

AIMS AND PRINCIPLES OF THE COVID-19 RESPONSE GRANTS PROGRAMME

- LONGER TERM EMERGENCY PHASE

The overall aim of the Programme is to support local voluntary and community organisations that are helping vulnerable people impacted by the Covid-19 crisis.

The programme is now transitioning from the initial immediate relief phase, to the 'longer-term emergency phase', the definition for which is 'those who are suffering hardship as a result of the short and long term economic and social consequences caused by COVID-19'.

While continuing to prioritise projects which directly respond to acute need, Cheshire Community Foundation have been able to widen the remit of our grant making programme, to fund a wider range of community support (as outlined below), thanks to further funding provided by the Department of Culture Media and Sport through the National Emergencies Trust.

GRANT FUNDS AND SIZE OF GRANT

Cheshire Community Foundation have **£200,000 to distribute** during this phase of the Covid-19 Response Grants Programme which is likely to have high competition for funding.

£100,000 of this will be for smaller grants **up to £5,000** (we are likely to make c. 20 awards)

£100,000 will be for grants **£5000 to £15,000 (with an average/typical grant size of £10,000** we are likely to make c. 6-10 awards of this size).

We cannot guarantee that any further funding for covid-19 related activity will be available after this phase (as this will be dependent on the prevailing pandemic conditions and availability of donor funds).

Money must be spent in accordance with the objects of the Programme and the organisation's purposes. The level of funding available to organisations will depend on the availability of funding and the extent of need.

Most grants will be in the region of £1000 - £5,000, with a smaller number of larger grants for strategic, coordinated and partnership work.

We will process applications as follows: -

- For grants **£500 to £5000** we will assess on a rolling basis, with applications going to grants Panels weekly, until funds are fully spent.
- For **strategic grants over £5000 to £15,000 maximum (typical grant award c.£10,000)** we will hold one Panel meeting at the end of August 2020.

WHAT THE PROGRAMME CAN SUPPORT:

The programme can support the following.

- Support organisations to adapt to the crisis with greater focus on developing and enhancing services, buying equipment, capacity building or organisational development.
- Deliver larger and/or strategic grants, supporting coordinated responses, grants to infrastructure organisations or those working in partnership over a wider area.
- Prevent problems emerging or getting worse to prevent crises escalating. Funding permitting, the programme may also support people and communities to seize opportunities to emerge from the crisis and lead thriving lives going forward.
- Support organisations for a longer time period (most grants in the earlier phase were 3-4 months in duration). Groups awarded funds must spend the grant and delivery their projects by **31st March 2021**.

If you are able to meet the programme criteria above, we will also be able to consider support for the financial stability of your organisations as long **as you are able to continue to directly supporting people experiencing hardship as a result of the crisis**. Funding **up to a maximum of £5000** can be considered as part of your application. (Note: Please see below the information on page 3 as to how we will assess your need for financial stability support).

PRIORITY GROUPS:

Priority will be given to funding organisations who are **reaching the most vulnerable or at greatest risk of negative social, health or economic impacts**. We know that Covid-19 has had a disproportionately negative impact on some people and communities, particularly black and minority ethnic communities. Funding will continue to be targeted at:

- Organisations working to combat hardship including economic, social or health impacts caused by the pandemic
- Organisations that support the ongoing needs of vulnerable people to ensure that their health and wellbeing is maintained including those who are self-isolating, community response co-ordination and informal groups responding to the crisis.
- Organisations in support of activities that relieve pressure on local statutory services, particularly emergency or health and social care provision, or compliment their response
- Organisations supporting people or communities who have been disproportionately affected. For example, projects could include, but are not limited to:
 - Support for vulnerable and older people in their homes, providing food and medicines whilst this is still required.
 - Funding for community groups that are linked into the hubs being created to coordinate the above.
 - Training for new volunteer advice workers.
 - Non-perishable food and essential living and baby items for distribution to destitute individuals.
 - Increased hours for part time frontline workers to deliver increased services.
 - Support for Infrastructure organisation who can provide additional or enhanced support to VCOs including but not limited to funding advice, financial management, governance, recruitment, and retention of volunteers.

ELIGIBLE ORGANISATIONS

- Voluntary and community organisations, including:
- registered charities, including charitable incorporated organisations
- constituted organisations and non-registered charities
- community interest companies and community benefit)
- parish and town councils (if the funded activity is not deemed part of their statutory duties)
- Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs)
- Churches and other religious organisations (if the funded activity is not deemed to be proselytising)
- other voluntary community organisations not constituted would be eligible, with appropriate endorsement from the statutory body, charity, parochial church council etc

NOT ELIGIBLE UNDER THIS PROGRAMME

- Grants that are solely for the provision of bursaries to individuals or families cannot be awarded. However, other provisions such as emergency food parcels or other items can be purchased and distributed to their beneficiaries. For example, foodbanks that are low on supplies of specific items. Individuals cannot apply.
- Statutory bodies such as city and county councils or health institutions cannot apply.
- Regional or national organisations working in Cheshire may be considered if they can demonstrate that they are the best organisation to tackle a particular social issue or address a specific need and there is **no other local organisation** able to do this

IF YOU ARE APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL STABILITY AS PART OF YOUR APPLICATION:

For organisations **seeking to support their financial stability (up to a maximum of £5,000) as part of your project**, our due diligence will include a robust financial assessment of the following (please do not apply for financial stability funding, if you will be unable to provide this information):

- The financial stability of your organisation before the crisis.
- What income has been lost.
- What income is expected or has been secured for the remainder of the year. Dependent upon the size of the grant we may feel it appropriate to request a basic cash flow forecast.
- What action the organisation is taking to reduce costs or operate more efficiently.
- What adjustments have been made to address the ongoing financial impact.
- What reserves the organisation holds, including whether restrictions on some funds can be removed to bring them into use.
- What other income sources the organisation is exploring.

APPLICATIONS IN PROGRESS BUT NOT SUBMITTED FROM THE PREVIOUS PHASE OF FUNDING

If you had stated an application, but not submitted it within the first Phase of the programme, you should be able to cut and paste responses into the new application form for this Phase. Should anyone have difficulty retrieving an application that had started, but not submitted, please do get in touch at grants@cheshirecommunityfoundation.org.uk