

Covid-19 Grants and Funding Opportunities

Below is a list of current grants and funding opportunities available to help respond to the Covid-19 pandemic, primarily for voluntary & community sector organisations, including charities and social enterprises. Funding which is applicable to Local Authorities includes an asterisk (*).

Please use the links below to go directly to the relevant section:

1. [Arts Council – Covid 19 Support](#)
2. [CAF - Coronavirus Emergency Fund](#)
3. [Crisis – In This Together Grants Programme](#)
4. [Department of Health and Social Care – support to enable patients to return home *](#)
5. [John Lewis - Community Support Fund](#)
6. [Leicester Leicestershire & Rutland Community Foundation - The Coronavirus Support Fund](#)
7. [Leicestershire County Council – Communities Fund](#)
8. [Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Govt.- Council Tax Covid 19 Hardship Fund*](#)
9. [Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Govt - Emergency Funding to Help Rough Sleepers Self-Isolate *](#)
10. [National Emergencies Trust – Coronavirus Appeal](#)
11. [National Lottery Community Fund](#)
12. [Neighbourly Community Fund](#)
13. [Sport England - Community Emergency Fund](#)
14. [Sylvia Adams Charitable Trust - Small Grants to Support Children’s Charities Affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

1. [Arts Council – Covid 19 Support](#)

The Arts Council is making £160 million of emergency funding available to artists and organisations working in the arts and cultural sector during the pandemic.

The following funding streams will be made available:

- Funding for National Portfolio Organisations (NPOs) – £90 million will be made available to NPOs to help reboot their creative work and alleviate financial pressures. **The Arts Council will contact all NPOs with a timeline as soon as possible**
- Funding for organisations outside of the National Portfolio – £50 million will be made available to organisations that are not in receipt of regular funding from the Arts Council. Organisations who have applied to National Lottery Project Grants are welcome to apply for this support. Max grant £35,000. **There will be 2 rounds – Round 1 opens 9th April closes 16th April. Round 2 opens 16th April closes 30th April**
- Funding for individuals – £20 million will be made available to individuals (including artists, creative practitioners and freelancers) to help them sustain themselves, and their work, in the coming months. Grants up to £2,500. **There will be 2 rounds – Round 1 opens 9th April closes 16th April. Round 2 opens 16th April closes 30th April**

Further guidance on the emergency funding streams, including eligibility and guidance, is due to be published on the Arts Council [website](#) imminently.

Potential applicants will need to register on ACE's application portal Grantium by Friday 3rd April 2020.

2. [Charities Aid Foundation \(CAF\) - Coronavirus Emergency Fund](#)

The Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) has launched a rapid response Coronavirus Emergency Fund to help smaller charitable organisations affected by the impact of Covid-19.

Grants of up to £10,000 will be available to help organisations to continue to deliver much needed support to communities across the UK.

Organisations with a charitable purpose and charitable activities, which had income of £1million or less in their last financial year will be eligible for funding, including registered charities, social enterprises/CICs and unregistered entities.

Organisations can apply for unrestricted funding for core costs, staffing, volunteer costs, supplies and equipment, communications or other critical charitable areas. The organisation must be able to describe how an emergency grant will improve the situation for their organisation and community.

The funding is not intended as an emergency fund to enable charitable activities to continue at the moment in whatever way is needed; it is not designed to replace other lost income in the longer term.

It is not be able to fund:

- Individuals, or groups of individuals who have come together recently to provide informal support services to their communities
- Any organisation more than once. Please ensure that only one application is submitted from your organisation.

This is intended as a rapid response fund and will aim to make payments to selected organisations within 14 days of application.

3. [Crisis – In this Together Grants Programme](#)

The effect of the COVID19 virus has been significant on organisations supporting people who are experiencing rough sleeping and homelessness.

Crisis wants to support charitable organisations who are financially affected by additional demands on their resources as a result of Covid-19 and have established an emergency grant fund for this purpose.

Scope and purpose of the grant:

- UK Wide
- Local organisations (i.e. providing specific and direct services in a set number of locations)
- Registered charities who provide services which address homelessness (homelessness may not be their primary focus, but the funded activities must address or alleviate homelessness)
- Funding to be restricted to assistance needed to cope with the impact of Covid-19, and not simply to meet wider funding gaps
- Funding could be to meet additional demand or reduction in staffing or other resources caused by impact of Covid-19

[Grant awards of up to £5,000](#) will be available for short-term emergencies (projects within 3 months), following a limited/fast-tracked application process (payments made in advance).

[Larger Grants](#) of up to £50,000 are also available for more structural and long term needs, including potential expansion or change in service delivery.

4. Department of Health and Social Care – support to enable patients to return home *

Government has announced nearly £3 billion to help make more hospital beds available during the coronavirus outbreak, by helping patients who no longer need urgent hospital treatment to return home.

The funding, which comes from the £5 billion COVID-19 fund, will make at least 15,000 beds available during the coronavirus outbreak.

