

Updated 15 December 2020

Covid-19 Resilience and Sustainability Funding Guide

As local restrictions and guidance are 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 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 on the coronavirus information section of our website [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

TNLCF have re-opened their Awards for All and Reaching Communities funding programmes to support all applicants that meet their criteria including people and communities most adversely affected by the pandemic. These funds can be used to continue to deliver activity and support existing users or to change and adapt your services to become more resilient. Applications can be made online.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund - Grants for Heritage

Grants will be between £3,000 - £100,000 to provide assistance for organisations working with heritage to rebuild their resilience. This could be, for example, reviewing existing business models, developing new approaches to allow for COVID secure opening, or developing new and more resilient ways of working. 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.

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.

Sport England – Return to Play Fund

Three streams of funding are available for sports and activity groups restarting activity following COVID-19 closures. A small grants fund with grants available from £300 - £10,000 can be used to cover the costs of delivering to smaller groups, or the increased costs of making venues and activities COVID secure. The small grants fund has been reviewed in light of the current lockdown restrictions in England and the funder will take a broader and more flexible approach to the types of projects which can be supported.

There is also a Community Asset fund with grants available from £10,001 - £50,000 which can be used to make necessary alterations to enable organisations to open venues and spaces and meet COVID secure guidelines.

An Active Together Crowdfunder initiative is available for organisations that don't meet the following priority groups: BAME communities, people on lower incomes, those disproportionately affected financially because of COVID-19, disabled people and those with long term health conditions and those experience a greater burden of care responsibility since the pandemic began. Applications can be made online.

Power to Change Community Business Renewal Fund

Community business who have been affected by the COVID-19 crisis can apply for an unrestricted grant of between £10,000 - £20,000 to support them to adapt and evolve during the COVID-19 crisis. The main priorities of this fund are areas of England facing high levels of deprivation, organisations supporting and led by disabled people and BAME-ed or BAME-supporting businesses. There will be three rounds with a short application window of 3 hours, round two will be open on Tuesday 12 January 2021 from 10:00am – 1:00pm and further information can be found on their website.

The Chrysalis Trust

This fund is available for registered charities and the funds current priorities are relief of poverty and disability, provision of access to shelter, education, healthcare and water and less popular and hard to fund activities or projects. Grants are generally up to £10,000 and the trust will support capital projects and core funding with one off donations. Application forms can be downloaded online.

Growth and Resilience Fund

Grants of between £10,000 - £30,000 are available to help organisations reflect on their recovery from the pandemic by planning for the future. Charities and Social Enterprises will be able to apply to cover costs of activities that allow them to change, survive adapt and grow and better address the needs of their communities. Priority will be given to groups tackling poverty, mental health and wellbeing, diversity and inclusion and educational disadvantage. Grants will support activity from April 2021 onwards. Stage one is an application form which can be downloaded online and the deadline is 5pm on Monday 25 January 2021.

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.

An emergency Youth COVID-19 support fund has been announced by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport more details to follow [here](#)

Northstar Ventures have announced COVID-19 related emergency support and are able to offer a grant alongside their social investment offer. For more information get in touch with the team at Northstar Ventures [here](#)

Esme Fairbairn is launching a new strategy in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the effects of climate change. The organisation will be providing larger and longer term grants which can be used to cover core or project costs for organisations or projects that meet their key themes of improving the natural world, tackling injustice to deliver a fairer future or creative confident communities. More information can be found on their website [here](#)

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

