



Supporting refugees in England

Grants awarded 2022

"We have already proved we can deliver excellent support but desperately need additional funding to be able to expand what we can offer."

Applications and approvals

We received 53 applications for the first round of funding from across every region in England. Applicants requested a total of £207,494.68.

In total, 37 projects received funding, with £126,000.00 awarded in grants. The projects are expected to reach and benefit 2,621 refugees.

17 projects are exclusively aimed at Ukrainian refugees, 17 are mixed, and 3 projects focus exclusively on Afghan refugees.

Projects

Walkhampton (St Mary the Virgin) - Nr Yelverton, Devon - £2,210

The parish undertakes community engagement on top of regular Sunday worship including engagement with the community-run coffee shop and Saturday market and currently have 3 Ukrainian families hosted with 3 UK families in the village. In this rural location, transport links are poor so they have been funded to provide a place of welcome in the community to bring hosts, guests, and others in the community together on a weekly basis to help with integration and support.

St James Church Westhead – Ormskirk, Lancs - £2,000

They are currently supporting almost 40 Ukrainian guests and their sponsor families. The guests vary in age from 2 to 68, though are predominantly young professional women, some with children (ages 2 to 16). Successful partnerships have been made with The Ask Club (Skelmersdale), Community Lives Matter (Ormskirk), as well as receiving referrals from two local councils. They have been funded to provide twice weekly ESOL sessions, children's afterschool sessions, a fund for school uniforms and a coach trip.

Bridgeway Mission – Colchester, Essex - £5,000

This charity supports refugees and asylum seekers and welcome new families every day. They provide holistic support (physical, material, social and spiritual), which ranges from clothes, food, integration, help with job search, language and education, volunteering opportunities and advocacy. They have been funded to create a computer hub at their coffee morning to assist people to learn English, through language lessons and computer use. The ability to get help to understand English, cultural differences, and how to deal with paperwork online will enable their clients to feel more in control of their own lives. They will also organize cooking sessions for families to help them to create healthy, economical meals using British products.

Lifecentral Church – Halesowen, Dudley - £2,660

In response to the refugee crisis resulting from the conflict in Ukraine, Lifecentral Church formed a refugee working group and raised more than £26,000. Partnerships with organizations providing targeted responses to the crisis were established (Sanctuary Foundation, RESET and Samaritan's Purse) and added a page to their website outlining the process for hosting and a comprehensive list of resources developed for those seeking support. They have been funded to offer Saturday monthly drop in sessions with children's activities, entertainment and refreshments. They also want to buy furniture, winter clothing, bedding and small electrical goods. A day trip to a Christmas market in Oxford will be organized for refugees and their hosts to build relationships and enhance mental and physical wellbeing.

Connect Exminster - Exminster, Exeter - £4,440

They are a small village but through a coordinated response they have quickly built a database of wrap-around support for transport, finances, EAL teaching, finding donated goods as needed, befriending etc. and now have over 370 members to call upon for support, with 30 Ukrainians being supported in the village, and a further 15 from surrounding villages who they oversee on behalf of the local council. They have been funded to provide weekly EAL classes for three ability levels (volunteer expenses), as well as a twice weekly activity group for Ukrainian women to meet the locals – embroidery is a particular passion – to help them build connections in the community and improve their English. They will also run two half-day outings to local attractions.

The PCC of Holy Sepulchre – London - £3,000

The National Musicians' Church are offering a conservatoire for Ukrainian music students in collaboration with London Performing Academy of Music. Visas are granted to music students to leave the Ukraine and continue their interrupted education. In addition to providing tuition, the church will also be used for regular concerts to provide performance opportunities for the students.

Forge Community Church – Stowmarket, Suffolk - £4,000

The church has been working with Suffolk County Council, Mid Suffolk District Council and the Gipping Valley Rotary Club to support refugees that have come into Suffolk over the last six months. They have been providing SIM cards, mobile phones, food vouchers, clothing and furniture, and have also arranged befriending events. They have been funded to buy supplies (especially mattresses) for their furniture bank and also fund the storage and delivery costs of the items.

Moulsham: St John the Evangelist, Essex, East of England - £3,105

This project will offer a safe space for up to 200 Ukrainian refugees and their hosts to come together for mutual support and for signposting information. Outcomes include up to 100 volunteers undertake training, improved mental health for refugees and improved community cohesion and host relationships.

