



Voluntary Services Recovery Fund: Request guidance

PURPOSE OF THE VOLUNTARY SERVICES RECOVERY FUND

The voluntary sector across Wales has played a pivotal role in supporting those in need across Welsh communities; providing essential lifelines including food deliveries, emergency medical care, ensuring government guidelines reach all communities and tackling declining mental health.

As the Welsh Government eases lockdown restrictions and people in Wales move forward, the funding needs to respond to new challenges. Although the social restrictions are easing, many people are still in emergency situations that need urgent support. The Voluntary Services Recovery Fund (VSRF) will focus on reducing inequalities across society as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Many communities suffered disproportionately; therefore, actions need to take place to ensure a fair and just recovery. The funding will also provide the resources for the Third Sector to embed safe practises to carry on delivering essential services across Wales.

WCVA will administer VSRF in the same robust, responsive, and open process as the Voluntary Services Emergency Fund.

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 vsrf@wcva.cymru. This fund is primarily focused on revenue funding; however, your funding request can contain costs for purchases of smaller 'capital' equipment including consumables (for example PPE, screens etc).

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

The VSRF is not prescriptive, the fund is responsive to the needs of voluntary sector service deliverers. Activities may include delivery of mental health services, health and social well-being and small-scale adaptation of delivery resources to comply with evolving Welsh Government guidance on social distancing etc.

Activity will be funded for expenditure during the financial year 2020-21. We can consider requests where expenditure may be incurred outside of this financial year, owing to an essential need, this will need to be clearly demonstrated in the funding request.

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

- Funding a fair and just recovery for people in Wales
- Work towards reducing inequalities exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic and prevent emerging inequalities from becoming entrenched in communities
- To fund adaptations to ensure continued provision of essential services for the most vulnerable affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, in line with government requirements

COVID-19 GUIDANCE

There are many important guidance documents to consider when developing activities for the next 6 months.

- There will be regular guidance updates from the [Welsh Government](#)
- Guidance on opening community spaces safely http://wcva.cymru/guidance_for_community_centres_reopening_in_wales/
- WCVA pull together key guidance for the sector <https://wcva.cymru/coronavirus-statement/>

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

All funding requests must be solely for activity in Wales.

Please note that only one request can be made by the same organisation on MAP. However, we can accept requests which cover activities being delivered across multiple regions, at scale and cover branches of the same organisation.

Alternatively, if your organisation's branches are separately constituted, you may apply separately.

If you are a national organisation, you will need to demonstrate how you're working with local organisations and stakeholders, whilst also ensuring there is no duplication.

WHAT CANNOT BE FUNDED UNDER VSRF

What cannot be funded under VSRF:

- Grants will not be awarded retrospectively i.e. 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 NHS, school curriculum etc
- Where there are other Welsh Government grants available for specific activities, it is expected that they will be accessed where possible, rather than VSRF
- Telephone helpline services.
- Employability and skills initiatives
- Proselytising activities
- Hospices
- Childcare providers
- IT costs may be considered in cases where purchases are essential, if you would like to submit a request with IT costs, please contact the team to discuss prior to submission

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)
 - Proof of community/organisation bank account e.g. scanned or downloaded bank statement and the names of its signatories
- 2) Requests will be reviewed by an Assessor and if there are any queries you will be contacted.
 - 3) Panel approval on a rolling basis to avoid delay.
 - 4) Notification of funding via Grant Offer Letter and payment via BACs.

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>.

If you need help registering on MAP please follow this [video](#).

FURTHER SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE

Email: vsrf@wcva.cymru

Contact number: 0300 111 0124

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