

Covid-19 Resilience and Sustainability Funding Guide

As local restrictions and guidance is changing, many charities and community groups are starting to think about how they continue their services to provide help and support to those in need across County Durham through the new normal.

It is our aim to support organisations with funding advice throughout this crisis and we 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 resilience and sustainability 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

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

What can I do now?

Scenario planning and risk management are useful activities that help trustee boards to start planning for an unpredictable future by considering what needs to be put in place to re-start existing services or how you can adapt the way you work in order to best meet the changing needs of your beneficiaries.

Financial planning is also important and funders might ask to see your organisational budgets, which may be subject to change due to the current situation.

More information can be found in our Life after Lockdown guide [here](#). Our training and information sessions focusing on recovery and resilience are available online and more information can be found [here](#).

COVID-19 Resilience and Sustainability Funds

County Durham Community Foundation

The Community Grants programmes supports organisations and projects that have real impact in their community, enabling them to continue their work and make vital improvements. Grants of up to £5,000 are available and priority will be given to those organisations that can deliver significant local impact. Applications can be made online and there are no deadlines.

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.

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.

The Main Grants Scheme has opened for registered charities with a core remit of arts and learning. Grants are available to cover core costs, essential equipment to allow homeworking or digital services and minor adjustments to buildings to allow for social distancing. Applications can be made online.

The Coalfields COVID-19 Recovery and Resilience Fund **CURRENTLY 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 can be completed online by 28 August 2020.

Hadrian Trust

Hadrian Trust will be prioritising applications from organisations supporting people and communities in the North East of England during the current pandemic. Grants of £500 - £2000 are available and applications are considered for running costs, project costs, part salaries and basic equipment. Application forms can be completed online or printed off and posted to the funder. Closing date for the next round of applications is 4 January 2021.

Henry Smith Charity Strengthening Communities Grants

Grants are available to support small charitable organisations working at grassroots level to enable a stronger, active, more engaged community. Funding is available for organisations with an income of between £20,000 - £500,000 working in areas within the bottom 10% most deprived in England. Application forms can be downloaded online.

Comic Relief Community Fund Capacity Building Grants

Grants of up to £1000 are available for to support small community organisations to become stronger and more robust to allow them to meet the needs of their community. The fund can be used for activities such as trustee training, reviewing policies and procedures, or increasing capacity through volunteer recruitment. Grants are available for organisations with an annual income of £250,000 or less who deliver projects across one of Comic Reliefs strategic strands. Eligibility quiz and application can be made online.

Volant Trust COVID-19 Response Funding

Funding is available for project and core costs for organisations who are focused on alleviating social deprivation and helping vulnerable groups who have been particularly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Grant amounts are at the trustee's discretion and trustee's welcome conversation with organisations prior to completing an application form. An Eligibility check and applications can be made online.

Force for Change Programme – Armed Forces Covenant Fund

This fund is to support local Armed Forces communities to address needs arisen as the result of coronavirus. Up to £20,000 will be available for projects that fit under the two themes of empowering Armed Forces communities to become more engaged in their local area and reducing isolation for members of the Armed Forces communities. The deadline for round 2 is 30 November 2020 and an application form can be downloaded online.

LGBT+ Futures Grant Programme **PAUSED**

A new grants programme is available for LGBT+ non-profit groups, organisations and projects to support those most adversely affected by the pandemic. Grants are for short term work only and must be spent by 31 May 2021. There is no deadline for this fund and application forms can be found online.

Believe Capital Grant

Grants of £10,000 - £20,000 are available for organisations in the Believe Housing priority areas, which can be found online. The funder are particularly interested in projects that aim to mitigate the impacts of coronavirus and meet one of their key themes of tackling worklessness, increasing household income, improving health and confidence and reduce, reuse and recycle projects. The fund can be used for capital costs, equipment, marketing, staff time, travel costs and set up costs. Applications can be made online before the deadline of 5:00pm 16 October 2020.

Womens Fund

Grants of between £2000 - £15,000 are available for women-led organisations that primarily or solely support women. Grants will fund core costs to help organisations recover if they have been, or will be, adversely affected by the coronavirus pandemic. If and how you have adapted services in a changing environment and/or changing user demand.

This funding is particularly aimed at smaller charities/charitable organisations where the funding can make a significant difference. Therefore, charitable organisations with an income up to £500,000 a year can apply. This round of the Fund is focussed on contributing to your organisation's financial stability, therefore applications for project delivery costs will not be a priority. Closing date: Friday 30 October 2020

Garfield Weston Foundation - Weston Culture Fund

This fund is available for organisations with a minimum annual income of £500,000 in a pre-COVID year to support costs that are likely to be incurred over the next 12 months. This could include restarting and reopening, making adaptations and improvements to your physical or digital infrastructure, starting new activity or adapting existing activity.

A minimum of £100,000 is available to support cultural activity and guidance and an application form can be downloaded online before 5pm on 9 November 2020.

The Prince's Countryside Fund – Grant Making Programme

Grants of up to £10,000 are available for projects which meet the theme of Rural Community Resilience and have come about as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Local charities and legally constituted not-for-profit organisations are able to apply for projects that support communities in remote rural areas and communities with an ageing population.

An application form can be downloaded online and the deadline for applications is midday 3 November 2020.

Additional Funds

The Area Action Partnerships funding this financial year will have a general focus on COVID recovery. Please contact your local AAP [here](#) for more details.

Durham Community Action Funding Top Tips

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

