



**CLARION
FUTURES**

Clarion Futures Digital Grants

Application Guidance

2026

Round	Applications Open	Application Deadline	Decision Released
CONFIRMED	07 Jan 2026 Round 21	11 Feb 2026 12 noon Wednesday	W/C 06 April 2026
CONFIRMED	06 May 2026 Round 22	10 June 2026 12 noon Wednesday	W/C 03 August 2026
PENDING AVAILABLE FUNDS*	26 August 2026 Round 23	30 September 2026 12 noon Wednesday	W/C 23 November 2026

* Please check the application portal [here](#) for information on Round 23

Content

<u>Application checklist & Supporting documents</u>	Page 3
<u>About the Clarion Futures Digital Grants Programme</u>	Page 4
<u>Our funding priorities</u>	Page 5
<u>Who can apply?</u>	Page 6
<u>What costs can be included?</u>	Page 7
<u>What costs cannot be included?</u>	Page 8
<u>Funding Equipment</u>	Page 9
<u>How to apply</u>	Page 10
<u>How do we make our funding decisions?</u>	Page 11
<u>Reporting requirements for funded projects</u>	Page 12
<u>Further help and resources</u>	Page 13
<u>Glossary of Terms</u>	Page 14/15

About Clarion Futures...

We are a charitable foundation that gives Clarion residents access to the support, services and tools they need to make their goals and ambitions a reality. We provide opportunities, so that everyone who lives in a Clarion home, irrespective of their background, can create their future.

Clarion Futures focuses on funding community projects and helping people find jobs & training opportunities, develop their digital skills, enabling digital access and manage their money. Every individual we help and community we support are part of our wider social purpose and mission to provide homes for those who need them most.

Clarion Futures is part of Clarion Housing Group. The Group comprises Clarion Housing, a social landlord and housing association. It provides quality, well managed and sustainable homes. It also contains Latimer by Clarion Housing Group which delivers homes for private sale. It operates as a social business that invests all its profits into helping support our residents and communities.

Application checklist

- ✓ Your **charity or company number**, if you are a registered charity or company
- ✓ Key **organisation details** such as:
 - The year your organisation was established
 - Financials – income over the last financial year, annual income over the last 3 years and a record of any previous Clarion Funding received
 - Information regarding organisational structure such as number of staff, number of management committee members, number of volunteers etc.
- ✓ **Full overview of information** about your grant request including: aims of the project and activities, beneficiaries, volunteers, outcomes and impact objectives
- ✓ A **clear project budget** – the application will require a breakdown of all project costs
- ✓ Realistic Project **timeframe**

Discuss your project with us

All applicants are asked to discuss their project with your Clarion Futures Regional Digital Support Officer (DSO) in advance of the application deadline.

Please contact digital@clarionhg.com with information on where your project is located and you will be directed to your regional DSO. Please note DSO's will not have capacity to manage project discussions on deadline day so you are encouraged to make contact at the earliest opportunity.

Projects which have been discussed with a DSO prior to submission will be prioritised.

Supporting documents

- ✓ A copy of your **governing document**
- ✓ A copy of your most recent **annual accounts**, record of income & expenditure, or if you are a new group, a spending plan and recent bank statement
- ✓ A copy of your **safeguarding policies**
- ✓ A copy of your in-date **public liability insurance certificate**
- ✓ A list of the full names of your **management committee/trustees**
- ✓ A copy of your **online safety policy (covering staff, volunteers and learners)**

Once you begin your application, you are able to save your progress and return to it at a later date if you do not have all the information required to complete the question. However, you're unable to submit an application until all of the information that is required is complete.

About Digital Grants

Clarion Futures Digital Support is committed to getting residents online; giving them the basic digital skills, motivation, and access to the equipment and connectivity needed to safely and confidently access online services on a regular basis.

Grants of up to **£5,000** are available to organisations seeking to deliver quality and inclusive, well-designed projects that support Clarion residents and the wider community to address digital exclusion.

The Fund is designed to support Clarion residents of all ages to get and stay online and to use the internet as an everyday tool, safely and confidently.

