



Volunteering Wales Grants 2020/21

Grant application guidance

This guide is designed to help applicants understand more about the Volunteering Wales Grants including the aims and priorities of the grant, who can apply for funding, and what is required from applicants.

Specific guidance relating to the individual application questions will be included within the MAP application form.

CLOSING DATE: 26 MAY 2020

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Introducing the Volunteering Wales Grants

Volunteering Wales is about ‘...the kind of country we want to be’.

A volunteer is someone who commits time and energy for the benefit of society and the community, and volunteering can take many forms. It is undertaken freely and by choice without concern for financial gain. The Welsh Government’s Volunteering Policy aims to; (i) improve access to volunteering for people of all ages and from all parts of society; (ii) encourage the more effective involvement of volunteers, including through appropriate training; and, (iii) raise the status and improve the image of volunteering ([Welsh Government Volunteering Policy: Supporting Communities, Changing Lives, 2015](#)).

Delivering prosperity for all is the mission of the Welsh Government. Its long-term aim is to build a Wales that is prosperous and secure, healthy and active, ambitious and learning, and united and connected. The Welsh Government has committed to identify **opportunities for more people to volunteer** and recognises that the strongest communities have people who want to step forward to get things done. These are individuals who often seek no reward, other than seeing their community prosper ([Prosperity for all – the national strategy, 2017](#)).

The Welsh Government has identified **five priority areas** which have the potential to make the greatest contribution to long-term prosperity and well-being. These are **early years, better mental health, housing, skills and employability**, and **social care**. They are areas where it has been shown that earlier intervention and more seamless services can make a real difference to people’s lives. The Welsh Government wants to ensure that support and investment in volunteering is making a positive contribution to action in these priority areas.

The Well-being of Future Generations Act aims to improve the way that Wales achieves economic, social, environmental and cultural Well-being. Through funding organisations to support and train individuals in quality volunteering opportunities, Volunteering Wales Grant scheme will contribute to all seven goals. Volunteering has an immediate and long-term positive impact on the individual and community. Nationally volunteers are vital for the delivery of third sector groups’ missions and values.

Volunteering Wales Grants is a scheme funded by the Welsh Government to promote and improve volunteering in Wales. The scheme is administered by WCVA (Wales Council for Voluntary Action).

The Volunteering Wales Grant fund for 2020/21 will launch on 2 March 2020.

Grant aims

THE AIMS OF THE SCHEME ARE:

- Increase volunteer engagement and retention by removing barriers to volunteering for people of all ages and from all parts of society.
- Support high quality and positive volunteering opportunities that aim to recruit, support and train volunteers.
- Promote changes in beneficiary organisation to make volunteering part of their culture eg obtaining [Investors in Volunteers accreditation](#).
- Demonstrate the contribution to the 7 [Well-being of Future Generations Act \(2015\)](#) goals made by volunteers in the third sector and support organisation to embrace the Welsh Government 'Ways of Working'.
- Support volunteering projects that contribute to the Welsh Government's five priority areas ([Prosperity for all – the national strategy, 2017](#))

Grant priorities

The Volunteering Wales Grants for 2020/21 will support volunteering projects where they contribute towards achieving outcomes in one or more of the following Prosperity for all priority areas;

- 1) Early Years** (0-7 year olds) - an individual's experiences in childhood play a significant part in shaping their future, and are critical to their chances of going on to lead a healthy, prosperous and fulfilling life.
- 2) Housing** - the bedrock of living well is a good quality, affordable home which brings a wide range of benefits to health, learning and prosperity.
- 3) Social Care** - compassionate, dignified care plays a critical part in strong communities, ensures that people can be healthy and independent for longer, and is a significant economic sector in its own right.

- 4) **Mental Health** - one in four people in Wales will experience mental ill health at some point in their lives, getting the right treatment at an early stage, coupled with greater awareness of conditions, can in many cases prevent long term adverse impacts.
- 5) **Skills and Employability** - the better people's skills, the better their chances of getting fair, secure and rewarding employment, and the stronger the skills base is in Wales, the more chance we have of attracting new businesses and growing existing ones to improve prosperity.

The Volunteering in Wales Grant scheme will also look for contributions towards achieving the wider goals of the [Well-being of Future Generations Act \(2015\)](#).

1. **A Prosperous Wales**
2. **A Resilient Wales**
3. **A More Equal Wales**
4. **A Healthier Wales**
5. **A Wales of Cohesive Communities**
6. **A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language**
7. **A Globally Responsible Wales**

30% of the Funding dedicated to projects that exclusively engage volunteers aged 14-25.

Is your organisation eligible to apply?

Your organisation **can** apply if:

- it is a not-for-profit organisation and is independent of government and private sectors;
- its proposed project / activity will be taking place in Wales (employment outside Wales is not supported under this grant scheme)
- It is an organisation that currently involves volunteers to benefit the community, supported by a volunteering policy OR is an organisation that has developed a volunteering policy and believes involving volunteers will benefit the community

- the proposed project recruits new volunteers and can use a system to monitor and track volunteer involvement and progress (The [Volunteering Wales](#) platform can help)
- the proposed project will contribute to one or more of the five scheme priorities
- it is willing and able to take part in an independent evaluation of the impact of the grants
- the project must be delivered between **10 August 2020 (latest start date 1 September 2020)** and finish on **31 March 2021**. Projects beginning and/or completing on any other dates will not be eligible for funding

Your organisation **cannot** apply if you are:

- A political organisation
- A statutory organisation
- A County Voluntary Council (CVC) or Volunteer Centre
- A private organisation

Please note that only **one** application can be made by the same organisation in any grant round.

