

Size of Suffolk Registered Charities

Charity Commission figures based on **2,935** Suffolk registered charities last recorded income on annual returns as at 18/02/2026.



53%
Have paid staff



43,514
Volunteers



£499.5m
Income



£455,457
Expenditure

Top 3 costs in 2025

In the last 12 months, increased costs were reported against all areas of the survey.

- staff salaries
- energy bills
- insurance

Annual income

61% Of the survey respondents, 61% have an annual income of less than £50,000.

Key Concerns to Note

- 📍 Finance
- 📍 Organisational resilience
- 📍 Our people
- 📍 Impact on communities

Commissioning & Procurement Spotlight

12% of respondents had engaged in a meet the procurement/commissioner event in the last 12 months.

17 noted that they hadn't engaged due to size, relevance, structure and lack of awareness.

281 respondents felt these events would be useful to improve access and understanding of procurement processes.

8% of respondents had been through an open procurement process in 2025.

The State of Suffolk's VCFSE Sector 2026

(Voluntary, Community, Faith & Social Enterprise)



Between 2022 and 2023 Suffolk charity **income rose by £6.5m**, Having increased by **£48.5m in 2022-2023**, expenditure then decreased by **£62,791,883 in 2023/24**.



Grant funding financially decreased the most in 2024 - almost half said **50%** or more of income is grants/contracts.

The top 3 sector challenges remained static this year:

- 1 Insufficient funding**
- 2 Increase in demand**
- 3 Volunteer recruitment**

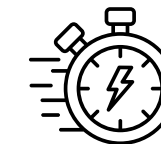


The top 5 significant challenges facing professionals in the sector:

- 1 Funding & Resources**
- 2 Volunteer & Trustee Capacity**
- 3 Organisational Challenges**
- 4 Administration & Compliance**
- 5 Communications & Outreach**

Responses to increased costs in 2024:

- ✓ Increased charges for services
- ✓ Limiting or restricting services
- ✓ Unexpected use of reserves
- ✓ Terminated or suspended services
- ✓ Introduced or extended waiting lists
- ✓ Reduced staff hours and/or redundancies made



More than **50%** experienced an increase in demand & complexity for services & **61%** expect the increase to continue in the next 12 months.



40% were able to meet demand with some difficulty, **3%** have met with great difficulty and **4%** were unable to meet demand in the past 12 months.

Research findings

141 respondents reported that their organisation income has stayed the same or decreased over the last year.

Grant award size fell by **49%** in 2023/24, & the number of grants awarded fell by **77%**, from 808 to 293. **In 2025 this rose to 297.**

9% do not have any reserves & a further **4%** unlikely to meet contractual obligations should the worst happen.

67% stated that they charge for services with **25%** increasing charges in response to increasing costs or decreasing funds.

23% responded they were delivering services they felt others had a statutory responsibility to deliver.

50% reported an increase in complexity of demand in the last 12 months with **61%** reporting that they felt demand would increase in the coming year.

40% said they spent more than they brought in during the year.