

Guidelines: Community Recovery and Resilience Fund



What is Gloucestershire Community Foundation?

Gloucestershire Community Foundation (GCF) manages a portfolio of funds on behalf of individuals, companies, charitable trusts and statutory agencies. Out of these funds GCF makes grants to good causes in the County of Gloucestershire by way of numerous grant programmes of which this is one.

Please note, this programme is not available in South Gloucestershire.

About the Community Recovery and Resilience Fund

This grant programme aims to support local activities that are helping communities and organisations to become stronger and more resilient. It will offer charitable and community organisations funding to support challenges faced by communities as a result of Covid-19 and the impacts of lockdown restrictions.

We conducted research towards the end of 2020 which identified various challenges faced by people in our communities:

- Isolation and loneliness
- Increased mental health issues
- Unemployment and loss of income
- Digital exclusion and barriers to accessing online facilities

Organisations in our county were affected by:

- Loss of income
- Increase in costs as a result of the need to invest in PPE and digital equipment
- Increase in demand for services
- Restrictions limiting face-to-face work
- Barriers to the uptake and success of digital services including lack of skills/equipment/connectivity
- Limited availability of 'non-emergency' funding

We also found that organisations struggled to find funding for core costs, regular service delivery and non-project-based work.

Now we want to feed this understanding into our grantmaking, awarding grants that respond to the needs of the communities we are working in, being flexible and trusting in the experience and expertise of organisations who are truly embedded within communities in our county.

We understand that in the current climate needs and priorities change and evolve and new opportunities present themselves to create positive change. Therefore, this programme aims to give organisations flexibility about how they spend the grants awarded to achieve the greatest impact as well as encouraging sustainability.

Who can apply?

This programme is for voluntary and community groups with charitable aims, registered charities, Community Interest Companies, town and parish councils. **Applicants must be based and working in Gloucestershire.** *We are particularly keen to hear from groups based in the rural Cotswolds and Tewkesbury area as these have been less well supported by our programmes to date.*

Priority will be given to organisations particularly supporting one or more of the following groups of people who have been most severely impacted by the Covid-19 crisis:

- Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic (BAME) Communities
- LGBTQ+ Communities
- Young people
- Disabled people
- Women
- People affected by domestic violence
- People living in poverty, who are unemployed or on low incomes
- People suffering from physical and/or mental health issues
- Older people

To enable our funds to have the greatest impact, this programme will now prioritise groups with annual income less than **£500,000**.

Eligible organisations include:

- constituted voluntary or community organisations with a management committee of at least three unrelated members
- registered charities
- not-for-profit companies including community interest companies where there are 3 or more directors
- parish and town councils
- churches and other religious organisations (for providing non-religious activity only)
- branches of national organisations if there is:
 - a local management committee based in Gloucestershire
 - a local constitution
 - a bank account controlled by the local branch

Applicants with more than 12 months of annual expenditure in unrestricted reserves will be considered a lower priority for funding. Therefore, if your organisation is holding significant reserves you will need to make it clear why these reserves cannot be used to cover the cost of the intended project or activity. As financial circumstances may have changed significantly since your accounts were prepared, we may also ask you to provide more up to date financial information such as current level of reserves and a forecast for income/expenditure.

As we want to reach as many communities and organisations as possible through our remaining funds, groups not previously funded through our Covid grants will be prioritised

An upper limit of £15,000 has been set for grants awarded to any one organisation through our Covid funds.

What can you apply for?

Recovery and Resilience grants are available to help Gloucestershire charities and community organisations whose operations and finances have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, supporting them to recover and continue their activities or develop their resilience to survive the economic impact of lockdown or potential future waves of the virus. You can apply for a grant towards costs for activities that will help your organisation stabilise and/or recover from a period of lockdown restrictions or strengthen your resilience for the future.

You can apply for a grant towards help with:

- Core costs
- Building the capacity of your organisation, including staffing and/or infrastructure
- Developing collaborative work with other organisations
- Services set up or adapted to meet needs which people have because of the coronavirus situation
- Strengthening your organisation's governance and key staff and/or volunteer skills
- Providing time and resources for organisation planning and development
- Projects that have been changed, or adapted, as a direct response to the pandemic and where additional costs are being incurred
- Projects that have been established due to an increase in demand as a direct response to the pandemic or developments of your existing service

We want to support action on redressing inequalities through action on diversity, equity and inclusion. We will take into consideration the action a group is taking on these issues and we welcome applications for funding that incorporate this work.

How much do we award?

The maximum grant awarded will be **£5,000** per year for up to two years though the amounts awarded will depend upon demand for the funds available. We will be prioritising smaller organisations where a grant of this size will have the biggest impact.

What we won't fund

- Individuals or grants for the provision of cash bursaries to individuals or families (programmes to provide food or other essential items may be considered)
- Organisations with an annual income over £500,000 (for this particular grant programme)
- General appeals
- Political groups or activities promoting political beliefs
- Religious groups who are promoting religious beliefs through the project being funded
- Animal welfare
- Activities that are intended to raise funds for other organisations
- National charities should not apply unless they have a local branch or specific Gloucestershire-based service

How to apply

You will need to complete an application form. You can apply online on the Community Foundation's website at www.gloucestershirecf.org.uk.

As well as the completed application form you will also need to provide the following:

- A copy of your organisation's governing document/constitution/set of rules that set out the purpose of your organisation and how it is managed.
- Evidence of a bank account in the name of the organisation. The bank account must have at least two signatories.
- A copy of your organisation's most recent accounts
- A copy of your organisation's safeguarding policy if you work directly with children or vulnerable adults.

If you have been funded by GCF since January 2021 you do not need to submit supporting documents with your application unless these have been updated.

We are trying to reduce barriers for making applications. If you find application forms challenging and would feel more comfortable providing simple information on the form and supplementing it with a video outlining the work of your organisation and how you are supporting the needs of your local community, please contact Sarah Sharma, the Grants Manager on 07444124390.

What will happen next?

Once we have received your application it will be assessed by a member of staff. They may contact you for further information.

Applications will be reviewed at the following panel meetings at the end of July, September and November and we will aim to respond to you as soon as possible after the meeting.

Please note, the decision of the Grants Panel is final, and there is no right to appeal (please refer to section 9 and 10 of our Grant Making Policy).

Application deadlines

30th of June for July meeting

31st August for September meeting

31st October for November meeting

As funds are currently limited to around £150,000 in total, and the programme will close once these funds are used, we would recommend submitting an applications as soon as possible.

Monitoring and evaluation

At this point time we do not wish to overburden applicants with additional administrative work and would like to keep this process as simple as possible. We would ask that where possible you keep us updated with stories of people that you have been able to support to enable us to share these with our supporters and maximise giving in the future. As above, it may also be possible for you to

Need more information?

If you need more information please contact:

Name: Sarah Sharma, Grants Manager

Phone: 07444124390

Email: grantsmanager@gloucestershirecf.org.uk

Registered Charity Number: 900239

How we collect and hold your data

The personal information collected via the application form is collected to solicit and process applications for grants from GCF. All information is collected in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA), and the General Data Protection Regulations 2018 (GDPR). By completing an application form, you are giving consent for the information to be collected and for GCF to communicate with you/your organisation. We hold all personal information on our secure Customer Relationship Management database; grant related information is disclosed to grant panel members and to donors. We publish lists of grants awarded, and we use data in our publicity, but we anonymise details of any individual grantees. If you feel that any other information about your application or project should not be made publicly available, please contact us to discuss this. Please refer to our Privacy Policy at <https://www.gloucestershirecf.org.uk/privacy-policy>