

The **Dorset Coronavirus Community Fund** supports local charities and voluntary groups that are assisting Dorset's most vulnerable people during the Coronavirus epidemic.



Funds for phase 3 have been donated by Dorset Council and Co-op. We thank them for supporting our Dorset Coronavirus Community Appeal.



Summary of Fund so far

The overall 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. Under phase 1 we supported groups addressing immediate needs until the end of Sept 2020. Under phase 2 we supported groups addressing a longer-term emergency phase to end of March 2021, with grants targeting a variety of needs and issues.

Phase 3 criteria

Phase 3 will focus on supporting voluntary groups addressing food insecurity where there are emerging or increasing needs in their communities as a result of hardship directly caused or exacerbated by the pandemic.

Grants of up to £7500 are available, or up to £2000 for new groups.

All grants should be fully spent by 31st March 2021.

Groups must have annual expenditure less than £500,000 according to their latest accounts and meet our eligibility requirements (see eligibility section below).

Groups funded in phase 1 or 2 may apply for a phase 3 grant.

- Projects/services must be providing healthy, nutritious food directly to the public at low cost for those who cannot afford it.
- Priority will be given to groups who are reaching the most vulnerable or at greatest risk of negative social, health or economic impact as a result of COVID-19.
- Grants can support start up costs for new food initiatives where there is a need for additional local provision and where the service would begin delivery by the end of December 2020. Groups should describe how the service will compliment any existing food provision and demonstrate that they are connected with other relevant organisations serving their community to ensure that services are joined up and meet community needs.
- Grants can support existing food initiatives looking to expand services to address an increase in demand, or where they need to adapt service delivery in line with changing local needs or the impact of government restrictions.
- Projects/services in receipt of grants from the Dorset Community Impact R5 Funding (available from Dorset Council) and phase 1 or 2 of the Dorset Coronavirus Community Fund, need to demonstrate that additional funding is needed for the period to end of March 2021.
- Priority will be given to services demonstrating a high likelihood of sustainability after the grant period.
- Funded groups must adhere to government guidelines on social distancing, self-isolation & shielding.

What costs can I apply for?

We can support any and all costs related to eligible services that meet Fund criteria, including staff costs, volunteer expenses and training, perishable and non-perishable goods, small capital items such as remote working equipment and protective equipment, overheads and core costs. We cannot award retrospective funds for items/costs already paid.

Deadline and timeframe

We open for applications on Monday 26th October and the **deadline to apply is midday on Friday 13th November**.

(We aim to distribute grants to successful applicants on or around 30th November.)

Groups unable to meet the application deadline should contact the Grants Manager as soon as possible and before the deadline – later applications may be considered but this will delay any grant to December/January.

All grants should be fully spent by 31st March 2021. Extensions to the grant period beyond March 2021 cannot be offered and unspent funds remaining must be returned to DCF.

Eligibility

Organisations that can apply (must have annual expenditure less than £500,000 according to latest accounts):

- 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)
- Churches and religious organisations (if funded activities are not promoting religion)
- *All of the above must be local or regional organisations; local branches of national charities are eligible only if they are financially independent and separately managed*

All organisations 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 from an established voluntary organisation who can endorse them.*

Exclusions:

- **Groups in recent receipt of DEFRA funding may be ineligible – please contact the Grants Manager**
- Individuals cannot apply
- National charities cannot apply
- Statutory bodies such as City and County Councils or health institutions cannot apply
- Parish and Town councils cannot apply
- Schools cannot apply and PTA groups cannot be funded to support the delivery of education (including adapted/online delivery) or improvements to premises
- Grants for the provision of cash bursaries to individuals or families are not eligible
- Grant funded groups or activities must not promote religion or political causes

Please note, there are also Community Foundations in our neighboring counties of Hampshire, Wiltshire, Somerset and Devon. If you work in more than one area and are applying to more than one Community Foundation, then please let us know in your application.

Supporting Documents

Groups awarded a grant in phase 1 or 2 of the Fund are NOT required to submit supporting documents unless you have a more recent set of annual accounts or a different bank account, in which case you should submit your accounts or a recent bank statement.

Otherwise, groups are required to provide the following:

- Constitution or governing document
- Recent bank statement no more than 3 months old
- Latest annual accounts
(Groups less than 12 months old should send a financial forecast for their first year of operation and any financial records of income/expenditure so far)
- Safeguarding policy
- Equality & Diversity policy