We are looking to fund projects and activities that focus on:

- ✓ Supporting residents to discover the full scope of how the internet can assist them in their every day lives, and to provide them with the skills and confidence to do so
- ✓ Supporting residents to access the digital resources that meet their individual needs and circumstances
- ✓ Building digital skills and confidence for all
- ✓ Encouraging residents to use the internet with confidence so they are safe, and avoid risky and/or illegal behaviour

We are looking to fund projects and activities that reach Clarion residents:

- ✓ Who have never used the internet before
- ✓ Who may have previously used some online facilities but who may not be aware of the full potential to use the internet in their every day lives
- ✓ With limited digital skills
- ✓ Who do not have access to appropriate digital resources
- ✓ Of all ages



A note about our residents' digital support needs...

Around **90%** of Clarion residents consider themselves to be “online”, however this still remains below those in private rented accommodation by approximately 6%. The digital resisters are in the 55+ age group who remain one of the main target groups for our work. Our research shows that the lack of understanding and skills are the biggest barriers to overcome, which can be tackled through flexible, individually tailored provision available through the Clarion Futures Digital Programme.

Our funding priorities

We are interested in applications that can demonstrate an understanding of what is already going on in the community, and how the grant funded activity will, for example:

- ✓ Make the most of existing provision in an area, **add value**, i.e. by **reaching new participants**, those that may be missing out/are unaware of how the internet can assist them
- ✓ Address a **gap in provision**, i.e. where there is no existing support in a specific area. Make the best use of other services, **partnerships or networks** and understands the Clarion Futures Digital offer and how these resources can be deployed to enhance the project
- ✓ Projects delivering primarily within **Clarion's priority areas**. Where Clarion has a high proportion of housing or; a Clarion housing area where there is a clear gap in provision. Your Digital Support Officer will be able to advise you.
- ✓ You have discussed your project idea with your **Digital Support Officer** prior to submission of your application form

Awareness raising	We would encourage applicants to demonstrate how they are linking with and raising awareness of other Clarion Futures programmes, activities and online services. For example, any linkage with Digital Champions, and/or other local Clarion Futures community assets, Digital Hubs, projects, services or programmes.
Volunteering	Volunteer involvement is encouraged, particularly where Clarion residents have the opportunity to volunteer and develop their skills in the process.
Sustainability	We are particularly interested in proposals that plan for the longer term and consider how activities could be sustained after Clarion funding has come to an end. For example, plans for Digital Champions or other volunteers to run parts of the project, fundraising plans, building the project into other local services etc.
In-kind and match-funding	This may include grants from other funders, free venue hire, donations and so on. Volunteer time can be included as in-kind support at the rate of £10/hour.

Who can apply?

Not-for-profit organisations including constituted community groups, registered charities, companies limited by guarantee, social enterprises or Community Interest Companies (CICs) are eligible to apply to the Clarion Futures Digital Grants Programme.

Organisations **must** meet the following **eligibility criteria** before submitting an application:

- ✓ Delivering a project **primarily** aimed at supporting **Clarion residents** and the widercommunity
- ✓ Have at least **three (3) unrelated management committee** members/trustees
- ✓ Have a **governing document**
- ✓ Have an **organisational bank account** in the name of the constituted group with at leasttwo (2) unrelated signatories
- ✓ Have a record of income and expenditure or set of **accounts**
- ✓ If you are a new group you will need a bank statement and an income and expenditure forecast
- ✓ Have a **safeguarding policy** if working with young people under 18, or vulnerable adults
- ✓ Have the relevant **insurance** in place, including public liability, and employer liability where required
- ✓ Have an **online safety policy** in place covering participants, tutors/trainers andvolunteers. If you do not have this in place, you will be obligated to develop a policy as a condition of funding
- ✓ If you are a previous Clarion Futures Digital Grant holder, it has been at least **12 months since you last applied**

Funding is aimed at projects which are actively seeking to support residents of Clarion housing and we expect to see delivery in and around Clarion neighbourhoods. Projects can support a range of beneficiaries including both Clarion residents and members of the wider community. **If you are not working to benefit Clarion residents or you have no clear plan for how to benefit Clarion residents, you will not be eligible to apply.**

A note about engaging our residents...The Clarion Futures Digital Support Team are available to help any community organisationsand resident groups to discuss their application, find out more about Digital Skills Training and Digital Volunteers, or for help developing a project idea. The Team can also talk to you about engaging our residents and help. If you're unsure whether your project is operating in a Clarion Housing Area.

