

NHDC / Health Protection Board Funding Protocol

Background

North Hertfordshire District Council put in a bid for Health Protection Board ('HPB') funding (allocated via Hertfordshire County Council) as part of a joint bid for community group funding and were successful in securing £100,000 to be used by March 2022 under the following two of the HPB criteria:

- Targeted interventions for specific sections of the local community and workplaces
- Harnessing capacity within local sectors (e.g. voluntary, academic, commercial)

The £100,000 has been provided to NHDC to provide a fund for local Community and Voluntary organisations to ensure they remain viable and sustainable whilst delivering support to residents who have been and continue to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Community organisations have offered key services such as food deliveries, befriending services, and mental health support through the pandemic, as demand for these services arose. This increase in demand has led to higher running costs, while organisations are also unable to carry out their usual fundraising activities. Such organisations are therefore facing financial difficulties as a result of the pandemic.

Evidence from existing Community Grants Scheme, Herts Community Foundation, and key partners shows that many VCS organisations are at threat of closure as they are unable to cover rents and property costs, while other organisations are reporting concerns that they will be unable to open again and deliver services as they cannot afford the infrastructure to make their services or venues COVID-19 compliant. With a reduced VCS service, statutory organisations will become overwhelmed with requests for support, and residents will suffer as a result.

This grant fund will therefore aid the continued operation of such groups, helping prevent redundancies or total closure, and subsequently will enable residents' physical and mental health to continue to be supported. The groups will potentially be able to access the funding, as per the HPB bid as per the examples detailed below.

Criteria and Award

Funding must be used under the following criteria

6. Targeted interventions for specific sections of the local community and workplaces; and/ or
7. Harnessing capacity within local sectors (e.g. voluntary, academic, commercial).

Examples of what organisations can apply for funding for include rent, property costs, insurance, PPE and other COVID-19 compliant infrastructure required to continue to provide their services. For example, this may cover 3/6 months' rent up until March 2022.

Applicants should be able to provide evidence that their service or operation benefits residents of North Hertfordshire, and must have either charitable, voluntary, or not-for-profit status.

Applicants will be considered under the Council's existing Community Grants criteria, available here under 2.1: [CLICK HERE Community Grants Policy](#)

The District Wide Community Facilities Capital & Revenue Grants Panel ('the Panel') will be convened to ensure a robust and impartial assessment of each application and evidence of how the applicant has been supporting the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

(Central Government set out in the 'Coronavirus: Action Plan'¹ four stages of the plan to respond to Covid 19. These are 1. Contain, 2. Delay, 3. Research and 4. Mitigate). The funding is to support organisations which have been and continue to be directly involved in supporting residents who have been impacted by Covid-19 pandemic, but which are now facing financial difficulties.

The Panel will, following these deliberations make recommendations on any awards to the Executive Member for Community Engagement, who will consider such recommendations under relevant delegations in consultation with the Service Director: Legal and Community.

Background documents (relevant to the Protocol)

Community Grants Policy (specifically sections 2.1 Applicants and 4 process).

Grant Funding Agreement

Application form

District Wide Community Facilities Capital & Revenue Grants Panel Terms of Reference

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan/coronavirus-action-plan-a-guide-to-what-you-can-expect-across-the-uk>