

# Blaby District Council Community Grants Scheme – Additional Covid-related Guidance

During 2020-21 we made some temporary changes to the Community Grants programme as a result of the impacts of the pandemic. Our aim was to provide timely, financial support to local voluntary sector organisations, groups and sports clubs to help them re-open and re-start activities. We are keeping some of these changes in place during 2021-22. If you are intending to apply for a grant it is important that you also read the full grant programme guidance notes to check your organisation's eligibility, the overall priorities and process of assessing applications.

- The grants scheme is still open to all eligible applicants and project ideas (including large capital grants) that fit with the main grant criteria. However, we will give priority to projects that address a need that has arisen as a direct result of the Coronavirus pandemic (\*see below) across all grant categories.
- If over-subscribed, those applicants that have not received COVID-related funding from another source as well as the usual prioritisation criteria will apply to determine successful applicants.
- We are offering increased flexibility with regard to costs that can be met through our Revenue Grants in an effort to reduce the impact felt through loss of income. For example, applications can be made to cover day-to-day running costs such as: insurance, utilities, rent, staffing. However, these **must relate to future costs** (not paid for prior to award of the grant). Organisations will be expected to provide proof of expenditure in the usual way.
- If your project does relate to needs that arise from Coronavirus, ensure that you have clearly explained the impact this has had on your organisation (practically and financially), the need for your project and how it will benefit your service users in section two of the application form. You should also state whether you have received COVID-related funding from another source in section three of the application form, such as: Government business grants, funding from Leicestershire and Rutland Community Foundation or Leicestershire County Council schemes.

\*Some examples of Covid-related projects might include:

- Purchase of Personal Protective Equipment (for example face masks, aprons, gloves, sanitiser)
- Purchase of signage for community venues
- Additional room hire costs to enable socially distanced meetings
- Advertising and promotional activities to reach customers/service users
- Costs to train volunteers for specific tasks or additional expenses incurred
- IT equipment to support virtual access by service users
- Replacement of out of date lunch club stocks/food

## VCS Re-Start Grant

The VCS Re-Start Grant of £250 is being offered as a one-off payment. If you are awarded this grant, this does not affect your eligibility to apply to the main grants scheme. However, you should ensure that there is no duplication in proposed expenditure.

If you have any questions about your eligibility or application, contact the Funding and Awards Officer on 0116 2727566 or email [grants@blaby.gov.uk](mailto:grants@blaby.gov.uk)