

Suffolk Economy Grant Grant Programme Criteria

This programme is aimed to help businesses grow productively, innovate, and become more sustainable

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is available?

Grants are available as follows:

- Micro business: £2,500 - £10,000 grant at 50% intervention rate
 - Small business: £5,000 - £50,000 grant at 30% intervention rate
 - Medium business: £10,000 - £100,000 grant at 20% intervention rate
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How do I know what size my business is?

Size	No. of Employees	Turnover or Balance Sheet
Micro	Fewer than 10	Turnover up to £632,000 and balance sheet up to £316,000
Small	10 – 49	Turnover up to £10.2m and balance sheet up to £5.1m
Medium	50 – 249	Turnover up to £36m and balance sheet up to £18m

Is my business eligible?

To apply for this grant, your business must be:

- Located within the boundaries of Suffolk County Council (business and project)
- Trading for at least two years (must provide 2 years' full accounts)
- Micro, small or medium enterprise (includes businesses, CICs, charities (where set up as a business), LLPs)
- Registered with Companies House or Charity Commission and have a business bank account.

There may be other eligibility criteria which your business adviser will help you with. Some business sectors are not eligible for grant funding, see page 4.

Timeframe

Your project must be ready to proceed as soon as your application has been approved and be fully completed by 31/03/2026 and you must check with your proposed suppliers that this is achievable.

You should note that all planning permissions, licenses and agreements must be in place before you can apply.

Is my project eligible?

Our priority areas for grant funding are:

Digital Transformation and Technology Adoption – Integration of new technology to enhance operations, develop higher quality products, increase productivity or access new markets.

Innovation and R&D - Development and commercialisation of new products, services, or processes that drive clean, productive growth and competitiveness.

Decarbonisation and Sustainability - transition to sustainable models, reduce environmental impact, and improve resource efficiency.

Projects can include:

- Investing in digital tools or technology to streamline processes and boost efficiency (excluding standard IT equipment or software replacements)
- Combining different technologies to create cutting-edge solutions and products.
- Investment in production equipment and process automation to scale up production. (Excludes direct equipment replacement)
- Prototyping and product development, using advanced tools such as 3D printing and rapid prototyping.
- Integrating new materials and engineering techniques to enhance product innovation.
- Strengthening supply chains by onshore in production to improve resilience, reduce cost, and increase efficiency.
- Developing new to market and scaling green and circular economy solutions including remanufacturing, material reuse, waste reduction, net zero innovations to improve sustainability and resource efficiency.

Following investment, we would expect to see at least one of the following outcomes:

- Improved productivity
- Measurable increase in energy efficiency
- Measurable reduction in emissions
- The introduction of new products and services,
- The adopting of technologies which are new to your business
- Accessing new markets

- Increasing export capability
 - Creation of new jobs
 - Increased growth
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What business sectors are not eligible for support?

- Banking and insurance
 - Public funded bodies and statutory services
 - Healthcare and care homes
 - Schools, nurseries and childcare facilities
 - Religious or political organisations
 - Estate and employment agencies
 - Education
 - Sole traders (any sector)
 - Business in difficulty or a dormant business (any sector)
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Expenditure not eligible for support

- Property and/or land purchase
 - Vehicles (of any type)
 - Solar panels (supply and/or installation)
 - Core running or staff costs
 - Any costs incurred before a grant offer is made
 - Items that are not directly needed to deliver the proposed project
 - The direct replacement of equipment, items and consumables including laptops and software
 - VAT (unless this cannot be recovered)
 - Any projects that can be funded from other grant schemes
 - Repeat applications, including from linked enterprises
 - Working capital or stock items for selling
 - Marketing costs (including websites) and items for a trade fair
 - Statutory requirements
 - Professional fees
 - Recruitment costs
 - LED lighting;
 - Insulation;
 - Windows and doors;
 - Website creation
 - WMS/CRM platforms or equivalent
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How do I apply for funding?

Applications open on 1st April 2025 if you are interested in applying for the fund please register your interest by 31st March 2025.

As part of your application, you will need to provide quotes for each item you wish to purchase

Value of contract*	Minimum procurement procedure for proposed goods/supplies or services to be delivered by one supplier.
£0 to £499	Does not apply as minimum quote is £500
£500 to £2,499	Direct award but evidenced by at least one quote , email, or screenshot
£2,500 to £24,999	A minimum of three quotes, screenshots, price comparisons or emails from proposed suppliers
Over £25,000	A minimum of three detailed quotes on headed paper.

The minimum quote we will accept is £500.

Subsidy Control

If a grant is awarded, it will constitute a subsidy and will initially be available through Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA).

The maximum support through MFA is £315,000 and this is a cumulative total of all support received over the current, and the last two complete financial years through MFA, EU de minimis and Small Amounts of Financial Assistance Allowance.

If you are offered support through MFA, you will need to make a declaration that you have not already exceeded the £315,000, and/or with approval of the requested support, you will not exceed the £315,000 threshold.

If relevant, a grant award could be considered through one of the Streamlined Routes, and your business adviser will explain this.

Things you should know.

- There are limited funds available, and they are awarded on a first come first served basis
- You must be an established SME and be able to provide accounts covering at least two years.
- We are unable to support ailing or insolvent businesses with a negative balance sheet and financial checks are undertaken.
- This discretionary grant is awarded by an independent panel and it may take up to 28 days from receipt of your full, complete application for you to be notified of a decision
- All planning permissions or other dependencies must be evidenced as in place at time of application
- To support your application, you will be required to provide routine business documents such as quotes, business accounts and bank statements.

- All projects will need to demonstrate value for money and there will be a requirement to provide quotes for each category of expenditure. The minimum quote we can accept is £500.
- You will receive advice and support as required during the application process.

Please note, grants are awarded on a discretionary basis and are subject to eligibility checks and approval.