St Francis Employability – Coventry, £5,000

This charity is based in the St Francis of Assisi Church Radford where they provide support and provisions with an aim to transform the local community and transform the lives of local people by helping them to move forward to social and financial inclusion and employment/education. Established partnerships with Coventry City Council (since 2017), West Midlands police, CRMC, Positive Youth Foundation, CCA amongst others has enabled them to reach, engage and support people from minority ethnic/refugee/asylum backgrounds in the area. The grant will be used to recruit an employment support worker to provide workshop and classes focused on improving employability skills for Ukraine and Afghanistan refugees.

Christ First Watford – Watford St Albans, Herfordshire £3,000

As part of the Welcome Church network this Church has been providing regular support and activities for over 1 year to 300 refugees from Afghanistan who are currently residing in an isolated hotel. They have also been working in partnership with the local city council to help refugee students settle into school, organizing school uniform and school equipment for children. This grant will be used to provide a youth club, ladies driving lessons and provide access to a sport facility where participants can play football, volleyball and cricket practice. The project will focus on mental health and wellbeing support as well as integration.

The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Christ Church Sutton – Southwark, London £3,280

In response to the refugee crisis resulting from the conflict in Ukraine, this church has set up a welcome group to give support to refugees newly arrived in the local area, so far, they are supporting up to 100 adults and children. This grant will be used to deliver three-hour Saturday morning activity sessions for Ukraine refugee families. Activities such as arts and crafts, tea and coffee and other refreshments will be provided.

Christ Church Worksop & St Lukes Shireoaks PCC - Southwell and Nottingham, £3,000

Working to promote social inclusion and pastoral care for community and marginalised groups, this grant will be used to provide ESOL classes and support sessions to help with paperwork, as well as an emergency fund for essentials for Ukraine refugees. The Church will also support community integration and a befriending service.

Asian Community Concern - Ealing London, £4,890

This voluntary Christian organisation works across faith groups with a focus on community development and social regeneration. They also work closely with vulnerable women and with victims of domestic violence. This grant will be used to provide weekly workshops for female refugees to access wellness support, listening and advocacy, sewing and knitting classes and physical and mental health wellbeing sessions. The project will conclude with a sharing event to promote healthy eating and to understand one another's culture. The project will engage with Afghanistan and Ukraine refugees in the Southall community of London.

Chichester Quakers Local Meeting – Chichester, the South East - £1,344

This project will deliver three-hour sessions in which 30 Afghanistan and 20 Ukraine refugees will be supported to share culture, build friendships and integrate into society. The sessions include participants food shopping, cooking the food and sharing the meal with volunteers in a welcoming social setting. Outcomes include encouraging long term friendships, community integration and understanding and the development of community kitchen for further community projects. Sanctuary in Chichester are also offering support to newly housed refugee and will support this project.

Community Lives Matter - the North West, Liverpool - £3,000

This project will support 20 Ukraine and 10 Afghanistan refugees by facilitating and delivering trips, events and leisure activities. The organisation already delivers a weekly social group for asylum seekers and refugees and this project has been planned in consultation with new and current members of the group. Practical support will also be provided such as support for welfare, asylum applications, English language, employment, bicycles, and equipment such as phones. Gym memberships and day passes will also be provided to help improve mental and physical health. Outcomes include improved wellbeing, access to welfare support and health care and community integration.

St Vincents Support Centre - Newcastle, the North East - £5,000

This project will deliver weekly social sessions for 4.5 hours each week for 100 Ukraine and 100 Afghanistan refugees. Activities such as crafts, English classes, play sessions for children and cultural meal sharing will be provided. Partnerships for support are established with Newcastle City Council and Action for Families and the project will be building on a well-attended pilot drop in session already delivered. The project will deliver a Home from Home for families to help reduce isolation, support community cohesion, reduce food insecurity and improve wellbeing.

The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Christ Church Bridlington Quay – Bridlington, Yorkshire and The Humber - £4,000

The project will support 25 Ukraine and 25 Afghanistan refugees by providing ESOL classes 10 hours per week, cooking social sessions and a drop in café where the local community and the refugees can socialise and integrate in a welcoming safe environment. The English language classes will be delivered with a person-centered approach and will also include general supportive conversation, flexibility, simple care and teaching to develop participants confidence and wellbeing as well as their English language skills.