Please contact digital@clarionhg.com with information on where your project is located and you will directed to your regional Officer. Projects must be discussed in advance of the deadline.

What costs can I include?

Grants of up to £5,000 are available towards your activity costs, these can include, for example:

- ✓ Connectivity (mobile and fixed)
- ✓ Training and activity resources
- ✓ Venue hire
- ✓ Insurance
- ✓ Event costs
- ✓ Volunteer expenses
- ✓ Equipment and computer software (please see note below)
- ✓ Refreshments for project participants (circa £4 per person, per session) or up to a maximum of 10% of your total grant request. Please note that the panel will still review your refreshment costs within the context of your project, number of sessions being delivered and participants numbers to ensure value for money.
- ✓ Project delivery staff time– including sessional IT tutors with experience of delivering digital inclusion training, and reasonable project management costs. As a guide the panel would be looking for costings at a maximum of £30 (outside of London) to £35 per hour (within London) however, they will also review the costs within the context of your project to ensure value for money.
- ✓ Publicity materials.
- ✓ Overheads at a standard rate of up to 10% of your total project costs

A note on grant support for salary costs:

a) In all cases where the Grant Amount is supporting partial or total costs in relation to a salaried post(s) Clarion Futures will not take on any employment obligations or become an employer of the post holder(s) or any third party as a result of the provision of the Grant Amount.

b) For the avoidance of doubt, the Recipient will remain responsible for all employment costs including (but not limited to) those costs associated with maternity, paternity, adoptive or extended sick leave, severance or redundancy costs in line with the Recipient's standard organisational policies.

A note on what overheads means within this programme:

Overheads refer to the general expenses that keep an organisation running but are not directly tied to a specific project. This includes things like office/facilities rent, utilities, insurance, general office supplies and printing, ongoing telephone, internet and website maintenance, software licenses, general liability insurance (public liability and employers liability insurance)

Funding Existing Projects

We are able to fund existing projects and continuation funding of the same project. However, please ensure your proposal demonstrates learning and development from previous iterations of the project delivery and/or new and creative ideas. We are looking for proposals that respond to community need and can demonstrate addressing a demand for the activities.

What costs can't I include?

We cannot consider funding for the following:

- Statutory organisations such as local authorities and schools
- Any party-political activity
- Purely commercial ventures (for profit)
- Spending that has already taken place (retrospective funding)
- Individuals or projects run by individuals as opposed to an organisation
- Activities promoting religious beliefs.
- Activities where individuals are excluded on religious grounds, ethnicity, gender, sexuality.
- Activities which require staff or volunteers to deliver in-home support.
- Projects that request funding exclusively for digital equipment
- Any other costs considered unreasonable/non-essential for the delivery of the proposed activity.

Funding equipment

We may be able to offer equipment which can be loaned throughout the duration of your project via our Capacity+ programme (subject to availability). To find out more, speak to your local Digital Support Officer by contacting digital@clarionhg.com. Funding for equipment is at sole discretion of the grants panel. Where equipment can be provided by Clarion Futures Digital Support, the grant amount awarded may be adjusted accordingly.

Funding for equipment may be considered only when the following criteria are met:

- a) A clear demonstration of need for the items
- b) The equipment will be used primarily for digital inclusion - the equipment may be used for computer training as well, but this will not be the primary use;
- c) The equipment must be made available for the community benefit and cannot be purchased to benefit an individual;
- d) There is somewhere safe and secure to store the equipment and it will be insured (you may apply for insurance costs)
- e) Equipment (hardware or software) that you are applying for cannot be obtained for via the Capacity+ programme for free or at greatly reduced cost elsewhere. A couple of examples of suppliers of hardware and/or software at reduced costs are:
 - Tier1 online refurbish high quality laptops and desktops. They take machines in a working condition from large corporations and remove all the data, clean and grade them. Details can be found at www.tier1online.com
 - If you are a Registered Charity, consider using the Technology Trust to source your hardware and software at greatly reduced prices. You can visit the TT-Exchange website to find out more and register your organisation at www.tt-exchange.org/getting_started.
- f) Equipment (in a useable state) must not already be available in the area - we are able to fund upgrades for existing equipment or where it needs to be made accessible to residents.
- g) We are not able to fund applications where the full amount of the grant is used solely to cover the cost of equipment.

