



The Urgent Response Fund - Coronavirus

Overview

The Urgent Response Fund – Coronavirus is a small grants fund for charities and community groups in need of resources to effectively deliver projects / activities to support the basic health and wellbeing needs of vulnerable members of the community in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

For the purposes of this scheme, the following definition of ‘vulnerable person’ will be used in all decision making: ‘An individual who is not able to respond and adapt to the impacts of the pandemic like the majority of people, due to their health, social circumstances or economic position’.

From March 2021 when we start to look forward to the slow easing of restrictions, we will also consider applications that support vulnerable people and communities to re-engage with activities and services, and adapt to the gradual lifting of lockdown.

Objective

To assist groups who are actively involved in addressing health and wellbeing issues brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.

What you can apply for

Primarily for activity addressing the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, with secondary priorities as dictated by funders. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Coordination of volunteers and charitable effort to support vulnerable people self-isolating
- Direct and immediate practical support for vulnerable groups • Support to enable prompt and safe discharge from hospital
- Enabling and encouraging vulnerable people to use and access technology to keep them connected to the outside world
- Reaching out to isolated older and vulnerable people by telephone and social media to support positive mental health
- Initiatives to reduce isolation and vulnerability
- Advice and guidance and emotional, mental health and bereavement support
- Enabling charitable groups supporting Covid-19 to work remotely and adapting services

From March 2021 we will also consider activity that:

- helps people reconnect with each other again
- encourages people to volunteer or re-engage with activities and services
- supports vulnerable people adapt to the gradual lifting of lockdown and build confidence
- continues to support vulnerable people to continue to deal with the long-term impact Covid-19 and the lockdown has had on them

Who can apply

The fund is for small voluntary community groups with charitable aims. Applicants must be based and operational in Lancaster district. Examples include:

- Community emergency response groups
- Foodbanks, food clubs and other food support groups
- Citizen's Advice Bureau and other family advice services
- CVS and volunteer centres
- Community transport groups
- Support services for the elderly
- Homeless support services
- Parish and Town councils

Groups that have recently formed, as a direct response to the impacts of Covid-19, are also eligible. You will need to:

- Demonstrate affiliation with other statutory or charitable organisation, e.g. a parish council
- Demonstrate that appropriate safeguarding arrangements are in place
- Have arrangements in place for another statutory or charitable organisation to hold the funds if there is no bank account – funds cannot be paid into an individual's personal bank account – further advice and guidance can be found at www.covidmutualaid.org

Please note that while we are primarily interested in funding good outcomes for people across Lancaster District, organisations with high levels of free reserves, whilst still able to apply, are less likely to be prioritised.

What the fund cannot support

- Businesses
- Individuals

The Government has alternative arrangements in place to support these groups.

Panel

A panel consisting of health, council and voluntary sector representatives will be convened to assess applications.

The scheme will utilise the existing panel that assesses applications made to the Lancaster District Community Wellbeing Fund, plus two elected members of Lancaster City Council.

At least four out of the six members should participate per decision making round, though anyone absent will be able to suggest someone else from their organisation take part.

The panel meets monthly to review applications, becoming more frequent where demand dictates.

Applications

Applications should be made online at: www.lancastercvs.org.uk/funding/coronavirus.

If you need help in completing an application, contact Lancaster District CVS by emailing funding@lancastercvs.org.uk or calling (01524) 555900.

How much can you apply for?

There is no minimum or maximum award amount, although most awards are in the region of £500 - £1000.

The Fund intends to award smaller grants for community based activities.

Larger grants can be awarded to organisations providing district-wide support.

Awards will only be made to groups who have demonstrated that they will operate safely and in line with government guidance regarding the virus.

Payments will be made by Lancaster District CVS via BACS.

Thanks

With thanks to the various partners who have worked together to create this opportunity – NHS Morecambe Bay CCG, Lancaster City Council, Eric Wright Charitable Trust, the Westminster Foundation, Lancaster District CVS and Lancaster District Food Poverty Alliance.

Guidance updated 11th March 2021