



Guidance notes for applications to the Soup Dragon's Den

Introduction

Progress Housing Group has a Community Investment Fund. This is a pot of money that community groups can apply for to develop projects which will benefit communities in areas where Progress Housing Group has properties.

As part of our support to local community projects, Progress Housing Group has introduced a simple and community-based approach to accessing funding from our Community Investment Fund. This is called the Soup Dragon's Den.

The Soup Dragon's Den is particularly aimed at small local community groups who need a small amount of funding to help them get going or to grow the project to reach more people.

We have tried to keep the application process as simple as possible.

How the Soup Dragon's Den works

All applications received will be reviewed, and up to six will be short-listed to present their pitch at the Soup Dragon's Den event. We will hold two events yearly: one in May and one in November. The details of each event will be promoted on our website www.progressgroup.org.uk, but will usually be held in a community setting starting at 6pm.

The Soup Dragon's Den event will have an open invitation for local residents and supporters of each project to attend. The evening will start with soup being served, allowing time for attendees to socialise and get to know each other. This will be followed by the applicants presenting their pitch. Similar to the TV show 'Dragon's Den', but much friendlier.

Once all the pitches have taken place, everyone attending the event will be asked to vote, ranking each of the pitches in their order of preference. The votes will be counted, and the winner will be announced at the end of the evening.

The winning applicant will receive up to £1,000. The remaining applicants will receive half the requested funding, up to £200.

The winning project from each Soup Dragon's Den event will be invited back the following year to provide a short update on how the project used and benefited from the funding received.

Application criteria

Community groups applying for funding through the Soup Dragon's Den will need to meet the following criteria:

- Progress Housing Group owns and manages properties in the area where the project will take place
- Tenants and customers of Progress Housing Group will be able to benefit through participation in the project
- The project will have a positive effect on the community in general
- There is a plan in place to ensure the future of the project after the initial funding has been used, as the Community Investment Fund is not available to fund the same project year after year
- The project will be undertaken in accordance with Progress Housing Group's policies in relation to data protection and equality, diversity and inclusion, as published on its website
- The project is making as much use as possible of other funding, including 'in-kind funding' and support in addition to the Community Investment Fund.

Application process

1. Complete the Soup Dragon's Den application form, giving as much information about the project as you can.
2. Forward the completed application to the Customer Voice Team via the website or by emailing it to community@progressgroup.org.uk. They will look through the application form and contact you with any queries or for further information.
3. All applications will go through a shortlisting process to select up to six applicants to pitch at the Soup Dragon's Den event.
4. The Customer Voice Team will contact you to let you know if your project has been shortlisted.
5. Shortlisted applicants will attend the Soup Dragon's Den event to pitch their project.

Successful applicants

If you are successful in your application and awarded funding, we will arrange to complete a grant agreement. You must sign this agreement before Progress Housing Association Limited (trading as Progress Housing Group) can make any payment from the Community Investment Fund.

A copy of the agreement is available from the Customer Voice Team, and by making your application, you agree to its terms, including those requiring reporting to Progress Housing Group and repaying money to the Community Investment Fund where required by the agreement.

The Customer Voice Team will contact you to complete the payment process, this does involve you providing some information about your group, including proof of bank account. Please note we cannot make payments to a personal bank account.

Progress Housing Group reserves the right to publish information about donations made through the Soup Dragon's Den in the Group's publications and media channels. This may include any photographs taken. Any successful projects will, therefore, be asked to complete a consent form to give permission for photographs to be used.

The information you provide in your application will be used to process and administer your application for funding. If you would like to know about how we use your information, please go to our data protection page on the website at <https://corporate.progressgroup.org.uk/privacy/>.

The Customer Voice Team will help you through this process, so if you have any queries, please contact us at community@progressgroup.org.uk or on 0333 320 4555.