

In partnership with Comic Relief, we have awarded £283k to 7 organisations across 5 regions in England as part of the Race Equality and Infrastructure Flexible Fund, enabling them to improve infrastructure provision at a local level, supporting Black and Minoritised Ethnic (BME) organisations to develop and to address race inequality.

Black Minority Ethnic Community Partnership (BMECP)

South East £46,100

BMECP aims to strengthen the sustainability and impact of frontline BME- led groups and organisations across East and West Sussex, and Brighton and Hove. The initiative will achieve this through providing comprehensive training in governance, financial management, and other essential operational areas to enhance organisational capacity and future funding prospects and delivering targeted training and mentorship to BME community leaders and organisations. The project will also focus on improving digital infrastructure and delivering culturally appropriate services, workshops, and activities to better serve BME communities throughout the region.

Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum (CECF)

East of England £21,000

CECF aims to strengthen the capacity and sustainability of local community groups by providing targeted support in key areas. This includes the delivery of 'meet the funder' sessions, intensive 1:1 application support for local groups and learning sessions focused on funding strategies. To bolster organisational infrastructure, tailored 1:1 capacity-building support will be complemented by partner-led learning workshops. The project will also disseminate crucial information and resources, including funding opportunities and best practices in governance and regulatory updates. Community events and networking sessions will provide a platform for development and collaboration.

Compact for Race Equality in South Tyneside (CREST)

North East £48,688.29

CREST will facilitate networking for BME groups through both online and in-person events across South Tyneside and the wider North East region, promoting collaboration and shared learning within the sector. Through a multifaceted approach, this project will deliver targeted support in key areas including fundraising, governance, volunteer management, and culturally competent service delivery via capacity building workshops. Accessible in-person training sessions will be held in South Shields and other community venues, fostering networking and peer learning opportunities. To broaden reach and engagement, the project will implement online advocacy campaigns and consultations. Tailored support will be provided through one-to-one mentoring and peer support initiatives, and an online resource hub will be developed to offer easily accessible tools and information.

Race Equality Network (REN)

Yorkshire and the Humber £45,895

REN will train BME leaders through on leadership fundamentals, policy influence, public speaking, organisational leadership, and partnership working, enhanced by contributions from statutory body experts. To foster connections and opportunities, in-person networking events will convene emerging leaders with senior figures and decision-makers. Policy forums (education, employment, health, young people, immigration) will engage trained leaders in quarterly discussions on grassroots issues. This valuable insight will be fed into local, regional, and national policy development. Participants will benefit from one-on-one coaching and mentoring with experienced professionals over a 12-month period, ensuring sustained growth and development.

Rotherham Ethnic Minority Alliance (REMA)

Yorkshire and the Humber £35,483.71

This project aims to strengthen BME-led groups in Rotherham through a multi-faceted approach. Capacity building initiatives include delivering a variety of workshops on governance, fundraising, and digital skills to a minimum of 21 BME-led groups, alongside providing 1-2-1 mentorship and consultancy for smaller organisations. The project will also develop toolkits and templates to streamline essential administrative processes like financial reporting. To enhance advocacy and representation, regular Rotherham Ethnic Minority Communities Network Forum events will be facilitated to gather insights and amplify the voices of local BME groups. The project will focus on partnership and development by creating a consortium of BME-led organisations to foster collaboration and resource sharing, delivering networking events, and establishing formal partnerships.

Support Northamptonshire

East Midlands £38,000.00

This project aims to strengthen the Black voluntary, community, and social enterprise (VCSE) sector through strategic engagement with 20 organisations and the provision of key training and development opportunities. The project will focus on membership development and the establishment of vital regional and national Black infrastructure partnerships through networking events, peer learning forums and the co-production of a race equality training programme. Collaborations will be fostered with Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) alongside the National Black Crown Trust (NBCT) to address race inequalities within the health and social care system.

The Race Equality Centre (TREC)

East Midlands £47,833.00

TREC will build the capacity building of 40 BME organisations by developing an online knowledge hub and delivering six thematic workshops coupled with tailored 1-2-1 support

aimed at increasing enterprise activity and social investment readiness. To enhance advocacy and policy influence, the project will empower organisations to champion racial equality in healthcare, education, and housing through advocacy and campaigning initiatives and opportunities to engage in decision-making processes. To encourage growth and collaboration TREC will facilitate the formation of two new collaborative initiatives, engaging 30 organisations as capacity-building advisors, and training volunteers to further expand the project's reach and impact.