Local authorities will receive £1.6 billion to help them respond to other coronavirus pressures across all the services they deliver. This includes increasing support for the adult social care workforce and for services helping the most vulnerable, including homeless people.

A further £1.3 billion will be used to enhance the NHS discharge process so patients who no longer need urgent treatment can return home safely and quickly.

The funding will cover the follow-on care costs for adults in social care, or people who need additional support, when they are out of hospital and back in their homes, community settings, or care settings.

Enhancing the NHS discharge process will help free up 15,000 hospital beds across England and ensure more staff have capacity to treat people needing urgent care, including those being cared for with coronavirus.

Local Government Secretary, Robert Jenrick said: "The work of local authorities to deliver social care and other vital public services has never been more important than it is now – and will be – in the days and weeks ahead."

5. [John Lewis - Community Support Fund](#)

A £1m Community Support Fund will be available to communities across the UK to help those in need in their local communities.

Teams in each Waitrose shop will work together with their communities to choose the best way to use the fund. Help could include setting up additional local delivery services to support the self-isolating, the vulnerable, the elderly and those looking after them; delivering boxes of staples to local care homes and community groups, and donating products to create care packages for customers to share with vulnerable neighbours.

Further details about this fund are yet to be released.

6. [Leicester Leicestershire & Rutland Community Foundation - The Coronavirus Support Fund](#)

The Coronavirus Support Fund is a new fund open to constituted charitable and community organisations in Leicester, Leicestershire or Rutland, working with local people facing the most hardship in the pandemic.

Grants of between £500 and £2,500 are available to support constituted charitable and community organisations who are providing direct services for.

- Older people (over the age of 70) adversely affected by the pandemic
- Vulnerable people with medical conditions adversely affected by the pandemic
- People who are isolated and lack a support network
- People with low/insecure incomes e.g. on universal credit, using food banks
- People with mental health difficulties not otherwise supported during the pandemic.
- People facing domestic violence

The Fund will consider applications for:

- Running costs to provide help, such as volunteer expenses, staff costs and transport costs
- Small capital costs, e.g. laptops, phones, internet connections and equipment

Applications cannot currently be made for organisational needs arising due to loss of income.

There is no deadline for applications; funding requests will be considered on a rolling basis, with decisions to be made within a week or sooner.

7. Leicestershire County Council – Communities Fund

Leicestershire County Council has established a £1 million fund to support the local voluntary and community sector, during the current Coronavirus pandemic.

Charities, constituted voluntary and community organisations and social enterprises can apply for a minimum of £5,000 and a maximum of £25,000 for support with the following activities:

1. Support for core organisational running costs, for organisations who have experienced a loss of income due to services closing or operating at a reduced level and where this may lead to the permanent closure of the organisation
2. Additional staffing capacity required to meet existing/current or increased demand for services, to support vulnerable people during the crisis
3. The need to rapidly adapt current service delivery models to maintain contact with service users
4. Funding for essential capital equipment such as ICT equipment, safety equipment e.g. PPE. or any other essential equipment
5. Funding for use of vehicles, transport, fuel etc. to enable visits to service users
6. Funding for increased expenses costs such as reimbursing travel costs for staff/volunteers who need to visit service users, if it safe to do so, in their home or in other locations.
7. Anything else deemed acceptable in relation to the criteria for the Fund

In addition, Parish and Town Councils may also apply on behalf of non-constituted groups who are delivering services for vulnerable people in their local area, during the pandemic.

Please note the funding can only be offered to voluntary and community sector organisations to help them to support vulnerable people in Leicestershire, due to the impacts of the current Coronavirus pandemic.

If you have any queries regarding the Leicestershire Communities Fund, please email: LeicestershireCommunities@leics.gov.uk

8. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Govt.- Council Tax Covid 19 Hardship Fund*

Government has launched a £500 million Hardship Fund to provide council tax relief to help those affected most by coronavirus.

Guidance has now been released giving local authorities clarity on how to allocate the funding following its announcement at Budget.

The funding will go to local authorities in England to enable them to reduce the 2020 to 2021 council tax bills of working age people receiving Local Council Tax Support.

Councils will also be able to use the funding to provide further discretionary support to vulnerable people through other support arrangements such as Local Welfare Schemes.

Local Government Secretary Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP has confirmed the fund will provide council tax relief to vulnerable people and households to help those affected most by coronavirus.

9. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Govt - Emergency Funding to Help Rough Sleepers Self-Isolate *

Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick has announced £3.2 million emergency funding to help rough sleepers to self-isolate to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

The funding will be available to all local authorities in England and will reimburse them for the cost of providing accommodation and services to those sleeping on the streets to help them to self-isolate.

It is in addition to the £492 million committed in 2020 to 2021 to support the government's ambition to end rough sleeping.

This initial emergency response funding will ensure rapid support is offered to people who are unable to self-isolate, such as those staying in night shelters or assessment hubs, as well as people who are currently sleeping rough.

Local authorities will claim costs incurred from government. Each local authority will be notified as to the provisional maximum amount it is entitled to claim back, which is calculated based on the number of rough sleepers reported in the Autumn 2019 snapshot.