The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St George, East Worthing - [10] – Chichester, the South East - £4,500

The project will support 100 Ukraine refugees by delivering a series of activities and social sessions such as a job club, Ukraine film events, arts and crafts, Christmas pantomime and party and a weekly social meeting point. The project will also help the 100 host homes and new refugees arriving in the area, improving relationships and community integration. Outcomes include improve English language skills, at least 50 refugees are expected to secure work or volunteer opportunities, encourage engagement in social and sport activities and improved wellbeing and mental health.

The Polish Community Centre in Leamington Spa : The Polish Catholic Mission - Coventry, the West Midlands - £3,508

This project will support a majority 50 Ukraine and some 5 Afghanistan refugees by providing 4 hour weekly English language classes for adults and children, social and craft drop in sessions, a welcome event and a toddler family group. The project will build on the vast support they have already delivered and established engagement with Ukraine refugees. The organization has links with on the ground support in Ukraine and the local city council to welcome and support newly arrived refugees.

Together for Change Coventry & Warwickshire – the West Midlands, Coventry - £2,990

This project will offer various weekly activities, sessions and classes for 25 Ukraine and 30 Afghanistan refugees including a befriending scheme, food sharing events, pastoral care, sport and leisure activities, ESOL classes, bike and cycling accessibility, clothes provisions and wellbeing support. Outcomes and outputs include refugees receiving items such as winter clothing, bikes, shoes and improved community integration as well as opportunities for developing friendships and improving physical health.

The organization has worked with refugees over the past 6 years and they are connected to the Coventry Refugee Centre and HOPE Coventry.

Wesley Methodist Church, Chester – Chester, the North West - £4,700

This project will provide weekly meeting point sessions, weekly 2-hour English lessons and provide 40 bikes for 100 Ukraine refugees. The weekly meeting point sessions will provide home baked cakes, friendly support and craft activities for refugees and volunteers to relax and socialize together. Support from Cheshire West and Chester's refugee support service, Wesley's Ukrainian Refugee network and their Sister church will help with referrals and reach.

Acts Trust, Lincolnshire, the East Midlands - £1,035

This project will deliver a free weekly 1.5-hour café with toys and crafts provided for children. The project will open opportunities for socializing, to improve refugees' English language skills and provide information on services available in the local area and support programmes. 10 Ukraine and 10 Afghanistan refugees will be supported. The organisation is a Welcome Church and has been providing befriending support and ESOL classes to refugees in the area, this project will also aim to reach new refugee Mothers and Parents.

Chichester Diocesan Association for Family Support Work (FSW), West Sussex, the South East - £1,589

This project will deliver drop-in befriending sessions every fortnight for 2 hours. Support and welfare advice such as housing, education, benefits and accessing legal and immigration advice will be given. The sessions will be led by a Family support practitioner working with a practical and friendly approach. A food pantry incentive will also run alongside the sessions. In addition, home starter packs will be distributed to new refugee families and social activities, meal sharing, and fun community days will also be planned and delivered. 30 Ukraine and 48 Afghanistan refugees will be reached and supported.

Jubilee Church (ACM), Lincolnshire, the East Midlands - £4,486

This project will support 60 Ukraine and Afghanistan young refugees with their English, Science and Maths subjects. A weekly youth group will be provided in which sports and opportunities to socialize will be facilitated. Activities such as table tennis, pool, board games and air hockey along with refreshments and language support will be available. The organisation is within walking distance to a hotel where refugees are currently housed. Outcomes for this project include improving refugee young people's mental health, improve their confidence, opportunities to develop positive friendships, increase in a sense of belonging and to support, maintain, and increase educational attainment.

Kings Church Cockermouth Cumbria, the North West – £2,520

This project will deliver an English café 3 hours per week. Tea, coffee and cakes will be available with social activities and Ukrainian cakes and baking. A Sunday lunch twice a month for refugees and local people to socialize, play games and work together alongside volunteers will also be provided. An outreach worker will also visit the refugee families to offer additional support and identity further needs. The project will be delivered in an affluent but rural area for 30 Ukraine refugees.

PCC of St Mary and St Peter, Staines/ Afghan Families' Club, Surrey, the South East - £1,840

This project would like to support 40 Afghanistan Refugee Mothers with a beneficiary led approach to organize social and educational activities for 2 hours each week. The refugees are currently housed in a local hotel and the project aims to improve their wellbeing, improve their English language skills and increase confidence. The organisation will also promote and support community cohesion in the town of Staines.