How to apply

Applications must be submitted via the Clarion Futures online grants portal (Flexi-Grant). Applicants are required to register on the system before starting an application form.

<https://clarionfutures.flexigrant.com/login.aspx>

Round	Applications Open	Application Deadline	Decision Released
CONFIRMED	07 Jan 2026 Round 21	11 Feb 2026 12 noon Wednesday	W/C 06 April 2026
CONFIRMED	06 May 2026 Round 22	10 June 2026 12 noon Wednesday	W/C 03 August 2026
PENDING AVAILABLE FUNDS*	26 August 2026 Round 23	30 September 2026 12 noon Wednesday	W/C 23 November 2026

Project Dates - Important Note

When planning your project please also consider your project start and end dates in-line with the above programme dates. Projects need to start after decisions are released and also allowing enough time for any grant conditions to be satisfied and grant payments to be made. You must also allow enough time for project set up (obtaining equipment, recruiting staff/volunteers etc) before starting. For support planning your project contact the Clarion Futures Digital Support Team on digital@clarionhg.com

Grant Payments - Important Note

Your grant payment will only be released once your grant agreement has been executed, any grant conditions have been satisfied and your organisation is set up on our finance system correctly (where applicable). We will then raise a PO for you to invoice us for your grant amount.

How do we make our decisions?

1. All applications submitted by the deadline will undergo an **initial assessment** by the Clarion Futures Grants Team

2. All eligible applications which best fit the Clarion Futures Digital Grants Programme themes and priorities will be **shortlisted**

3. Shortlisted applicants maybe contacted by the Grants Team or Digital Support Team to gather any additional information about your project and/or organisation as required

4. Shortlisted applications will be reviewed by a **Digital Grants Panel**, which will assess each application based on the information provided and recommend funding

5. Panel funding recommendations will undergo a **final ratification stage** to confirm final decisions made

6. Successful and unsuccessful applicants will then be notified of the decision in writing, via email.

Please note all funding decisions are made at the discretion of Clarion Futures Digital Grants Panel and are final.

Reporting requirements

Groups in receipt of a grant will be expected to maintain regular communication with Clarion Futures, submit monthly monitoring reports and will be required to complete an Endof Grant report outlining how the grant was spent and demonstrating the impact of the grant.

A Clarion Futures Digital Support Officer will be assigned to each funded project and will be able to offer support on monitoring and evaluating your work as well as discussing any monthly key performance indicators (KPIs) to report on. They will also be out to see you and your project in action shortly after the grant has been activated.

If there are delays in your project starting or difficulties with delivery, you must inform your Digital Support Officer and the grants team as soon as possible.

Key areas to monitor when running your project

- ✓ The extent to which the project met the anticipated objectives
- ✓ The number of participants in the project, including recording and reporting on the number of Clarion residents
- ✓ Learning gained when delivering the project, success stories and any unanticipated results/outcomes
- ✓ A case study of a participant (images and consent forms should be submitted)
- ✓ Collated feedback from participants on:
 - Whether they feel the project has helped them get online
 - How it has helped them in their everyday lives, i.e. how they are using it
 - How they intend to use the internet in the future
 - How people are now aware of and/or using the Clarion online offer (website/Facebook etc.) and their confidence in using it
 - Whether any further support is needed and if so, what type of support?

