



Third sector resilience fund for Wales – Phase 3 – New Support

New funding to provide survival and recovery support for voluntary organisations in Wales during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Charities and voluntary organisations in Wales are facing existing and new challenges as they deal with the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We've already seen an amazing response by voluntary organisations across Wales, who have adapted to ensure that their services are still in place for those in need. We understand that with various schemes coming to an end, such as furlough, organisations will depend on vital grant funding which will enable them to continue operating during this uncertain time.

In response to this, direct financial support will be made available to organisations to ensure that the voluntary sector remains strong and fit for the future. Applications will be welcomed from any eligible organisation regardless of any previous grants that they might have received.

The pandemic highlighted several issues facing voluntary organisations, with financial sustainability being at the forefront. Funding will also be allocated to organisations who are looking towards their future, for example to diversify their income streams or to invest in the organisation to allow growth and expansion.

WHAT DOES THE FUND INCLUDE?

The fund is part of the £2.4m of support announced by Welsh Government and will be available to incorporated voluntary organisations towards the costs of surviving the COVID-19 pandemic and/or investing in new or additional activity which will generate a return beyond the period of funding.

Organisations can apply for a grant up to £50,000. If the activity requires funding beyond that, there is the opportunity to apply for a loan from the [Social Investment Cymru](#) team at WCVA if required.

The fund is split into two strands; Survive and Thrive.

SURVIVE

This remains very much in line with the first and second phases of the Third sector resilience fund for Wales (TSRF), recognising that for some the impact of COVID-19 was late to take effect or become fully apparent. This strand is designed to combat any unprecedented fall in your fundraising and donation income.

As Survive funding is a replication of the previous two phases, we expect any applicants previously in receipt of Survive funding to be able to demonstrate that there has been a significant change in circumstances resulting in an application for the same type of funding.

Priority will be given to those not previously supported by TSRF or TSRF2. Similarly, organisations that support people and communities with protected characteristics will also be prioritised

If your financial situation is largely because of a loss in trading income we will expect you to have considered your eligibility for the grant support made available by Welsh Government and whether it is a better fit than this funding. There may also be certain sector specific funds available to you eg Arts Council of Wales, Sport Wales, etc. However, if

there is a reason why you can't access this support as a voluntary organisation then we may still be able to support you.

It is not about replacing lost income – it is about providing sufficient funds to cover essential expenditure not covered by any residual income or by other supportive interventions. 'The funding of last resort'.

THRIVE

This strand will support organisations to invest in new or additional activities that will diversify income streams, generating a return beyond the period of funding. The requirements will be largely the same as the Survive strand but will be supported by a plan and a cashflow forecast for the new activity for which the funding is specifically required.

Examples could be: -

- Expansion of services into a new geographical area
- New income generative activities
- Formation of trading subsidiary to expand delivery

PRINCIPLES OF THE FUND

- This is a Wales-wide support fund for those affected by COVID-19 and specifically tailored for the voluntary sector, to complement the various other schemes already announced here and UK-wide
- Funding is for activity that will leave a lasting legacy within the organisation and is not simply to support a period of delivery. Whilst not necessarily immediate, it should enable an organisation to grow its income over time and become more resilient for the future. Applicants should treat it as an investment in their business, which should therefore yield an ongoing return
- It is not intended to duplicate provision offered elsewhere and applicants will be required to confirm that there is no 'double funding' taking place

- Organisations that demonstrate that their income has fallen considerably won't be treated any differently to organisations who have operated during the pandemic.
- We expect the demand for funding will exceed the amount available, so we will not be running on a 'first come first served' basis. The fund will support those organisations most in need and those creating the greatest impact. Priority will be given to those working with people or communities with protected characteristics (age, sexual orientation, disability, gender reassignment, marriage/civil partnership, pregnancy/maternity, race, sex, religion/belief).
- For those organisations who lack capacity or need help to apply a support package will be available

