

The **Dorset Coronavirus Community Fund** has launched to support local charities and voluntary organisations that are assisting some of Dorset’s most vulnerable people during the Coronavirus epidemic.

Donations raised through the Foundation’s own local *Dorset Coronavirus Community Appeal,* as well as funds from the *National Emergencies Trust Coronavirus Appeal* will support community and voluntary organisations providing vital support to people and communities in response to the Coronavirus outbreak.

**Fund Criteria**

The aim of the Fund is to effectively and efficiently support local voluntary and community organisations that are helping vulnerable people impacted by the Covid-19 crisis; easing the immediate difficulties communities are facing and to support their recovery over the coming weeks and months. All applicant organisations should adhere to government guidelines regarding social distancing, self-isolation and shielding.

**Funding will initially be offered up to £5000 and targeted at:**

* Organisations that support the ongoing needs of vulnerable people to ensure that their health & wellbeing is maintained
* Organisations in support of activities that relieve pressure on local statutory services, particularly emergency or health and social care provision, or compliment their response
* Groups and activities that support vulnerable people self-isolating (the elderly, people with pre-existing medical conditions etc.)
* Support for Food banks and organisations working to combat hardship caused by the pandemic including child hunger
* Community response co-ordination
* Organisations or informal groups that have been specifically established to respond to the crisis
* Organisations addressing emotional support, mental health and bereavement support, where there are increased needs as a result of the crisis

**Secondarily, and if funds allow:**

* Support for organisations that provide support for vulnerable groups to counter the loss of income and fundraising which can be directly linked to the pandemic

**Examples of funded activities** may include but are not limited to: Food, Transport & delivery, Befriending, Information & advice, Telephone helplines, Counselling & therapy

**We can fund any and all service delivery costs** including volunteer expenses, perishable and non-perishable goods and capital equipment such as remote working equipment and protective equipment. Contributions to core organisation costs may also be considered.

**Retrospective payments** may be made to cover costs incurred in urgent response to the crisis.

**Eligibility**

**Organisations that can apply:**

* Registered Charities including Charitable Incorporated Organisations
* Constituted Community Groups
* Community Benefit Societies
* Social Enterprises (companies limited by guarantee with a not-for-profit clause)
* CICs (must be limited by guarantee and have community benefit objectives)
* Parish and Town Councils (if funded activities are not deemed part of statutory duties)
* Churches and religious organisations (if funded activities are not promoting religion)
* New and emerging groups - please see specific information below
* *All of the above must be local or regional organisations; local branches of national charities are eligible if they are financially independent and separately managed*

**All organisations *(apart from New & Emerging Groups)* must have***:*

* A management committee, Trustees or Board of Directors with at least 3 unrelated members
* A written constitution or set of rules that sets out the purpose and management of the organisation
* A bank account in the name of the organisation with at least two unrelated cheque signatories
* *If the organisation has less than 6 months history of service delivery they should also provide the name and contact details of a referee who can endorse them. This person should be from an established statutory or voluntary sector organisation such as a Charity, Church, Council, School, Medical institution*

**Alternatives for New & Emerging groups:**

New & Emerging groups are those with less than 6 months servicedelivery experience and who do not have the above requirements. These groups should:

* Provide the name and contact details of a referee who can endorse you AND receive/manage the money on your behalf. This person should not be an active member of your group (although they may be working with you) and will ideally be from an established statutory or voluntary sector organisation such as a Charity, Church, Council, School, Medical institution etc.
* *New & emerging groups who are successful will be awarded grants of up to £1500 only*
* *We will NOT fund new & emerging groups for 1 to 1 unsupervised activity with children/vulnerable adults*

**Restrictions:**

* Statutory bodies such as City and County Councils or health institutions cannot apply
* Individuals cannot apply
* Grants that are solely for the provision of cash bursaries to individuals or families are not eligible

**Supporting Documents**

**Groups awarded a grant from DCF since January 2018\*** **are NOT required to submit supporting documents**

\*including grants from any of our funding programmes e.g. Neighborhood Fund, iwill Fund, Tampon Tax Community Fund, Wessex Water Community Fund and others)

**Otherwise, groups are required to provide the following**:

* Constitution or governing document
* Recent bank statement no more than 3 months old
* Latest annual accounts (or basic financial records for organisations less than 12 months old)
* Safeguarding policy