YouMove Early Years Small Grants Information Sheet

Purpose

The purpose of this small grants fund is to provide simple, flexible funding to support **Early Years children and their families** to be more physically active.

Funding must directly benefit Early Years children and/or their families. Applications that do not meet this requirement will not be eligible for funding.

The fund is intended to support practical ideas that improve, increase or make local Early Years physical activity provision more accessible, particularly for families experiencing inequalities or barriers to being active.

Funding Available

Grants of between **£100- £1,000 per request** will be considered.

Funding must be used for activity, provision, resources or workforce development that provides a clear and direct benefit to Early Years children and/or their families.

Examples may include:

- Equipment or resources that support active play for Early Years children
- New or additional Early Years physical activity sessions
- Improvements to existing Early Years provision
- Staff or volunteer development that improves Early Years physical activity opportunities
- Activity that makes Early Years provision more inclusive or accessible
- Resources that support movement, play and learning
- Small-scale pilots testing new approaches with Early Years children and families
- Activity that helps Early Years families engage with wider local opportunities

Who Can Apply?

Applications may be considered from organisations, Early Years settings, constituted groups, charities, CIOs, community groups or partner organisations working directly with **Early Years children and families in Oxfordshire**. Applicants do not need to be Ofsted-registered or formally regulated unless this is required for the activity they are proposing, but they must be able to demonstrate appropriate governance, safeguarding arrangements, and permission or authority to manage and spend the grant funding.

Applications must be made on behalf of a group, organisation, setting or partnership. Individuals cannot apply in a personal capacity.

One application per group, organisation, setting or partnership may be submitted in any six-month period.

All applications must demonstrate a clear Early Years focus.

Priority may be given to activity supporting:

- Early Years families eligible for or engaged with YouMove
- Families experiencing financial or other inequalities
- Early Years children with SEND
- Communities with lower levels of physical activity
- Areas where there are gaps in Early Years provision
- Families who may experience additional barriers to accessing physical activity opportunities

Any queries about eligibility or application please contact merimosharrafa@activeoxfordshire.org

Eligibility

To be eligible, applications must meet all of the following:

☐ Directly benefit Early Years children and/or their families

☐ Help Early Years children and/or families to be more physically active

☐ Align with the aims of YouMove Active Oxfordshire – Healthy Active Children

☐ Be delivered safely and appropriately, providing safeguarding evidence.

☐ Demonstrate reasonable and proportionate use of funding

Applications that do not meet all of these core requirements will not progress to consideration.

Additional Benefits

Eligible applications may also demonstrate that they:

☐ Create or improve Early Years physical activity opportunities

☐ Increase access to existing provision

☐ Reduce inequalities or barriers to participation

☐ Improve the quality or inclusivity of Early Years provision

☐ Support children's learning and development through movement and active play

☐ Build the confidence or skills of Early Years staff, volunteers, parents or carers

☐ Respond to an identified local need or gap

Assessment Process

The process will be simple and proportionate to the size of the funding request.

Applications will first be checked against the core eligibility criteria. Only applications that meet the mandatory Early Years requirement and all other core criteria will be considered further.

Eligible applications will then be considered based on:

- The likely benefit to Early Years children and families
- The extent to which the proposal improves physical activity opportunities
- Alignment with YouMove priorities
- Evidence of need or a gap in provision
- Value for money
- Accessibility and inclusion

A formal scoring process will not normally be required for grants of this size.

Decision Making

Applications may be:

☐ Approved

☐ Approved with conditions

☐ Returned for further information

☐ Declined

Decisions will be recorded using a short internal checklist to provide a clear audit trail.

Monitoring and Evidence

Monitoring requirements will be kept proportionate to the size of the grant.

Recipients may be asked to provide simple evidence such as:

- Number of Early Years children and families supported
- Brief description of what was delivered
- Photos, feedback or short case studies where appropriate
- Confirmation of how funding was spent
- A short summary of what difference the funding made

The intention is to understand the impact of the funding without creating unnecessary administration for recipients.