SCHEME DETAILS

- Money to be spent over a maximum period of 12 months according to the needs of the applicant as outlined in your application. We will accept proposals that include a tapering off in support over a prolonged period, using the assumption that income levels will recover in a gradual fashion rather than overnight
- Funding is available between £10,000 and £50,000 per organisation (or group where there is a subsidiary)
- 75% of the grant money will be paid up-front, with the remaining 25% paid at the three-month point, after submitting the relevant monitoring information
- Additional loans can be applied for as part of the package
- Packages will be made available to support the development of the business proposal and/or to make the application, such as bid writing, governance, safeguarding, legal structure, policy and procedure, strengthening good practice, fundraising plans, financials, and business planning
- Applications from unincorporated bodies are welcome, providing that progress to incorporation is an early part of their plans

MONITORING

- Beneficiaries will be asked to complete a survey three months after receiving the first payment, detailing any significant differences to their expenditure and/or any changes that might have occurred. This will need to be completed before the second payment is released.
- 12 months after funding, beneficiaries will need to complete a similar survey and provide an updated financial forecast.
- A follow up for each project will be undertaken to assess performance against agreed indicators.

SOCIAL IMPACT

Successful applicants will be required to sign up to a Social Community Commitment. This will be a combination of a commitment to deliver on a range of agreed indicators covering jobs, volunteers and service users / beneficiaries and achieve a range of outcomes determined by you and relevant to your organisation linked to the [Well-being of Future Generations Act](#).

QUALITY COMPLIANCE

Successful applicants will be expected to start working towards, achieve or retain recognised accreditation such as (but not limited to) the following:

- Trusted Charity Mark – Level 1
- Trusted Charity Mark – Level 2
- Accredited Living Wage Employer
- Investing in Volunteers
- Institute of Fundraising Qualification for staff
- Green Dragon
- Adhering to the Welsh Language Standards
- Social Enterprise Academy completion by staff
- Investors in people
- FairPlay Employer – Chwarae Teg
- Youth Worker accreditation
- Carbon Literacy

- Nature Wise (Eco-literacy)

The number of accreditations that we would expect applicants to achieve depends on the strand selected and the amount of funding requested.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Online via WCVA's MAP (Multipurpose Application Portal)
- Two-part process:
 - Eligibility Questionnaire allowing an organisation to express an interest in the fund covering basic organisation data and initial information on the proposal. Support packages will be available to formulate a full application as per the scheme details above.
 - Full application covering more detailed information about the proposal and the impact it will have on the organisation, its service users and the environment.

Applications will be accepted at any point and at least three panels will run during the lifetime of the fund. The strongest scoring applications will be those who can demonstrate the most need and/or create the biggest impact.

Application questions will cover: -

- Governance – suitable board structures and skills
- Organisational capacity – policies and procedures
- Financial sustainability
- Organisation impact (legacy)
- Social impact (including WFGA goals)
- Quality compliance (accreditations)

Supporting information required will be: -

- Governing document

- Recent bank statement
- Most recent management accounts or income/expenditure summary (we may accept six months bank statements for smaller organisations)
- Last full accounts
- Cashflow forecast
- Procurement policy / financial procedures / recruitment policy

This is not an inclusive list, depending on your request.

SCORING AND FUNDING ALLOCATION

- An expression of interest will be required initially, outlining your plans, their impact and the amount of funding required
- Each section will be scored, with minimum scores required. Three panels will be held to allocate the funding, with applications scoring below the funding threshold being carried over into the next panel
- Impact will be considered both in terms of impact on the organisation (more sustainable; legacy) and impact on wider community/service users (Wellbeing of Future Generations Act measures)
- Priority will be given to those not previously supported by TSRF or TSRF2. Similarly, organisations that support people and communities with protected characteristics will also be prioritised
- Applications from organisations who have applied in previous phases are still welcome but will need to clearly demonstrate their need for further funding

QUERIES

If you have queries in the first instance please email sic@wcva.cymru rather than telephone WCVA – we anticipate a high volume of demand and this will enable us to deal with queries in the most efficient manner.