

CRITERIA

NET CORONAVIRUS PROGRAMME (DCMS FUNDING)

A FUND ADMINISTERED BY
BEDFORDSHIRE AND LUTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



Bedfordshire & Luton
Community Foundation



NATIONAL
EMERGENCIES
TRUST



Department for
Digital, Culture,
Media & Sport

[PLEASE CLICK HERE AND READ OUR REQUIREMENTS BEFORE YOU CONTINUE](#)

If you've answered 'NO' to any of the questions about your organisation or proposed project, then you do not meet our basic eligibility for this fund. You may want to get in touch with us to see whether we can support you further, including offering advice or signpost you towards funds that you may be eligible for.

INTRODUCTION

This funding programme is administered by the Bedfordshire & Luton Community Foundation (BLCF) on behalf of the National Emergencies Trust and the Department for Digital, Culture Media & Sport (DCMS). **Grants of between £1,000 and £10,000*** can be considered for organisations based in Bedfordshire.

The overall aim of the programme is to support local voluntary and community organisations that are helping vulnerable people impacted by the Covid-19 crisis. The programme is now transitioning from the initial immediate relief phase to longer-term emergency phase, to help those who are suffering hardship as a result of the short and long term economic and social consequences caused by COVID-19'.

AIMS

The funding programme aims to support the financial stability of organisations as well as help them to adapt to the crisis. The fund will also consider awarding a small number of larger and/or more strategic grants* to support coordinated response, grants to infrastructure organisations or those working in partnership over a wider area.

*Please speak to a member of the BLCF grants team if you would like to discuss an application around a larger grant request or if you are looking to apply to deliver a more strategic/coordinated project.

All grants awarded must be fully spent down by 31st March 2021.

PRIORITY AREAS

Priority will be given to funding organisations who are reaching the most vulnerable or at greatest risk of negative social, health or economic impacts. This could include:

- Organisations working to combat hardship including economic, social or health impacts caused by the pandemic
- Organisations that support the ongoing needs of vulnerable people to ensure that their health and wellbeing is maintained including those who are self isolating, community response co-ordination and informal groups responding to the crisis.
- Organisations in support of activities that relieve pressure on local statutory services, particularly emergency or health and social care provision, or compliment their response
- Organisations supporting people or communities who have been disproportionately affected.

Projects could include, but are not limited to:

- Support for vulnerable and older people in their homes, providing food and medicines whilst this is still required.
- Funding for community groups that are linked into the hubs that have been created to coordinate the above.
- Training for new volunteer advice workers.
- Non-perishable food and essential living and baby items for distribution to destitute individuals.
- Increased hours for part time frontline workers to deliver increased services.

ELIGIBILITY

We are only able to consider applications from not-for-profit constituted groups that have clear charitable aims. Applications from the following types of organisations/groups will be considered:

- Registered UK charities, including charitable incorporated organisations
- Constituted Community groups and non-registered charities
- Companies Limited by Guarantee with clear charitable aims and without share capital
- Community Interest Companies Limited by Guarantee without share capital, social enterprises and community benefit societies ((please review our guidance around CIC's and Social Enterprises before applying)
- Parish and town councils (if the funded activity is not deemed part of their statutory duties)

- Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs/PTFA's)
- Churches and other religious organisations (if the funded activity is not deemed to be proselytising).

If you are applying in partnership or as part of a consortium the organisation that submits the bid will be known as the lead organisation and must be an eligible entity from the list above, this organisation will manage the funds and the outcome monitoring if successful. The lead organisation should have a signed partnership agreement with all the other organisations in the consortium. Please speak to a member of the Grants team in the first instance if you are looking to apply as a consortium/partnership

INELIGIBILITY

This fund is not open for applications from:

