



Covid-19 – Community Grants Guidance for Applicants

BACKGROUND

Since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, Stronger Communities has invested over £100,000 in small grants to community projects to help communities and charities respond to the needs of their communities, supporting people affected by Covid-19. Grants have been made available for a range of projects that have helped people to self-isolate, stay active, have access to food and supplies, and stay connected to people in line with government guidance. All the latest government guidance in relation to coronavirus can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

AIM OF THE COVID-19 COMMUNITY GRANTS FUND

To support community groups to continue to operate and innovate. For many this will mean operating differently, often using technology to offer virtual services and activities. Community grants are offered to help groups adapt existing activities or start new things that help people **access support to help them self-isolate** and/or **regain their confidence and independence** in a safe and covid compliant way.

We recognise that charities and community organisations will need to adapt their services and activities in order to ensure that they are safe and comply with current government guidance. For some this will mean using technology to offer services and activities on line, or helping people who currently do not have access to technology to get up and running and build skills and confidence to be able to access things like online shopping services or simply connect with friends and family. Some limited services or activities will potentially be able to re-open, particularly outdoors, where measures such as social distancing, hygiene, and test and trace procedures can be managed safely and confidently.

Advice and information regarding guidance for your specific service or activity is available from Community First Yorkshire, the county's infrastructure support provider - <https://communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk/coronavirus/>

STRONGER COMMUNITIES OUTCOMES

The Covid-19 Community Grant should also contribute to at least one of the Stronger Communities three outcomes:

Reduced inequalities

- Reducing health inequalities
- Improving access to services or the removal of barriers
- Influence and control – increasing civic participation

Improved social connectedness

- Reducing loneliness and social isolation
- Greater collective control – building increased community capital

Improved well-being

- Emotional well-being
- Physical well-being
- Social well-being – supportive relationships (social capital).

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAMME

Grants of up to **£1000** are available from 1 November 2020 for groups to help them operate services, adapt existing activities or perhaps start new things that help people regain confidence and independence in a safe and covid compliant way.

Examples of this may include:

- Creating virtual and digital opportunities for people to re-engage with their communities, building their skills and capacity. This may encompass provision of small-scale digital equipment to facilitate engagement activity and online virtual meeting license costs.
- Re-establishing or providing new socially distanced social and / or activity groups and meeting the costs associated with achieving this in a covid compliant way.

In light of the new government guidance, it is essential that groups continue to think about the risks associated with carrying out any services and activities. **NB: It is your responsibility to ensure that you operate in a way that is fully compliant with any current government or local regulations and guidance.**

To help you with this, advice and guidance on the safe operation of buildings and services is available from the Community Support Team at Community First Yorkshire and links to specific guidance is available on their website here:
<https://communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk/coronavirus/>

GRANTS AVAILABLE

Grants of up to £1,000 are available. Applications are limited to one application per organisation over a six-month period.

COMPLETING THIS APPLICATION FORM

This application form is divided into three sections:

- Section 1** – this section asks questions about the organisation applying and must be completed for your application to be accepted.
- Section 2** – in this section, we are seeking further information about your proposed project, including how you intend to deliver the project.
- Section 3** – further information and documentation to support your application; this must be submitted in order for your application to be considered.

ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

The following expenditure is eligible under the Covid-19 Community Grant:

- Volunteer expenses.
- Materials and small items of equipment.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and cleaning resources.
- Promotion and marketing.
- Venue hire.

Ineligible Expenditure

- Capital costs / large items equipment

HOW TO APPLY

All applications must be made on the **Covid-19 - Community Grant Application Form**.

Applications can be submitted at any time. You must return an electronic copy of your completed application form and any supporting documentation or attachments by email to your local Delivery Manager. Contact details for your local Delivery Manager can be found at <http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/strongercommunities>.

Please do not PDF the application form, this must be returned as a word document.

EVALUATION

All completed applications will be evaluated by the Stronger Communities Team; you will be notified regarding the outcome of your application within 14 days of submission.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like further information about the Covid-19 – Community Grant, or would like to discuss your application further, please contact your local Delivery Manager.

Contact details of your local Delivery Manager can be found at <http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/strongercommunities>.