

Ref:

NEY2510

## **Dundee Partnership** **Community Regeneration Fund**

### **Grant Application** **2025/26**

<b>Applicant Information</b>	
<b>Name of Applicant Group</b>	Kizuna Karate Scotland
<b>Activity Title</b>	Karate
<b>Grant Requested (£)</b>	£2,614.33

- The Youth Inclusion Fund is to provide financial assistance for community initiatives aimed at working with Children and Young People. Applications should be for an activity (or activities) focused on including children & young people in activities, diverting young people from an existing undesirable activity or preventing them joining in with such activity. This should reflect a need that children and young people have been consulted on.
- The Small Grants Fund is for other applications that contribute towards achievement of the Dundee City Plan / Local Community Plan, usually up to £5,000, but there may be lower local restrictions on the amount. Therefore, it is important to check with the relevant Community Worker as listed on page 8 for any local restrictions or other requirements.

This application should address needs in one of the below Wards within which the Dundee Partnership supports activity. If an activity covers more than one Ward then an application is required for each Forum, but it is essential that each application can stand on its own if agreed and that the application is not for a city-wide activity, but a local activity that is to take place in more than one Ward.

<b>TICK THE WARD WHERE YOUR PROJECT WILL OPERATE</b>
Coldside <input type="checkbox"/>
East End <input type="checkbox"/>
Lochee <input type="checkbox"/>
Maryfield <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>PLEASE INDICATE WHICH TYPE OF GRANT YOU ARE APPLYING FOR</b>
Small Grant <input type="checkbox"/>
Youth Inclusion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

North East <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  Strathmartine <input type="checkbox"/>	Please note that communications regarding this application will be sent to you via email unless you indicate otherwise. All communication for this application should be made to <a href="mailto:dundee.partnership@dundeecity.gov.uk">dundee.partnership@dundeecity.gov.uk</a>
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## Checklist for the DP Community Regeneration Fund Application Form

Before submitting your application form to the Dundee Partnership Team, please use the below checklist to ensure that your form is as fully completed as possible. Please also note that submitting an incomplete form can cause delays in processing or rejection of your application.

### Have you:

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Read the guidance sections of the form   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Fully completed the information on the front of the form   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Provided a response to all sections of the application form (including indicating a section as 'N/A' where relevant)   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Checked that your budget adds up properly?   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Checked that your start date is after the date at which funds could be available, (see page 6) and that your end date is within the financial year?          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Included appropriate, measurable outputs & outcomes?   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Provided your groups accounts, or other appropriate financial information?   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Sourced and attached all relevant quotes?<br>(multiple quotes are required where >£5,000 is being applied for to ensure value for money is being considered) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Checked that the bank details or financial code are correct / complete?  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Signed the form, given accurate contact details and ticked the GDPR box?   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

<b>Who is the grant for?</b> (Name of Applicant Group / Department)	Kizuna Karate Scotland		
<b>Did you receive a Dundee Partnership grant during 2024-25?</b> (If yes, list all grants below)			<b>YES / NO</b>
<b>Title of project funded</b>	<b>Amount granted</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Was it fully spent?</b>
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Please give a description of what you want this grant for - (please limit your answer to 500 words or less)**

Kizuna Karate Club is a volunteer-run community karate club based in North East Dundee, working primarily with children and young people from families affected by financial hardship, social isolation and limited access to extracurricular opportunities. We deliver low-cost karate sessions multiple evenings per week and a dedicated Sunday training programme for our competition squad, as well as an open beginner class to ensure accessibility for all.

We are applying for support from the Youth Inclusion Fund to deliver a targeted inclusion and equality project for young people aged 7–15 from the North East area. This project has two main elements:

**1) Club-Owned Competition Karate Suits (10 suits)**

We will purchase 10 competition-grade karate suits which will be owned and managed by the club and reissued to young members as they attend competitions. Unlike many clubs where families must buy their own equipment, these shared suits will remove financial barriers and ensure young people from lower-income households can participate on an equal footing with peers from more affluent backgrounds.

In karate, appearance and presentation form part of competition judging. Without access to proper equipment, children from disadvantaged backgrounds are visibly and practically at a disadvantage. This project ensures fairness, dignity and confidence by allowing all participants to present themselves professionally, without singling anyone out due to their family's financial situation.

**2) Specialist Training Seminar Programme (Kata and Kumite)**

We will host two full-day specialist karate seminars in Dundee – one focused on Kata (forms) and one on Kumite (sparring) – delivered by nationally recognised instructors. We have received a quote of £375 per day from London-based karate practitioner John Gardner for a Kata seminar, with similar costs anticipated for the Kumite event. These sessions will be open to 40–50 local young people, prioritising members from the North East communities.

