



Voluntary Services Emergency Fund

Request guidance

Purpose of the Voluntary Services Emergency Fund

The voluntary sector across Wales are playing a pivotal role in supporting those in need across Welsh communities. In this time of national emergency, funding needs to reach those working directly with communities quickly, to meet a huge increase in need. The purpose of this fund is to enable those providing vital support to groups such as: people in isolation, the elderly, carers, people struggling to access food etc so that they can be supported during this time.

WCVA will administer a grants scheme, in a fast and robust way to enable the sector to continue and expand their work, especially with volunteers, in supporting people in Welsh communities most at need during this time.

Grants will support not for profit organisations working at a community scale up to a national level in Wales and can be between £10,000 - £100,000. We can consider requests outside this range, but please contact us using so that we can discuss vsef@wcva.cymru. This fund is primarily focused on revenue funding, however, your funding request can contain costs for purchases of smaller 'capital' equipment including consumable (for example PPE, screens etc). The request must fit in with the grant aims of maintaining or increasing voluntary services for vulnerable individuals and communities affected by the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.

For information on how to access Capital funding please refer to Welsh Government's [Community Facilities Programme](#).

Initial funding will be for up to six months; however, this may change depending on how the crisis develops.

The response to the Coronavirus pandemic is a fluid situation and a number of emergency funds and support schemes have become available to organisations struggling during this time. We expect interested applicants to have spoken to their current funders to discuss how existing funding can be used during this period, as well as considered whether other UK Government or Welsh Government COVID19 emergency schemes are more suitable. We strongly encourage you to assess all the schemes available to your organisation and only apply to these funds if this is the most appropriate for your individual circumstances.

Grant aims

- Maintain or increase activities that support the vulnerable during the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.
- Ensure third/voluntary sector organisations have the resources needed to deliver vital services for their communities.
- Encourage stringent health and safety protocols during all activities that safeguard third/voluntary sector staff, volunteers and beneficiaries.

Grant priorities

The requests for funding will be categorised with one of three ratings:

A – These requests are of the highest priority. Organisations will directly provide or sustain crucial services in the community, ensuring the safety of vulnerable individuals/communities.

B – These requests will be for funding to improve/sustain the services that support the well-being of the most vulnerable individuals/communities.

C – These requests will be for funding for third/voluntary sector that enable them to continue engaging, supporting and developing volunteers and activities for their communities.

Is your organisation eligible to apply?

Your organisation **can** apply if:

- It is a Third/voluntary sector (not-for-profit) organisation and is independent of government, private and public sectors:
 - Registered charity
 - Constituted group
 - Community Interest Company
 - Charitable Incorporated Organisation
 - Company limited by guarantee
 - Company limited by shares where all shares are held by one of the above (i.e. wholly owned social business subsidiary of a Charity)

- Industrial and Provident Society (IPS) in the form of a Community Benefit Society (BenCom)
- Financial Mutuals
- The funding will be for activities/services/communities in Wales
- Your organisation has at least 2 authorised signatories
- Your organisation has its own bank account or an account in the name of the 'Trustees of [name of organisation]'

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

- A political organisation
- A statutory organisation
- A private organisation
- An individual
- A non-constituted group

Please note that only one request can be made by the same organisation in this initial phase. However, we may accept multiple applications from single organisation delivering multiple activities at scale across multiple regions.

Request process

- 1) Requests will be submitted using WCVAs Multipurpose Application Portal (MAP).

In the request you will be asked for:

- The purpose of the funding – specific activities/resources/staff required
- Experience and demonstration of need
- A simple expenditure breakdown
- An explanation of the risk management measures being put into place to protect staff, volunteers and beneficiaries.
We understand that organisations are providing crucial services in their communities, but we must ensure that activities are carried out in line with the Welsh Government and UK Government safety guidelines. This will ensure we protect high risk individuals and those supporting them.
- The impact of the funding
- If you will be working with adults at risk and children, it is a requirement that you provide your safeguarding policy(ies)

- 2) Requests will be reviewed upon submission and categorised, as highlighted under 'Grant priorities'. There is no submission deadline.
- 3) Panel approval on a rolling basis to avoid delay.
- 4) Notification of funding and payment via BACs.

Grants will not be awarded retrospectively ie for costs already incurred prior to the receipt of the grant offer letter and signed terms and conditions.

Activities that fall within the statutory sector will not be supported eg anything that falls within provision of the school curriculum.

Registering with MAP

In order to submit a request for funding, you will need to register with 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>

Further support and guidance

Email: vsef@wcva.cymru

Contact number: 0300 111 0124

CVC contact list: <https://thirdsectorsupport.wales/contact/>