

Updated 14 June 2021

Covid-19 Resilience and Sustainability Funding Guide

As we continue to live with coronavirus restrictions, many charities and community groups are thinking about how they adapt their services to provide help and support to those in need across County Durham through the new normal and how to make themselves sustainable.

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.

County Durham Community Foundation & Made By Sport – Clubs in Crisis Fund

A grant of £2021 is available for sports clubs and organisations to help them to continue bringing sport into young people's lives. The fund will prioritise organisations using sport to improve young people's lives through, developing life skills, building strong communities, improving mental health, developing employability skills, reducing crime and anti-social behaviour. Grant guidelines and application details can be made online. Applications will close when all funds have been distributed.

The National Lottery Community Fund

TNLCF have re-opened their Awards for All, Partnerships 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 - £5 million to provide assistance for organisations in the heritage sector to allow them to adapt and thrive during the current situation. The funders are prioritising six outcomes; skills and jobs, inclusion, organisational resilience, better places, the economy and wellbeing, They all expect projects to be able to demonstrate how they are building for long-term environmental sustainability.

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 is 21 June 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.

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. This fund will be paused for applications on 30 April 2021.

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.

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.

Nationwide Building Society Community Grants

Funding is available for housing charities, community land trusts and housing co-operatives with a minimum income of £25,000 per year to get back on their feet following the impact of COVID-19. Grants of between £10,000 - £50,000 are available for projects which meet the boards priorities including illustrating a clear link to Nationwide's ambition for everyone to have a place fit to call home. Grants can be spent on core costs (up to 20% of the grant amount requested), small-scale capital costs, activity costs, and development and capacity building costs. Buildings works and refurbishment costs will be considered where they are essential to the successful delivery of the project. Applications can be made online and close on 21 June.

Common Call Fund

This fund is for Black-led charities and social enterprises working in communities to allow them to understand their options for new delivery methods post COVID-19, develop new income strategies, test viability of new ways of working and developing action plans. Grants of either £5000 or £12,500 will be available for registered and unregistered organisations who can show that they are active in their community. Applications can be made online and close at 5pm on 25 June.

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.

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](#)

Funding Events

Durham Community Action's Share and Learn Network is hosting two virtual Meet the Funders Sessions for representatives of voluntary and community groups. For more information and to book your place, please click on the links below.

[12 July 2021 – Sir James Knott Trust Virtual Funding Information Session](#)

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