Application process

The application process is split into two stages for applicants.

STAGE 1: APPLICATION

The first part of the application will be where you provide details of your organisation, including policies, recent accounts and contact details.

The rest of the application is where the project will be described in detail. You will also be required to demonstrate how the project will work towards at least one Prosperity for All priority and at least three Well-being of Future Generations goals. The guidance for each question can be found on the application, however an overview of the questions can be found in Appendix 1 of this guidance to help organisations prepare whilst the eligibility questionnaire is under review.

Once the application is submitted the Grants Team will assess the answers against the scoring criteria. At this stage there will be no opportunity to amend the answers provided and no feedback will be given until after the award letters have been issued. The applications will only be scored based on each question and the individual question guidance.

A sample of the applications will be quality checked prior to final recommendations made to the Volunteering Wales Board.

STAGE 2: VOLUNTEERING WALES BOARD*

All applications that pass the minimum score questions will be referred to the Volunteering Wales Board. The Board will decide which applications to fund. They may also make recommendations of partial funding where appropriate / according to the funding available.

Once the Chair has signed off the final decision, outcome letters will be sent to all applicants.

*The **Volunteering Wales Project Board** provide strategic direction and overview to the grant scheme, support the appraisal and awarding of grants and review the performance of projects. The Board is comprised of members of WCVA's Board and members drawn from the Welsh volunteering community.

What are the assessment criteria for projects?

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria: -

- a. A clear and appropriate project description
- b. Demonstration of need
- c. Quality of volunteering experience
- d. Contributes to the 7 Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015) 7 goals
- e. Recruitment and welcoming volunteers
- f. Impact of the project

g. Project targets and budget

Maximum grant amount: The **maximum** grant available under this scheme is **£20,000**

What documents do I need to supply?

The application will require you to submit documents online in the form of a scanned PDF.

You will be required to submit organisation specific documents however if your organisation does not currently have finalised versions of any of the policies you can contact your local CVC for support ([directory found here](#)). It may not make your application ineligible; however, we would expect to see policies in development prior to award:

- Volunteering Policy
- Governing document
- Equal opportunities policy
- Environmental policy
- Welsh language policy
- Data protection policy (which demonstrates GDPR compliance)
- Child protection policy and / or vulnerable adults' policy (if you work with volunteers or beneficiaries under 18 or vulnerable adults)
- Latest set of full audited accounts
- Latest set of draft accounts (if audited accounts are older than 12 months old OR Management accounts (if audited accounts are older than 12 months old)
- Forecast accounts (for new organisations yet to post accounts)

You will also be required to submit project specific documents:

- A volunteer Induction/training plan
- Volunteer role descriptions
- A project profile (including targets and budget) (this will need to be completed on the mandatory WCVA template)

Registering with MAP

In order to apply to the Volunteering Wales Grants, you will need to register with WCVA's Multipurpose Application Portal (MAP). If you have previously registered with MAP, you can log in by entering your username and password on the home screen.

Organisations can register by visiting the website:

<https://map.wcva.cymru>

Once you have registered with MAP you will be able to apply for any funding opportunities administered by WCVA.

Payment of grants

Grants to successful applicants will receive a 45% upfront payment once any conditions of award are met, followed by a 45% payment after three months of delivery and a final 10% payment at the end of the project. The payments will be made to the organisation's bank account. No grant payments will be made to an individual's bank account.

If, following a monitoring visit, the project is deemed to be significantly underachieving against the targets, payments can be withheld until actions have been taken to mitigate the impact on the overall project's achievement. In exceptional circumstances grant awards can be withdrawn and projects ended early.

Monitoring visits will be undertaken at three months and at completion of the project by a member of the WCVA Grants team, however additional meetings can be scheduled if the organisation is struggling to meet the requirements of the award. More information on the information / evidence needed during these visits will be provided in a Project Management Guide upon grant award.

Important dates

Launch date: 2 March 2020

Deadline for applications: 26 May 2020

Outcome of grant application: W/C 27 July 2020

Projects to start: between 10 August 2020 – 1 September 2020

Helpful resources

If you are not currently a member of your local County Voluntary Council (CVC), the list of each CVC can be found [here](#).

- [Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015 – WCVA information page](#)
- [Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015 – Commissioner page](#)
- [Volunteering Policy: Supporting Communities, Changing Lives \(Welsh Government, 2015\)](#)
- [Prosperity for all – the national strategy \(Welsh Government, 2017\)](#)
- [Working with volunteers resources and information](#)

Further support and guidance

Promotional events: 10 am – 2 pm, booked through EventBrite:

1 April 2020

WCVA

Morfa Hall

Bath Street

Rhyl

Denbighshire

LL18 3EB

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/95566133879>

2 April 2020

National Waterfront Museum
Oystermouth Rd
Maritime Quarter
Swansea
SA1 3RD

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/95566420737>

8 April 2020

Aberystwyth Arts Centre
Aberystwyth University
Penglais Campus
Aberystwyth
Ceredigion
SY23 3DE

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/95359690401>

Local [**County Voluntary Councils**](#) can help you with general advice and support in developing your volunteering project

Volunteering Wales Grant team contact details

Email: volwalesgrants@wcva.cymru

Contact number: 0300 111 0124