Communities Secretary Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP said:

"Public safety and protecting the most vulnerable people in society from coronavirus is this government's top priority. We are working closely with councils and charities to ensure they have the support they need throughout this period."

10. National Emergencies Trust - Coronavirus Appeal

The National Emergencies Trust (NET), has launched an appeal to raise funds for local charities and grassroots organisations, that can provide vital support to people in the quickest way possible.

NET will work collaboratively with a wide range of organisations to ensure the maximum amount of money is raised and distributed securely, effectively, and fairly to those organisations and local charities who can do most to help those in need.

NET have built a partnership network over the past few months to provide reassurance that the funds raised will only be channelled through the most trusted and reputable organisations, to ensure funding is only given to those who need it the most.

Please only contact NET to donate.

In Leicester Leicestershire and Rutland, the resulting fund is being administered by the [Community Foundation](#).

11. National Lottery Community Fund

The National Lottery Community Fund is to commit up to £300m over the next six months to helping charities tackling the coronavirus crisis.

In a statement published on the National Lottery Community Fund's site, CEO Dawn Austwick has said that as well as changing its funding focus for now, the Fund will accelerate the cash part of this funding to get it where it needs to be as quickly as possible. It has also so far honoured existing commitments to grant holders and has offered them flexibility so that they can focus on supporting their communities.

Austwick said: "In deciding how to implement this approach we have to make some tough choices about how we get that money out quickly to those communities and organisations that need it most. We will do our best to be fair and true to our principles and to you. To reach those groups best placed to support their communities at this vital time, we will prioritise the following faster payments for existing grant holders and applicants using the following criteria:

- Activities specifically geared to supporting communities through this crisis
- Helping organisations overcome any liquidity issues caused by COVID-19."

The Fund will keep its approach under constant review, and should it get through this initial tranche of support with some funding left or circumstances change, will move to set new priorities.

12. Neighbourly Community Fund

Neighbourly are launching a series of micro-grants of up to £400, to support good causes that are helping communities affected by the new Coronavirus outbreak.

Grants will be awarded to existing members of Neighbourly in the UK and Ireland whose work will involve supporting members of the community who are suffering economically, socially or from ill health as a result of the outbreak. This may include, but not be limited to, elderly people, those on low incomes and people at risk of food insecurity.

Grants are unrestricted and can go towards food provision, emergency supplies, practical support, running costs, transport and other essentials.

Applications are currently only accepted from existing Neighbourly charities and community groups. Early applications will be prioritised, but the grants will be released in phases to maximise the amount of causes that can be supported

13. [Sport England - Community Emergency Fund](#)

The Community Emergency Fund is a new Sport England fund, which aims to help community-based sport and physical activity organisations who are currently experiencing short term financial hardship or the ceasing of operations due to the Coronavirus crisis

This £20 million fund is designed to complement other sources of funding from the government, such as funds targeted at small businesses. Applying organisations are advised to check what support is available via the [Government schemes](#) before applying to Sport England

Grants of between £300 and £10,000 will be available.

Eligible organisations include:

- Local sports clubs
- Voluntary and community sector organisations that deliver or enable sport and/or physical activity, including organisations that are not solely or primarily sports organisations and have an important role to play in keeping people active, that may need support for other parts of their organisation to remain open
- Small charitable trusts that do not qualify for financial help elsewhere
- Regional or county level organisations or leagues that have already paid out funds for activities that are now cancelled and are not able to claim funds from elsewhere.

Eligible expenditure will include:

- Rent
- Utility costs
- Insurances
- Facility or equipment hire
- Core staffing costs (including casual workers) that cannot be met elsewhere by other government funds
- Retrospective losses dating from 1st March 2020

Funding cannot be used for:

- Activities or costs which are already covered by other [Government funding](#), including rates
- New activities or events – please see Sport England’s [other funding programmes](#) for details
- Capital works
- Costs beyond the end of July 2020.

It is expected that organisations will only apply once to this fund for the immediate period, from 1st March through to 31st July 2020.

14. Sylvia Adams Charitable Trust - Small Grants to Support Children's Charities Affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic

Registered charities working with early years disadvantaged children in England and Wales can apply for small sums of unrestricted funding to assist them during this difficult period.

In response to the current pandemic, the Sylvia Adams Charitable Trust has changed the application guidelines and processes for its spring application round with the aim of supporting small and medium-sized charities, which may need extra assistance at this time.

For the current round, unrestricted grants of up to £5,000 will be available as one-off payments to assist registered charities in England and Wales:

- Whose last audited accounts show an income of less than £750,000.
- That can demonstrate the likelihood of increased demand for their services and/or can demonstrate a loss of anticipated income attributable to the pandemic.

The funder, which aims to improve the life chances of disadvantaged children aged 0-3 in England and Wales, supports early intervention and preventative work that will:

- Improve the reach to targeted groups of 0–3 year olds
- Bring about improved defined outcomes for these targeted groups

The deadline for applications is 28th April 2020, with grants to be awarded as soon as possible after the closing date.