

Updated 16 September 2020

Covid-19 Emergency Funding Guide

During the Covid-19 crisis we understand that many charities and local community groups are responding by offering a range of services to provide help and support to those in need across County Durham.

To help this relief effort, several funders have announced available funding, which is both welcomed and much needed in these times of uncertainty.

It is our aim to support organisations with funding advice throughout this crisis and will be working hard to ensure we promote all funding opportunities as they arise through our website, news bulletins and through the continued operation of our dedicated Information, Advice and Guidance service offer.

Introduction

In this guide we will provide a short introduction to emergency funds, helping you to choose which funds best meet your needs and the needs of those you are supporting.

This guide is not an exhaustive list, there are other funds available, and new funds regularly released

Before applying, please be aware that funders will expect you to look at the Government's support packages and your own reserves before applying to them. It's also important to understand that, although funders are being flexible, these emergency funds are very competitive, and deadlines are tight so please don't leave applications until the last minute.

We will endeavour to keep the information in this guide as accurate as possible and respond to updates from Funders as quickly as possible.

COVID-19 Emergency Funds

County Durham Community Foundation COVID-19 Fund

This grant is for organisations proactively responding the COVID-19 crisis. Applications are online and grants of up to £5000 are available. Organisations should show how the activity relates to emerging community need in light of the COVID-19 crisis.

Foyle Foundation

The Small Grants Scheme has been revised to reflect the impact of COVID-19. The scheme supports registered charities with an income of below £150,000 and grants will focus on covering core costs or essential equipment to enable ongoing service provision. Grants of between £1,000 - £10,000 are available and applications are to be made online.

Tesco Bags of Help COVID-19 Communities Fund **CLOSING 18 SEPTEMBER**

Grants of £500 are available to organisations who are supporting vulnerable groups with an emergency response to the coronavirus crisis. The fund will help organisations who have seen an increased demand in the current service, disruption to their current service or started a new service to meet a need in their community. Applications are to be made online.

The National Lottery Community Fund

All lottery funding will be prioritising projects and organisations supporting communities through COVID-19. Emergency grants are still available but TNLCF are also offering response funding to support projects and organisations playing a vital role in helping their communities during the current situation. Applications can be made online.

The Coalfields COVID-19 Recovery and Resilience Fund **CLOSED**

This fund is available to organisations supporting eligible former coalfield communities with grants of up to £10,000. Priority will be given to groups who have had to adapt their services to address the current situation. Projects must last at least two months and must be able to start immediately. Deadline for applications for the October committee meeting is 11 September 2020 and an eligibility survey must be completed online by 28 August 2020.

Believe Housing

Grant of up to £500 are available for organisations working in the Believe Housing area who are providing help around feeding people in the community and reducing isolation and keeping people connected. Applications can be made online.

Morrisons Foundation

The COVID-19 Homeless Support Fund is available for registered charities for projects that cover outreach and support for rough sleepers, deliver services in hostels and shelters and offer information and advice. Application are through an online application form and grants available are for a maximum of £10,000 and applications are being reviewed weekly.

Independent Age Grant Fund **CLOSED**

Grants of between £5,000 - £15,000 are available for registered charities with COVID-19 emergency response projects aimed at older people living in complex and challenging situations and those who are in danger of being out of sight and out of mind. Organisations must have at least one paid member of staff. Application forms can be downloaded from the Independent Age website and round three closes at 9:00am on 11 September

Coalfields Food Insecurity Response Fund

Grants of up to £2500 and a Community Shop membership are available for organisations who are tackling food poverty exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, including food banks, food parcel schemes and meal delivery services. Grants are in the form of an e-voucher to spend in Company Shop. The fund is solely to pay for food and non-alcoholic refreshments. Applications can be made online, there isn't an application deadline, but the programme will close when funds have been allocated.

Disabled People's Organisations COVID-19 Emergency Fund

Funding of between £1,000 - £25,000 is available for grassroots organisations who are responding to the needs of people with disabilities. The fund will COVID-19 related work in the three areas of independent living, isolation and income. Organisations can apply if the majority of the management committee is made up of Disabled people and they have a constitution. Online applications forms are available and applications close on 5 October.

Durham Community Action Funding Top Tips

The emergency COVID-19 response funds have been released to help organisations deal with the ongoing crisis and are currently aimed at those who are supporting vulnerable people and groups but who need help due to an increase in demand or because they have had to change the way they work. These funds are very competitive.

Before starting your application, please read through our 'top tips' to make sure that you have all of the information you need and that you have a plan before you contact them.

- 1. Always check the funder's exclusions list**
- 2. Make sure you meet the funder's priorities/criteria**
- 3. Be clear and concise**
- 4. Only provide information you have been asked for** Most funders will ask for your governing document and bank account details
- 5. Be clear about why your project is needed and who will benefit from it**
- 6. Know your outcomes and what difference your project will make**
- 7. Provide an accurate budget**
- 8. Complete application forms fully and accurately**
- 9. Get someone else to read your application before you send it**
- 10. Meet funders deadlines and timescales**

How Durham Community Action can help

Durham Community Action will support in any way we can in order to help organisations access the funding and advice they need. We are happy to talk through funding opportunities and help shape applications alongside our usual funding advice which includes our 'Critical Friend' service where we will read through your application before you submit it to make sure it is clear and concise.

Further Support Available

Our friendly staff at Durham Community Action are currently remotely working from home but we are still here to provide information, advice and guidance so don't hesitate to get in touch

Email: info@durhamcommunityaction.org.uk

Website: www.durhamcommunityaction.org.uk

