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Tender

Activate Essex Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) 2026-2028

Essex County Council

UK4: Tender notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-078994

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05ed1e

Published 2 December 2025, 2:55pm

Scope

Reference

E010PA

Description

The Department for Education has provided Essex County Council with funding in order to deliver the holiday activity and food programme (HAF) across Essex during the Easter, Summer and Winter school holidays. Active Essex will be managing the programme on behalf of Essex County Council. Active Essex and Essex County Council will also be managing the HAF programme on behalf of Thurrock Council. Across Essex and Thurrock the programme is called Essex ActvAte.

Essex ActvAte will engage and support young people and families who are eligible for benefits based free school meals and families most in need. The programme will provide free and inclusive holiday clubs across the county that will include a range of fun physical and enrichment activities, a free nutritious meal, nutritional education and mentoring and support for the young person and whole family. The programme aims to improve health generally, including, crucially, mental health and aim to provide the families with the

knowledge and support to live healthier, happier lives.

Bidders will be awarded funding from the overall grant fund to deliver their projects.

Total value (estimated)

- £15,000,000 excluding VAT
- £15,000,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 February 2026 to 31 January 2029
- 3 years

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 55240000 - Holiday centre and holiday home services

Contract locations

- UKH3 - Essex
-

Participation

Particular suitability

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
- Voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)

Submission

Tender submission deadline

6 January 2026, 5:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

[https://procontract.due-north.com/Opportunities/Index?tabName=opportunities&resetFilter=True](https://procontract.duenorth.com/Opportunities/Index?tabName=opportunities&resetFilter=True)

Project information - DN799110

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

23 January 2026

Award criteria

Name	Description	Type	Weighting
Technical Questions	This is an application process for grant funding and therefore price is not a determination. Funding will be awarded to applicants who meet the minimum criteria set out in the application pack. The outcome of this tender may result in multiple grant awards to multiple suppliers.	Quality	100%

Other information**Conflicts assessment prepared/revised**

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Special regime

Light touch

Contracting authority

Essex County Council

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PWVM-4844-NRQH

County Hall, Market Road

Chelmsford

CM1 1QH

United Kingdom

Email: abbey.wellington@essex.gov.uk

Region: UKH36 - Heart of Essex

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government