These seminars give our members access to high-level training that wealthier clubs commonly provide through higher fees – something our families simply could not afford. This helps raise skills, aspiration and self-belief while also developing our local volunteer instructors, who can pass this knowledge on long-term to future members.

Our club now has 7 active parent-child family memberships within the North East, and we have achieved a 100% retention rate over the past 24 months. This reflects the trust and value families place in the environment we have created. Many of these children would not otherwise have access to structured sport, competitive experience or positive role models outside school.

This project directly supports inclusion, tackles inequality, improves physical and mental wellbeing, and strengthens community connections through accessible sport. It removes hidden financial barriers, increases confidence, improves self-esteem, and creates positive alternative pathways for young people in communities where opportunity is often limited.

We believe this project strongly aligns with the Youth Inclusion Fund objectives and the Dundee City Plan priorities of reducing inequality, supporting children and families, and strengthening communities through accessible physical activity

### **Which City Plan / Local Community Plan Outcome(s) will it address?**

Dundee City Plan / **North East** Local Community Plan Outcomes:

This project aligns with the following outcomes from the North East Local Community Plan and the Dundee City Plan:

#### **North East Local Community Plan Outcomes**

##### **“We need to improve life chances for children and families”**

- Our project provides equal access to high-quality sports training and equipment, ensuring no child is excluded due to financial hardship.
- It supports family participation through inclusive activities and strong role modelling.

##### **“We need to respond to the cost of living crisis”**

- By offering shared club-owned suits and free access to elite training seminars, we are actively reducing the financial burden on local families.

##### **“We need to tackle social isolation and improve mental wellbeing”**

- Karate offers young people consistent opportunities for physical activity, connection, structure and confidence-building — improving wellbeing and reducing isolation.

##### **“We need to empower communities”**

- Our volunteer-led model builds local capacity, strengthens community ties, and gives families opportunities to engage together in a positive, structured setting.

#### **Dundee City Plan Outcomes (2022–2032)**

##### **Reduce child poverty and improve the lives of children and young people**

- The project directly removes barriers to sport and participation for children from disadvantaged areas.

**Improve physical and mental wellbeing**

- Through increased access to training, competition preparation, and meaningful activity, this project supports positive mental health and builds long-term healthy habits.

**Deliver inclusive growth and community wealth building**

- By building capacity through volunteering, skills development and accessible opportunity, the project contributes to inclusive local development

**How many people will benefit from this project?**

Will any specific groups benefit from this project? (male, female, age range or protected characteristic)

Approximately 50 young people aged 7–15 from the North East area of Dundee will benefit directly through use of the club-owned competition suits and participation in the specialist training seminars.

In addition, 5–7 volunteer instructors will benefit from development opportunities during the seminars, allowing them to share that knowledge with future groups.

The wider club membership, including parent–child family groups, will also benefit from improved training quality and greater inclusion. Overall, we estimate the project will positively impact around 60–65 individuals during the funding period.

**Please say why the project is needed (please limit your answer to 500 words or less)**

Kizuna Karate Club operates in North East Dundee - an area with high levels of child poverty and limited access to affordable, structured extracurricular opportunities. Many families we work with are deeply affected by the cost of living crisis and are simply unable to afford the additional costs associated with progressing in sport, such as specialised uniforms or external coaching.

Our young members train alongside peers from larger, more affluent clubs that have access to expensive equipment, paid coaching, and more frequent seminar opportunities. In karate, especially in competition, appearance and presentation play a key role in performance. Without access to competition-grade suits, children from low-income families are immediately placed at a visible disadvantage - not due to lack of skill or effort, but because of financial inequality.

This project addresses that imbalance by purchasing high-quality competition suits that will be retained by the club and issued to young members as needed. This not only removes a significant financial barrier, but also helps children feel proud, equal and confident as they represent their club. It ensures that no young person is excluded or made to feel “less than” because of their background.

In addition, young people in our area have fewer opportunities to access elite-level coaching, as this usually comes at a high cost. Hosting two specialist training seminars (kata and kumite) locally allows our members (and particularly those from North East Dundee) to receive the same standard of development that is usually only available to better-funded clubs. These sessions will be completely free for participants, and led by respected instructors, including a guest coach from London.

Our club is volunteer-led and operates on minimal fees to remain accessible. We have already established a growing group of family memberships, with parents and children training together. Retention in our family group has been 100% over two years, and we see first-hand the positive impact this shared experience has on wellbeing, confidence and resilience.

This project will increase inclusion, raise aspirations, and allow children from disadvantaged communities to fully participate and progress in their sport without stigma or added financial strain on their families. It is needed to level the playing field, give young people a sense of pride and value, and promote long-term engagement in sport and community

**What local consultation has taken place regarding this application?**

(Please attach evidence summarising the results of any consultation)

This project idea has been shaped through ongoing feedback from young members, parents, and instructors during training sessions, informal discussions, and club communications.

