**AIMS AND PRINCIPLES OF THE CHESHIRE AND WARRINGTON**

**PANDEMIC RECOVERY GRANTS PROGRAMME 2021**

The overall aim of the Cheshire and Warrington Pandemic Recovery Grants Programme, is to fund local voluntary and community organisations, working with the most vulnerable people impacted by the pandemic, during the phased recovery period - and beyond.

This programme transitions away from the earlier, immediate relief phases of funding, which Cheshire Community Foundation has distributed (£1million has been awarded for immediate relief during 2020), to a ‘longer-term recovery phase’, the definition for which is ‘those who are suffering hardship because of the long term economic and social consequences caused by the pandemic’.

**GRANT FUNDS AND SIZE OF GRANT**

Cheshire Community Foundation have c.**£350,000 to distribute** under this programme ( the programme is likely to have high competition for funding). We are likely to make c. 50 awards, depending on size of grants awarded.

Grants available are from **£3,000 to £15,000 (with a typical grant size of £7500).** Grants up to £15,000 will be awarded for strategic, coordinated partnership activity. Note: There will be a separate pandemic recovery grants programme aimed at smaller charitable organisations for shorter term grants, up to £3000, that will run alongside this grants programme with applications processed on an ongoing basis).

Start dates for projects are July 2021 onwards. Grants must be spent and reported on by the end of **August 2022**

Grant funds must be spent in accordance with the aims 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.

We will process applications as follows:-

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Programme** | **Funding available** | **Type of programme** | **Application Window** | | **Grant** | **Applicants notified** |
| **Opens 9.00am** | **Closes midnight** | **Panel** |  |
| **C&W Pandemic Recovery Grants Programme grants up to £15,000** | **£350,000** | An **open call programme - with pre-application support,** to reach a diverse range of charitable organisations who can re-build their services and activities and strengthen capacity to meet the needs of vulnerable people | 15/03/2021 | 26/04/2021 | 17/6/2021 | 01/07/2021 |

**PRIORITY GROUPS:**

Priority will be given to funding organisations who can demonstrate they are **reaching the most vulnerable or at greatest risk of ongoing negative social, health or economic impacts**.

**WHAT THE PROGRAMME CAN SUPPORT:**

* Organisations that support the ongoing needs of vulnerable people of all ages, to ensure that their mental health and wellbeing is improved, as they reintegrate into their communities after long periods of self-isolation.
* Organisations who need to adapt and develop or enhance their services, to meet the needs of vulnerable people affected by the pandemic, during the recovery period – particularly to support health and wellbeing and mental health. This includes community centres and hubs preparing themselves to re-open (anticipated to be 17th May 2021)
* Organisations working to combat hardship including economic, social or health impacts caused by the pandemic.
* Organisations supporting people or communities who have been disproportionately affected. We know that the pandemic has had a disproportionately negative impact on people and communities, including black and minority ethnic communities.
* Delivery of larger and/or strategic partnership projects across a wider geography to maximise efficiency and effectiveness of voluntary sector support services.
* The programme will not be able to make a general % contribution towards an organisations core costs but we will consider a fair and reasonable contribution towards overheads, proportionate to the project activity being proposed.

**EXAMPLE ACTIVITIES COULD INCLUDE**

* Counselling and therapy for people of all ages
* Activities which increase social interaction and reduce loneliness for people emerging from lockdown after many months of isolation, in both rural and urban areas.
* Support to help develop vital social and emotional skills for young people (following a period of severe lack of social contact, to increase confidence, social mobility, a sense of belonging and help reduce risk taking behaviours)
* Support to tackle the widening achievement gaps for vulnerable young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to increase confidence and aspirations.
* Support for people of all ages affected by loss of employment, to learn new skills and gain support and advice to find employment.
* Room-hire costs where charities need to re-establish services, where facilities which have been closed for some time are reopening for use.
* Cost associated with making more effective use of existing building infrastructure (e.g. moving to more suitable premises, merging offices or collocating with other charities - where there is a direct link between costs incurred and providing improved outcomes for vulnerable service users.

**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)

**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 food parcels - or other items can be purchased and distributed to beneficiaries. For example, foodbanks that are low on supplies of specific items, where there is a clear need.
* We cannot make a general contribution for loss of income; replace reserves or cover deficits. We will prioritise support to organisations which can demonstrate their potential to survive and thrive.
* Statutory bodies such as city and county councils or health institutions, schools, universities, and hospitals cannot apply.
* Organisations generating private profit.
* Applications from individuals.
* National organisations, unless the application is submitted by a local office with a separate management committee, bank account and governing documents.
* Organisations promoting party political activity.
* Applications to fund costs retrospectively, i.e. anything that has already been paid for or has already taken place or any costs incurred prior to receipt of a grant offer and signed terms and conditions.
* Applications seeking a contribution towards major building work, infrastructure, or capital refurbishment work.
* Major digital IT infrastructure projects which represent 50% or more of the total project costs (it is advisable to talk to us before applying for IT)
* The programme is open to faith-based organisations. However, we cannot fund the practising of religion or any activities that actively promote a religion or belief systems (or a lack of belief). This is because these activities could exclude people from accessing an activity on religious grounds.
* Any costs incurred when putting together the application.

**SUPPORT AVAILABLE PRIOR TO APPLYING**

* If you have any queries, please in the first instance email:-[grants@cheshirecommunityfoundation.org.uk](mailto:grants@cheshirecommunityfoundation.org.uk) with a brief outline of you enquiry - and we will arrange for a member of the team to call you with advice and guidance.
* We are particularly interested in providing pre-application support for organistions who have never applied to Cheshire Community Foundation before - who may need to clarify aspects of our grant-making eligibility criteria, or process.