



Fairness, Respect, Equality Shropshire Equality Grants Application Guidance

1. **Who are Fairness, Respect, Equality Shropshire (FRESH) Ltd?**

FRESH is a Community Benefit Society – another name for a community co-operative. We were set up in June 2013 to promote equality, diversity and the elimination of unfair treatment and discrimination within and beyond Shropshire. We do this in different ways, including:

- Networking to encourage discussion and action on equality, diversity and anti-discrimination
- Monitoring equality and diversity practice in agencies with a statutory equality duty, and supporting them to meet equality and diversity obligations in policy and service delivery
- Identifying and challenging oppressive and discriminatory views and behaviour
- Campaigning publicly for good equality and diversity practice and improvements in poor practice

We work to improve the quality and effectiveness of equality and diversity practice through education, learning, consultancy and support. We host a quarterly open Equality Forum, and we also support local community equality and anti-discrimination projects, initiatives and events by providing these small grants.

2. **What are the FRESH equality grants?**

Our predecessor, Shropshire Equalities Forum set up a small equalities grants scheme in 2005. This proved popular and highly successful; many local Shropshire events have been started and continued thanks to both start-up and repeat funding from the scheme.

FRESH is continuing this with our own Equality Grants Scheme. It's really simple to apply for a grant, which can be up to £250.00 per organisation per year.

We give grants for projects, campaigns or events which:

- Promote equality, diversity and anti-discrimination
- Engage local communities in equality, diversity and anti-discrimination issues
- Provide equality, diversity and anti-discrimination information, training or resources for local communities or organisations

And which:

- Demonstrate commitment to FRESH's values
- Demonstrate positive equality, diversity or anti-discrimination outcomes
- Demonstrate a contribution towards multi-cultural community cohesion



Examples of such projects, campaigns or events might include:

- Providing training or information about equality, diversity and anti-discrimination issues
- Helping to run a local festival that celebrates diversity and equality
- Working with a 'hard to hear' group to support it in being heard and carrying out activities

3. Who can apply for equality grants?

Any group or organisation working to promote and support equality, diversity and anti-discrimination on Shropshire. Ideally, groups and organisations should be able to show us some evidence of their aims and activities, such as a constitution or an annual report. However, groups and organisations do not have to be registered charities or have other formal structures to apply. We wish to encourage new, informal and small groups and organisations to apply.

4. How to apply for an equality grant

- Just complete a short application form and send it with any supporting evidence to fresh.shropshire@gmail.com or to FRESH, c/o 7 Severn Bank, Castlefields, Shrewsbury SY1 2JD
- The application will be considered by a FRESH funding panel, who will assess whether it meets our grant criteria. The panel may ask for clarification or more information. They will then decide whether to award the whole amount, or some of what's been asked for, or that the application doesn't meet our criteria.
- Applicants will be told the outcome within two months of their completed application being received

5. What we ask successful applicants to do

Applicants who are awarded a FRESH Equality Grant are asked to:

- Use the grant only for the purpose for which it was granted
- Keep us informed about progress on their project – like a short email a month to update us.
- Acknowledge FRESH on all their project publicity
- Let us have a short project report when the project ends – we provide a simple report form to make this straightforward
- Allow us to use their projects in our publicity and information material

6. How to get further information, support or advice

Contact:

- Email fresh.shropshire@gmail.com
- Telephone 0777 354 4714 (answering service)