Several families expressed concern about the cost of equipment and travel, especially when children began progressing into the competition squad. Some parents shared that they felt unable to allow their children to take part in competitions due to the financial burden of uniforms and extras, even though their children were committed and performing well in training.

Young people themselves also shared that they felt different or “less serious” compared to other clubs who arrived at events in matching suits with branded tracksuits and more formal presentation. This highlighted the emotional and confidence impact of not having the right gear — even before a event or seminar begins.

We also received strong interest when discussing potential guest seminars. Young people said they would love the chance to train with “proper champions” or “high-up instructors” — and many had never had that opportunity due to cost or location. They saw this as a chance to raise their level and build motivation.

The project idea was discussed in planning meetings with the club’s core instructors and family leads, who unanimously agreed that shared competition suits and free access to elite training were the top priorities for inclusion and equality across our membership.

This feedback and lived experience from families in North East Dundee has directly informed the focus and structure of this application.

**What evidence do you hold that the local community supports this application?**

(For example, was it proposed by members of a particular group? Does it directly address need identified by community members?)

We have strong evidence of local community support through:

- **Consistent attendance and retention:** Our club has seen growing weekly participation, including sustained attendance from 7 parent–child family groups in North East Dundee. Over the past 24 months, we have had 100% retention from these families, showing long-term commitment and value placed on the club’s activities.
- **Direct verbal and written feedback:** Parents have shared in conversations and via messages that they are grateful for the affordability of the club and are keen to support projects that reduce additional financial pressures — particularly as children begin to compete.
- **Community-led fundraising:** Families have already begun participating in fundraising initiatives to help with wider costs, showing they are invested and actively engaged. The suggestion to seek support for shared suits and expert coaching came from discussions with parents and young people during training and at team meetings.
- **Inclusive environment valued by families:** Several parents have commented that they chose to stay at Kizuna because of its welcoming, community-centred approach, and that their children feel safe, confident and motivated in the environment provided.
- **Collaborative planning:** The proposal was developed following a planning session involving coaches, parents and older youth members, who all agreed that shared club suits and elite seminar opportunities were the most important ways to ensure fairness and opportunity for all children in the club.

This strong local engagement and ongoing commitment demonstrates that the application is community-backed, relevant, and needed.

#### **How will the project / activity tackle deprivation or benefit those experiencing deprivation? (Refer to Section 1 of the Guidance Notes)**

This project is designed to directly remove financial barriers that prevent young people from fully participating in sport and personal development opportunities.

Many of the families in our club are from North East Dundee, an area identified as having higher levels of child poverty. These families often face difficult decisions between essential costs and “extras” such as sports equipment, event fees or travel. As a result, talented and committed children can miss out on key opportunities that help build confidence, skills and aspirations.

By purchasing shared club-owned competition suits, we ensure that no child is excluded or made to feel “less than” because they cannot afford specialist gear. In karate, appearance and presentation are part of how athletes are judged — so providing these suits helps level the playing field for children from disadvantaged households. The suits will not be given away but held by the club and issued as needed, making this a sustainable, long-term solution.

Additionally, hosting free local seminars with expert instructors provides access to the same level of training available to young people in wealthier clubs — without requiring families to pay for travel or coaching. This helps close the gap between what’s available to children from different financial backgrounds.

The project also supports wider family engagement. Our parent–child memberships help strengthen family bonds and mental wellbeing while encouraging multi-generational participation - all at low or no cost.

By improving access, building skills and boosting confidence, this project offers a real, immediate benefit to young people experiencing deprivation, helping them thrive within an inclusive, community-led club environment.

**What other sources of funding have you secured / tried to secure for this project?**

- If none, please state why this is the case

(Detail below, including applications that are pending or that have been turned down. We may ask for further evidence of an application for other funding)

Source of Funding (detail if this funding is for more than 1 year, if applicable)	£
We have not applied for any external funding for this project. Our organization relies entirely on fundraising and club fees to run and support all of our projects	N/A

**What are the costs of your activity and how much money is required?** Please give specific details (expand list / use an additional sheet if required) and provide all quotes (good practice for applications for over £5,000 is to provide three quotes to ensure value for money is received, and we will require to see these where relevant).

