

Updated 9 April 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, a number of 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

The foundation are prioritising organisations proactively responding the COVID-19 crisis. Applications are online and grants of up to £5000 are available. The panel are aiming to make decisions within two weeks of receiving the application.

Durham County Council – Covid-19 Assistance Fund

Through the I4 Area Action Partnerships an additional £1.4 million fund has been announced to help support community groups who are responding to crisis. Applications are obtained via your local AAP and grants are for a minimum of £500

Sport England

Sport England will fund core costs for community sport/physical activity organisations which include rent, utility costs, insurances and will fund retrospectively to 1st March. Grants from

£3000 - £10000 (over £10,000 in exceptional circumstances) are available via an online application form which will be assessed in 7-10 working days.

Armed Forces Covenant Fund

Grants of up to £20000 will be available for Age UK groups that already work with veterans and small charities with Cobseo membership providing direct support for veterans in their community. Further details to be announced shortly

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Grants of up to £10,000 are available for core costs to carry on day to day activity. The fund will prioritise organisations whose services will be limited which will affect vulnerable groups, and organisations who are having to change the way they work to respond to the crisis. The panel hope to make funds available 14 days after receiving applications if successful.

Princes Countryside Fund

This fund is open until 15th April and is available to support farm business and other rural and community businesses who are providing emergency relief to vulnerable and isolated people in rural and farming communities. Maximum grant is £2500 via an online application form and applications for core costs will be considered.

The National Lottery Community Fund All lottery funding will be prioritising Covid-19 support for the next 6 months.

Awards for All

Grants of between £300 - £10,000 are available and decisions on applications will be made as soon as possible. The panel will prioritise organisations that are supporting people and communities at high risk of Covid-19, or facing hardship due to the direct or indirect impact of Covid-19. Applications are to made online.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund

Grants will be between £3,000 - £10,000 and prioritise will be current and past fund holders, organisations that can't access other emergency support, organisations that can't repurpose current funding. More information about eligibility for this grant will be available soon.

Ballinger

Grants of up to £1000 will be available to current and recent grantees that are responding to the Covid-19 crisis. The trust are also asking groups to be connected to be connected to the local authority hubs to ensure a coordinated local response. Expression of interest to be emailed to Ballinger Trust who will arrange for phone calls with trustees.

Neighbourly

Funds of up to £400 are available to existing members of Neighbourly. Grants are unrestricted and can be applied to through a short online application form

Arts Council England

Funds of up to £35,000 are available for creative organisations affected by Covid-19. The grant can fund operation costs, IT equipment or software and development activities but funding must be used within 6 months. Applications are through an online portal and the first round will be open from 9th April until midday on 16th April with notification of outcome at the end of April. Organisation must have a track record of delivering publicly funded work (this includes National Lottery Community Fund funding).

Tesco Bags of Help

One off grants of £500 are available to organisations supporting vulnerable people. The fund will prioritise organisations who have seen an increase in demand for their service and those who have had to put new services in place to respond to the crisis. The application has been streamlined to allow quick response and applications can be made online.

Crisis

Awards up to £5000 for emergency response to COVID-19 and up to £50,000 for long term needs available to organisation that support people who are homeless. Application forms can be downloaded from their website.

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