Key data to capture when running your project

To help us monitor the impact of our grant funding we ask all grant recipients to record the following data (where applicable to the individual project)

- ✓ Digital Skills Training Hours delivered
- ✓ Number of Sessions/Interactions
- ✓ Number of People/Learners trained
- ✓ Number of Clarion Resident learners
- ✓ Number of Volunteering Hours
- ✓ Demographic information of beneficiaries
- ✓ Outcomes and positive onward progressions such as sustained volunteering or employment. (One Case study per quarter)

Further information, tips and templates for monitoring the impact of your work can be found at:

NCVO - <https://www.ncvo.org.uk/help-and-guidance/strategy-and-impact>

NPC - **Take your first steps into impact practice** <https://www.thinknpc.org/starting-to-measureyour-impact>

Further help and resources

For support planning your project, please contact the Clarion Futures DigitalSupport Team on digital@clarionhg.com

For support completing your online application form, queries regarding deadline, criteria and submitting your proposal can be directed to grants@clarionhg.com

A sample application form is available from our website to support your proposal planning.

Examples of Funded Projects

Weekly drop-in sessions were held across three Clarion community centres. The sessions provided support; skills-based learning and confidence building. Sessions focused on supporting low-income families to use the internet safely and securely to manage household budgets and access welfare services.

The local voluntary service received the delivery costs of 30 teaching sessions for Clarion residents and the wider community. Six training laptops were loaned by Clarion Futures Digital. Learning was supported by two digital volunteers with participants gaining skills and experience accessing online GP bookingservices, online banking and grocery shopping alongside internet safety sessions.

Glossary of Terms

Please find below a glossary of common terms relating to Clarion Futures Digital Grant Programme and general grantmaking.

Beneficiaries	Individuals or groups who benefit from a project or service you deliver.
Capacity+	<p>The Capacity+ programme offers grant partners added value with FREE workshops and lunch and learn style sessions to help capacity build your organisation. The sessions are open to all staff/volunteers/trustees and are usually delivered via Microsoft Teams.</p> <p>We also can support equipment requests through our Digital Device Scheme and manage a network of more than 70 volunteer Digital Champions who can add value to your services.</p>
Clarion Residents	People living within a Clarion Housing Group property. May include general needs housing, LiveSmart (Over 55's living), supported housing or home ownership.
Connectivity	The ability to link to digital networks, such as the internet, enabling access to online information, communication, services, and digital resources.
Decision Released	The date or week that the outcome of your application (Whether you have been successful or unsuccessful) will be communicated to you. This will be via email.
Digital Champion	A volunteer working within local communities supporting learners with basic digital skills.
Digital Exclusion	Refers to the lack of access, skills, or confidence needed to effectively use digital technology.
Digital Skills	The skills developed by an individual specifically for the effective use of digital technologies, devices, tools and platforms so they may navigate and participate more fully in a range of day to day technology driven activity and services.
Employers Liability Insurance	The certificate/paperwork issued by your insurer that outlines the required insurance coverage to protect against employee claims for workplace-related injuries or illnesses.
End of Grant Report	A final report detailing how grant funds were used and the outcomes achieved. (The template report will be provided to you via the Flexi-Grant portal)
Governing Document	The official document outlining the rules and structure of your organisation.
Impact Practice	Methods and practices aimed at measuring and understanding the impact of your project.
In-Kind Support	Non-monetary contributions to a project, such as volunteer time, venue/space hire or donated resources to your project.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	Measurable benchmarks/metrics that are used to evaluate the success of achieving specific objectives within your project. Your assigned Digital Support Officer will support you in setting this up. Reporting is covered on page 12 of this document.
Monthly Reports	An update on your project reported to your regional Digital Support Officer by 5 th working day of each month. (Template supplied)
Online Safety Policy	A set of guidelines and procedures designed to protect individuals and vulnerable groups, from risks, harm, and inappropriate behavior when using the internet, digital platforms, or devices.
Overheads	Overheads refer to the general expenses that keep an organisation running but are not directly tied to a specific project. These are costs that support the overall operations rather than just the funded activity.
Priority Area	An area with a high proportion of Clarion Housing stock or a Clarion housing area where there is a clear gap in delivery of service
Project Budget	A detailed financial plan that outlines the expected costs of your project (a template document is provided in the online application form)
Public Liability Insurance Certificate	The certificate issued by your insurer that outlines the insurance, typically covering your indemnity limit and liabilities for damages or injuries to the public during your organisation's activities.
Unique Learners	An individual participant counted only once in a project or course, regardless of how many sessions they attend.
Volunteer Expenses	Reimbursements for costs incurred by volunteers, such as travel or subsistence.