Cost Heading	Full Costs (£)	DP Aid (£)
Arawaza deluxe eco kata suits x10	£1600	£1600
Kata Seminar training (4 hours)	£375	£375
Guest instructor travel (london to edinburgh)	£139.33	£139.33
Kumite Guest instructor seminar (all day event)	£500	£500
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£2,614.33</b>	<b>£2,614.33</b>

- **All applicants are required to submit a copy of the group's most recent annual accounts** with this application. These will be used to help determine eligibility for funding, and **WITHOUT THEM AN APPLICATION WILL NOT PROCEED**
- If reserves held are less than three months operating expenses please confirm this below



Note that if you have already submitted your accounts within this financial year, further copies may not be needed - please check with the Dundee Partnership Team if unsure
<p><b>What other documents are you attaching to evidence the budget costs for this application?</b> (e.g. quotes, estimates, projected income and expenditure)</p> <p>I have attached the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual running bank statement</li> <li>• Flight details for guest instructor</li> <li>• Quotes for guest instructor fee</li> <li>• A couple of quote for suits.</li> </ul>

<p><b>How do you intend to monitor the project Outputs and Outcomes?</b></p> <p>We will monitor outputs and outcomes using a combination of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attendance tracking: We will record attendance at each seminar session, with sign-in sheets, and note which members are issued with club suits for competition use.</li> <li>• Feedback forms: After each seminar, short feedback forms will be completed by participants (or parents for younger children), assessing confidence, enjoyment, and learning outcomes.</li> <li>• Volunteer reflections: Our coaching team will provide written reflections on how the seminars have impacted their delivery and how the shared learning is being passed on during regular classes.</li> <li>• Progress tracking: We will track the participation and performance of young members who use the suits at competitions, with a focus on increased involvement from families previously less able to take part due to costs.</li> <li>• Photo and video records: We will document parts of the training and events (with permission) to evidence delivery and impact.</li> <li>• Case studies: We will collect short, anonymised stories or quotes from families who have directly benefited, particularly those affected by financial hardship.</li> </ul> <p>All data will be stored securely and used to inform a final report showing how the project has increased inclusion, supported young people, and addressed barriers linked to deprivation.</p>
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<p><b>What is the planned start date of the event/activity?</b></p> <p>Please note turn around on applications is 6 - 10 weeks and funding cannot be retrospective (<i>see section 2 of the guidance notes</i>)</p>	1 <sup>st</sup> February 2026
<p><b>What is the planned end date of the event/activity?</b></p>	14 <sup>th</sup> March 2026

## Outputs & Outcomes

It is expected that applicants will have evidence to support performance information when completing returns on the performance against target. Consideration of this should be given when outputs and outcomes are set out.

Applicants will usually refer to one [City Plan](#) / [Local Community Plan](#) Outcome, but the opportunity is given for up to two, if required. **Please refer to section 3 of the Guidance Notes** for examples of outputs and outcomes / indicators.

<b>City Plan / Local Community Plan Outcome:</b>	
Improve life chances for children and families / Increase participation in community life	
<b>Purpose of activity / project within this Outcome:</b>	
To reduce inequality by ensuring children from lower-income families have access to high-quality karate equipment and elite training opportunities, allowing them to participate confidently and on an equal footing with others.	
<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Target 2025-26</b>
Purchase and issue 10 shared competition-grade karate suits held by the club for use at events.	February 2026
Deliver two expert-led karate seminars in North East Dundee (one kata-focused, one kumite-focused).	February 2026
Provide free access to these seminars for 40–50 young people from the area.	February 2026
Engage and upskill 6-8 volunteer instructors to continue passing on the seminar content to the wider group.	February 2026
<b>Outcomes / Indicators:</b>	<b>Target 2025-26</b>
Increased confidence and inclusion among children from low-income families taking part in local karate events and seminars.	
Measurable increase in training quality and participation through feedback forms and attendance logs.	
Parents report feeling that their children are no longer at a disadvantage due to cost. Instructors report improvements in group ability and motivation following training.	
Positive feedback from families on equality and fairness in opportunities provided.	
Positive feedback from families on equality and fairness in opportunities provided.	

<b>City Plan / Local Community Plan Outcome:</b>
Tackle social isolation and improve mental wellbeing / Support community-led activity
<b>Purpose of activity / project within this Outcome:</b>

To bring local families and young people together through a shared experience that builds pride, connection, and community - while also providing affordable access to enrichment opportunities normally out of reach due to financial limitations.

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Target 2025-26</b>
Host inclusive seminars that are free of charge and locally delivered, removing barriers to access.	Long term
Promote sessions to existing and new members, including parent-child training pairs.	Long term
Capture attendance and engagement from participants through sign-in and photos (with consent).	Long term
Monitor post-event confidence and enjoyment through feedback forms.	Long term
<b>Outcomes / Indicators:</b>	
Reduced sense of exclusion among children from financially disadvantaged backgrounds.	
Stronger engagement from families, including parent-child pairs, increasing social cohesion.	
Enhanced motivation and mental wellbeing for children involved.	
Feedback and testimonials confirming the value and impact of equal access to equipment and elite training.	