Peaceful Borders (Anabaptist Mennonite Network), London Borough of Islington, London - £5,000

This organisation exists and aims to accompany displaced people, resolve conflict in border situations and build capacity of refugee-led ideas for well-being. This project will use the grant to deliver a 3-hour

Tuesday drop-in service for 75 Afghanistan refugees and 2 Ukraine refugees. Two refugee support workers will support the delivery of activities and support such as therapeutic art, musical instruments and recording equipment provisions, refreshments as well as welfare and legal support and advise. The organisation has extensive experience with refugees and this project will also support unaccompanied children.

Peterborough Cathedral, Peterborough, the East of England - £3,651

Based in this historic church, this project will deliver a 4 hour weekly drop in and wellbeing café for Ukraine refugees. Social activities such as arts and crafts will be available as well as friendly support chats. The Cathedral has built up a strong connection with St Olga's Ukrainian church in Peterborough and they also have an established partnership with Peterborough Citizens who are leading the refugee housing process in the city. The projects outcomes are to increase a sense of belonging for refugees, improve wellbeing, develop new positive friendships and improved community cohesion.

Redcar Baptist Church, Redcar and Cleveland, Yorkshire and The Humber - £4,714.99

This project will deliver a 2-hour drop-in support hub for 30 Ukraine refugees. The hub will share resources, support, and activities such as English classes for Ukraine refugees to successfully integrate and increase their confidence. Each drop-in session will have an interpreter and a dedicated support worker who will act as a key link to help identify refugees needs and ensure they receive the right support or advice. Based in a deprived area, the church works to provide opportunities for host families and refugees to connect with one-another and support the wider surrounding villages.

The Family and Community Network, Suffolk, the East of England - £2,785

This project will work with 100 Ukraine refugees by providing a 2-hour weekly support group, a local bus service for refugees to reach the support group, welfare and general advice and support, employment support, English language support and distributing sim cards, household and clothing essentials. The church is based in a rural area of Babergh and West Suffolk where over 400 refugees have recently arrived from Ukraine, this project will act as a central point of contact offering a welcoming and friendly support. The projects outcomes include reducing isolation and ensuring that refugee families basic needs are met.

RCCG The All-Sufficient Sanctuary, Oldham, the North West - £3,500

This Church in Oldham will support Afghanistan and Ukraine refugees by providing food, winter clothing and other household materials and will deliver activities focused on integration and wellbeing. The church has been providing a food bank for asylum seekers since June 2022 and winter support to vulnerable people prior.

Bridge Community Church, Suffolk, the East of England - £4,622.50

This project will support Ukraine refugees by delivering a coffee morning, language classes, drop-in social sessions, craft session, film night, christmas event and an employability course. Outcomes include improving access to employment, improving English language skills, improving community integration, and providing opportunities for refugees to make friends.

Severn Vineyard Church, Bristol, the South West - £2,476

This project will deliver a music for wellbeing group for 25 Ukraine refugees run by 2 trainee music therapists from the University of the West of England's MA in Music Therapy, supervised by a qualified

music psychotherapist. Activities include song-writing, improvisation, and singing/playing songs as a group. The activities will offer opportunities for social interaction and aims are to improve mental health and wellbeing.

Hope Church, Crewe, Cheshire, the North West - £5,000

This project will provide opportunities and support to 60 Ukraine and Afghanistan refugees through their Hope café hubs. The hubs will meet for 4 hours in the morning and participants will be able to socialise, develop their English language skills, receive clothing and receive help for things such as filling out forms etc.

Stoneleigh Baptist Church, Surrey, the South East - £3,000

This project will run weekly 2-hour English lessons for adults and children. Social activities during the school holidays will also be provided. The outcomes are to improve English language skills, wellbeing and provide opportunities for refugees to meet and build friendships. The grant will enable the church to expand on existing support on a peer-to-peer approach as the English teachers are also Ukraine refugees.

Big Help Project, Liverpool, the North West - £3,000

This project will form a Ukrainian Choir, led by an established choral coordinator to sing songs, meet and socialize. The choir will meet for six hours every week for a month. The project will also provide sign posting and a peer-to-peer support group addressing issues of loneliness, isolation and mental health. The grant will support participants travel costs,

Eden Westwood, Manchester, the North West - £3,581.51

This project will run drop in befriending and support sessions twice weekly to support 30 Afghanistan and 10 Ukraine refugees housed in 2 nearby hotels. English language skills and community integration will be the focus of the project, additional support such as mobile phones and bikes will also be provided. The project aims to engage the wider community through volunteer support and by holding an information evening event.