

Dorset Coronavirus Community Fund – Frequently asked questions

Which organisations will be eligible to apply?

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.

In the **first phase** of funding, focus will be on organisations that are addressing

- 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

In the **second phase** of funding and if funds allow, the focus will be expanded to include:

- 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

My organisation has been running for less than 6 months, can I apply?

All new and emerging groups (those with less than 6 months service delivery experience) can apply for grants up to **£1,500**. If you meet our usual eligibility criteria, then please submit your application. If you do not meet our usual eligibility criteria, then you should also:

- 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.
- **Safeguarding:** funded groups are required to make all workers aware of basic Safeguarding requirements and how to report concerns. Groups should talk to the Designated Safeguarding Officer of the partner organisation.
- *Please note: we will **NOT** fund new & emerging groups for 1 to 1 unsupervised activity with children/vulnerable adults*

How much can my organisation apply for?

If you are a new & emerging group (those with less than 6 months service delivery experience) you can apply for grants up to £1,500.

For all other groups, funding will initially be up to £5,000, however, depending on future phases and if funds allow, this will increase to £10,000.

If my organisation is successful, can we apply for more funding?

Yes, you can ask for more as we go along, unless you have been advised not to by our Grants Manager.

When will you announce funding decisions?

We expect grants from the Fund will be made on a rolling basis, beginning in the next couple of weeks. We aim to have assess complete applications within 2 weeks of receipt and we will be in contact with you as soon as a decision has been made.

I'm affected by the Coronavirus outbreak. Can I apply for me or my family?

We understand the COVID-19 pandemic is having, and will continue to have, a big impact on individuals and families in our area. Our Fund has been set up to support charitable organisations that can help people most affected. We are not providing grants directly to individuals or families. Please see below organisations that may be able to help:

If you live in the BCP Council area and require support, please call the BCP Council dedicated helpline to support residents through the Coronavirus outbreak on 0300 123 7052. The line will be open 8am-8pm, seven days a week.

If you live in the Dorset Council area and require support, you can call 01305 221022, 8am to 8pm, 7 days a week.

If you are worried about money or other issues, you can contact your local citizens advice bureaux here: <https://citizensadvisedorset.org.uk/>.

Alternatively, search for funding on Turn2Us' website: <https://www.turn2us.org.uk/>

Can I request a grant for capital costs like equipment?

As long as they are needed for activities/services that meet the Fund priorities, yes.

Can I request a grant for Core Costs

Core costs are those which an organisation needs to cover but are not directly related to delivery of activities/services, such as office overheads and insurance. We will consider making a small contribution to core costs but please bear in mind this is an Emergency Fund so is intended to enable the delivery of activities/services directly relevant to the Coronavirus outbreak.

Can hospitals and schools apply to the Fund?

Whilst we appreciate there is a lack of resources in some schools and hospitals who are working hard to support community needs, the Fund has been set up to support the efforts of the voluntary sector during this crisis – we cannot support organisations who deliver statutory requirements such as hospitals and schools. PTA groups may be able to apply if they meet eligibility requirements and need funding for activities that are not a statutory requirement (education).

Is there a restriction on the size of organisation that can apply?

No. Usually as a Community Foundation we prioritise applications from the smallest voluntary groups but in this case the priority is funding activities and services most relevant to Fund priorities.

Can a national charity apply for an activity/service in Dorset only?

No, the Fund can support local and regional groups only – local projects are not eligible even where they have a subcommittee of the national charity and its trustees are ultimately responsible. Local branches of national charities (e.g. Citizens Advice offices) can apply if they are financially independent from the national body and locally managed, including ultimate responsibility sitting with the local management board.