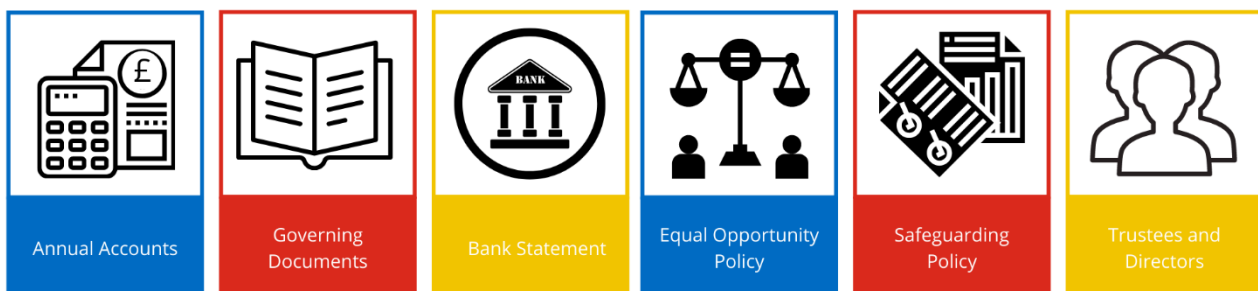
- Applications where those benefiting do not live in the areas, as defined within this document (Bedfordshire).
- National charities and their affiliates that are not providing clear local benefits
- Individuals
- Private Businesses
- Community Interest Companies limited by Shares
- Organisations or activities that promote political parties or the propagation of religion or conduct of worship. (Religious organisations may apply for funding for non-denominational activities that demonstrate wider public benefit.)
- Organisations or activities which are inconsistent with public policy, for example, the promotion of terrorism or of sectarian interests.
- Grants that are solely for the provision of bursaries to individuals or families.
- Statutory bodies such as city and county councils or health institutions cannot apply.

WORK THAT CANNOT BE SUPPORTED

- General appeals or sponsorship
- Work normally funded from statutory sources or undertaken by or on behalf of statutory bodies
- Work undertaken by/ on behalf of schools, colleges or universities as part of their statutory curricular activities
- Work where the main beneficiaries are animals
- Work which does not directly benefit people living in the area of benefit.
- Overseas holidays or trips
- Retrospective grants i.e. for items already purchased or activity that has already started
- Applications that support the furtherance of any one religion or political party.
- Organisations that have not fully completed all sections of the grant application form, provided all other requested information and documents or who have not answered any subsequent questions put to them.
- Organisations that do not have a building society or bank account (which must be in the name of the organisation).
- Projects/initiatives that are unable to meet the deadline of the 31st March 2021, to be fully spent down by.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

The following supporting documents must be uploaded with your application alongside a **copy of the full budget breakdown for the project/activity**:



If you do not have an Equal Opportunity or Safeguarding policy, please get in touch before applying.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Successful organisations will be required to complete interim progress reports as well as a monitoring report at the end of the project. We will be asking how the grant was spent, outcomes achieved or not, as well as the difference the project has made, any key issues and lessons learnt. Funded organisations should so be willing to discuss the progress of the project over the phone as and when necessary and to host visits that will assist with learning and best practice.

Before beginning the project, we suggest you consider:

- Who will write the interim progress reports and end of grant monitoring form report
- What your aims and objectives are and how will you track progress against these
- What information you will collect:
 - Quantitative data (numbers) – how many people are taking part or using the service, achieved goals (e.g. employment, improved health)
 - Qualitative data (stories/case studies) – feedback from users and volunteers, observed increase in skills, confidence etc.
 - Learning – feedback from project participants, what went well, what would you do differently etc.
 - Feedback from partner organisations

ADDITIONAL INFO

All applications will be reviewed and are subject to a thorough assessment and relevant due diligence checks by BLCF. [Find out more here](#). Organisations seeking support around financial stability will also have additional questions asked of them as part of our financial checks.

Applications will be checked against the fund's criteria and only those that clearly meet those criteria will be presented to a panel made up of local individuals. We reserve the right to decline or accept any application according to the decision of the grants panel.

We would encourage all applicants to investigate other sources of funding and where possible seek match funding, this could be through their own fundraising efforts or via Grants from other charitable trusts and organisations. Your local CVS will be able to provide advice and guidance around alternative funding available, please visit www.cvsbeds.org.uk

Only requests for funding made via the official online application form will be considered. The form can be accessed via our website under the appropriate grants tab: www.blcf.org.uk

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

We are committed to promoting equal opportunities and to valuing diversity regardless of age, gender, race, ethnic origin, nationality, religion/belief, culture, language, disability, learning difficulty, sexual orientation, marital status, economic status, health status, or any other discriminatory grounds.

Should you have any queries about this criteria or applying to this fund please contact a member of the BLCF team who will be able to help either by phone: 01582 522422 or email administrator@blcf.org.uk