**Lancashire Responding - COVID 19 Community Support Fund**

The Community Foundation for Lancashire, working with UK Community Foundations (UKCF), the National Emergencies Trust (NET) and the Lancashire Resilience Forum (LRF), launched the Lancashire COVID -19 Community Support Fund in March 2020. The overall aim of the fund 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 a more long term emergency phase, the definition for which is ‘those who are suffering hardship as a result of the short and long term economic and social consequences caused by COVID-19’.

The fund will continue to prioritise projects which directly respond to acute need, particularly in local communities which experience a return to lockdown as a result of a spike in infections, but we can now widen our remit and support a wider range of community support as outlined below.

**We will continue to support:**

* Foodbanks
* Food/care package delivery to vulnerable people self-isolating
* Delivery of services and projects supporting the most vulnerable, such as older people e.g. a telephone support/friendship service or delivering online activities to help reduce isolation
* Emotional and mental health wellbeing
* Financial Inclusion, support to access benefits and debt advice

**Additional criteria**

* Support the financial stability of organisations directly supporting people experiencing hardship as a result of the crisis. This can include core funding
* Support organisations to adapt to the crisis - developing and enhancing services, buying equipment, capacity building or organisational development
* Prevent problems emerging or getting worse - supporting people and communities to seize opportunities to emerge from crisis and lead thriving lives going forward
* Support organisations for a longer period of time. Funding has to be spent by 31st March 2021

**Who can apply?**

Voluntary, community and faith organisations, registered charities, social businesses, churches, PTAs and parish/town councils. We also welcome applications from newly established groups though please note the requirements below on documentation required.

**Priority** will be given to funding organisations who are reaching the most vulnerable or at greatest risk of negative social, health or economic impacts including the BAME community who have suffered disproportionately from COVID.

**How much is available?**

Grants of up to £10,000 are available. We can accept applications from organisations who have previously received funding as long as the original funding has been spent and monitoring provided. Depending on available funds, priority may be given to organisations who have not been awarded a grant from the fund previously. Please note we will have to take into account previous grants to ensure we are able to support as many community organisations as possible.

**What cannot be funded?**

* Individuals
* Organisations with less than 3 unrelated Trustees/Directors/Management Committee members
* Projects and activities classed as a statutory responsibility
* Private Businesses or CICs limited by shares
* Retrospective funding
* National organisations that cannot demonstrate local governance and control of local finances
* Politically connected or exclusively religious activities

**How to apply?**

Please [**click here**](https://ukcf.secure.force.com/forms/cflm/LancsCOVID19Support) to apply. You can attach the documents to your online application, or email them to [applications@cflm.email](mailto:applications@cflm.email).

**Privacy notice**

Grants are currently being awarded from funding provided by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). This [Privacy Notice](http://www.lancsfoundation.org.uk/uploadedfiles/images/Privacy%20notice%20for%20DCMS%20grants.doc) explains your rights and gives you the information you are entitled to under the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation (“the Data Protection Legislation”)

**Documents which need to be included with your application:**

1. A copy of your governing document.\* If you do not have a governing document in place yet you can still apply, provided you can supply a list of 3 people involved in the running of your organisation, have safeguarding arrangements in place and are able to nominate another organisation to hold the funds.

2. A copy of your latest annual accounts or income/expenditure document\*^ (if a new organisation then evidence of your bookkeeping records)

3. A copy of a recent bank statement for your group. If you do not have a bank account in place, you must be able to nominate another organisation to hold the funds (CVS, another local charity, church etc.)

4. A list of your Trustees/Directors/Management Committee members\*

5. A copy of your current Safeguarding Policy\*. All applicants must ensure that they hold relevant policies and procedures in place to undertake activities, such as Criminal Records Bureau checks and/or a health and safety policy, depending on proposed activity. If unsure, we recommend taking advice from your local CVS.

\*If you have applied to us within the last 12 months and provided this information we do not need you to send it again.

^ If you are a registered Charity or Company Ltd by Guarantee, and we can obtain this information from the Charity Commission or Companies House register, you do not need to send it to us.

**What happens next?**

Completed applications are considered by Community Foundation staff to check eligibility. You may be contacted for more information after applying and a decision making panel will make recommendations based on the fund’s criteria and the budget available.  The fund will be rolling and decisions made on a regular basis.

**Community Foundation for Lancashire**

**Third Floor, Stanley Building, 43 Hanover Street,**

**Liverpool, L1 3DN**

**Email:** [applications@cflm.email](mailto:applications@cflm.email)

**pgov.uk/Pages/AtoZ/Flood-Support.**