



Smokefree Generation Small Grants Programme 2026

Guidance for applicants

Introduction

East Sussex County Council (ESCC) is funding Hastings Voluntary Action (HVA) to deliver the **Smokefree Generation Small Grants Programme**. The programme provides funding to voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations and youth organisations working in Hastings.

Programme Aims

The Smokefree Generation Small Grants Programme aims to:

- Improve the health and wellbeing of local communities by reducing smoking.
- Increase the knowledge, skills and confidence of VCSE and youth organisations to raise the issue of smoking and discuss evidence-based quitting options available through One You East Sussex (OYES).
- Increase awareness of local stop smoking support provided by OYES.
- Increase professional and self-referrals to OYES stop smoking services.
- Increase the number of community members trained in Making Every Contact Count (MECC).

Total funding available: £40,000

Funding Criteria

To be eligible for funding:

- Applications must be submitted by constituted groups, charities, or social enterprises.
- Each application must include your governing document and most recent annual accounts.
- Funded activities must take place within the Hastings Borough boundary, and beneficiaries must live in this area.

- Successful organisations must attend stop smoking service awareness and MECC training provided by OYES. This will take place online on 19th May 2026.
- Projects must be completed by the end of November 2026, and all monitoring information submitted by 14 December 2026.
- Applications will be assessed based on how well they contribute to programme aims and engage priority population groups (listed below), as determined by the grants panel.

Priority Population Groups

Priority will be given to organisations working with, or planning to engage, the following groups:

- People in routine and manual occupations
- People with long-term mental health conditions
- People receiving or who have received treatment for alcohol or substance use
- People from racially minoritised communities
- People who are insecurely housed
- People experiencing poverty or financial hardship, including those unemployed
- People in contact with the criminal justice system
- LGBTQ+ people
- People with a learning disability
- People with respiratory conditions, such as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

Examples of Eligible Activities

Funding may be used to support activities such as:

- Developing or introducing organisational smokefree policies
- Advertising campaigns highlighting the financial and health benefits of quitting smoking and promoting local support services
- Producing leaflets, adverts, podcasts, or other resources promoting smoking cessation



- Delivering workshops or training sessions (for example, for young people)
- Providing peer support to help people quit and stay smokefree, including support to attend stop smoking appointments
- Hosting community events focused on smoking cessation and available local support

Activities We Cannot Fund

We are unable to fund:

- Applications from individuals
- Political or religious activities
- Activities that do not contribute to programme aims
- Salaries of existing staff for work already included within their normal roles
- Retrospective applications for projects that have already started or been completed

Monitoring and Reporting

All funded organisations must submit a brief progress report at the conclusion of their projects outlining their delivery and outcomes. This may include:

- Case studies
- Outputs
- Pre- and post-activity surveys
- Testimonials
- Successes and lessons learned

Your grant offer letter will provide details of the data you must collect to complete the final project report.

Successful applicants will be asked to sign a funding agreement issued by Hastings Voluntary Action in order to release funding.



Other information

We have tried to make the application form as simple as possible. However, we reserve the right to ask for more information about your organisation/ group and your proposed activity or project.

If your application is successful, the grant will be paid via BACS by Hastings Voluntary Action.

Activities funded by this project must comply with the law and government regulations in force at the time of delivery. Should these regulations unexpectedly change, you should get in touch with us to discuss options for your project. These may include a return of the funding or suspension of the project.

Organisations may be asked to return any unspent funds or money not used for the purposes outlined in the application.

Successful applicants must acknowledge ESCC in any publicity.

The decision of the Small Grants panel is final.

If you have any questions or would like advice, please contact Jan Papworth by emailing jan@hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk.

Email your completed application form to jan@hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk by 9.00 am on Monday 13 April 2026.