 2, applicants for Tier 3 funding, need to be based **in an area with a high IMD**, where there is greater anticipated benefit for the communities they serve. The amount of funding available in Tier 3 is £750 per organisation, although applications exceeding this amount will still be considered.

Examples of organisations that can apply for Tiers 2 and 3 of the Grow & Eat grant are:

* Constituted groups
* Social enterprises with a charitable purpose
* Community Interest Companies (CIC)
* Registered charities\*

The following will **not** be considered for Tiers 2 and 3 of the grant:

* Organisations not based in or not benefitting North Tyneside residents.
* Informal/non-constituted groups (please see Tier 1 guidance)
* Schools
* Individuals
* Sole traders
* For-profit organisations
* Organisations that have already been awarded the Grow & Eat grant in a period of 12 months between the current and last application. If you have previously been successful in the Grow & Eat application, you can submit again twelve (12) months after the date of your previous application.



**All applicants will receive a written decision on their application via their preferred communication method, within four weeks of their submission.**

There is no set deadline and grant applications will be reviewed periodically and until all funding has been allocated. Successful applicants are required to use the grant within six (6) months of receipt and to provide receipts for materials and services they used the grant for within one (1) month of final spending of the funds. Completed applications should be returned:

**By email:** [Vicky.batsioudi@voda.org.uk](mailto:Vicky.batsioudi@voda.org.uk)

**By post:** C/O Vicky Batsioudi - Grow & Eat Development Officer North Tyneside VODA 2nd Floor Customer First Centre Spirit of North Tyneside Wing 16 The Forum Wallsend NE28 8JR



What can the grant be used for?

Organisations in the charity sector can apply for or may use the grant for the following purposes:

* To create or develop an outdoor space with the view of using some of that space to grow food, which their local community can benefit from, either through direct engagement with the gardening project or though the affordable provision of healthy, fresh food or through educational activities for the users of the space (children, elderly, young adults, families and more)
* The purchase of plants, seeds, seedlings, fruit trees and fruit shrubs
* The purchase of compost, soil improvers, manure, various types of mulch and similar
* For the purchase or hire, where applicable, of garden maintenance and personal equipment such as garden tools (spades, forks, secateurs, trowels etc.), gloves, kneepads and similar
* The purchase or construction of structures such as cold frames, polytunnels, greenhouses, glasshouses and materials for the building of structures like raised beds and similar.
* The promotion, through the use of flyers, posters and online campaign, of the food growing/gardening project to their local community in order to increase and/or retain interest and participation, although only part of the grant can be used for this purpose.
* Training costs to support project development.

The list above is not exhaustive, so, if you are unsure whether your project’s purposes meet the Grow & Eat’s grant criteria, please get in touch with the Grow & Eat Development Officer at [Vicky.batsioudi@voda.org.uk](mailto:Vicky.batsioudi@voda.org.uk).

What the grant may **not** be used for:

* Payments to individuals, not consistent with the purposes stated above
* Activities or projects which other agencies should fund as part of their work
* Activities or projects which do not promote healthy lifestyles to communities
* The purchase of herbicides and pesticides harmful to the environment
* The purchase of unsustainable materials, when more sustainable options of comparable cost are available
* Activities that do not promote the ethos and goals of the Grow & Eat project as stated above
* Activities that do not benefit North Tyneside residents



Some of the projects we have funded over the first year of Grow & Eat include but are not limited to:

* **LD: North East** was awarded funding in order to help its service users “to get outside and involved in something productive leading to a positive impact on people’s mental health.”
* **Walking with** was awarded funding “to deliver and develop an outdoor area, which can be used for the production of simple foodstuff, and items of beauty (flowers); to feed both body and soul, using a system of permaculture.”
* **Shiremoor Adventure Playground** was awarded funding for the **purchase of fruit trees** for the creation of an orchard within the nature space/area of the playground.
* **SPARCS** was awarded funding to create a boundary around the plot they were given in Shiremoor allotments, as that would make it possible for their service users, young people with autism, to be able to make full use of their plot without straying off into areas of the allotment where they couldn’t be.

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The list above is not exhaustive and it serves to illustrate the variety of organisations and projects that have been and can be funded by the Grow & Eat project.

If you are not sure whether your project or plan is eligible for funding, please get in touch with Grow & Eat’s officer at [Vicky.batsioudi@voda.org.uk](mailto:Vicky.batsioudi@voda.org.uk) to discuss further.

Applicants are encouraged to contact the Grow & Eat officer to get help with their group and/or application and are encouraged to apply again, if at first unsuccessful.

**\* PLEASE SEE VODA’S HELPFUL GUIDE** [**HERE**](https://voda.org.uk/support-for-groups/) **ON HOW TO SET UP YOUR CHARITABLE GROUP.**



APPLICATION FORM

Before filling in the application, please make sure that your group meets the criteria as stated in the application guidelines, accompanying this document.

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| Name of Group or Organisation |  |
| Type of Organisation (for example: Constituted group, CIC etc.) |  |
| Main contact name |  |
| Telephone number |  |
| Email address |  |
| Group or Main contact’s address |  |
| Tier of funding you are applying for |  |
| Group’s bank account details | Group name:  Bank or Building Society:  Sort code:  Account number: |

1. What will you be using the grant for? Please see in accompanying document what you can use the grant for. (Maximum 200 words.)

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1. Please briefly explain how your project will benefit the local community. (Maximum 200 words)

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1. Please provide a brief description on how you plan to create or improve the growing space that you would like funding for. (Maximum 200 words)

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1. Where will the food growing/gardening project be located? Please provide address and postcode below.

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1. Briefly describe how you plan to evaluate your project. For example, will you be using before and after pictures, participant surveys or other methods? (Maximum 150 words)

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1. How much money are you applying for? (Up to £750)

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1. How do you plan to spend this money? (See allowed use in guidelines)

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| Item | Quantity | Total Cost |
| For example: 100L Compost bag | 4 | £36 |
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Date: …………………………… Signature of main contact: …………………………