



COVID-19 Homelessness Response Fund

Guidance for Grant Applicants

We are pleased to announce that we are extending the deadline for applications for the COVID-19 Homelessness Response Fund, giving homelessness organisations one final opportunity to apply for grant funding to adapt or expand services in light of COVID-19. The closing date for applications is now 28th September 2020.

Homelessness organisations affected directly by COVID-19 can now apply for funding of £5.5 million in a second round of grants distributed by Homeless Link. Of this funding pot, £4.8 million is provided by The National Lottery Community Fund and a further £680,000 is from Comic Relief, which raises money to support people living incredibly tough lives, and will primarily be allocated to charities based in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The funding aims to provide emergency financial assistance to local homelessness organisations, preventing closure, service cuts or staff redundancies threatened by increased operational costs and a loss of fundraised income due to the Coronavirus. It will also support organisations that have needed to expand or adapt their services in light of COVID-19 to support people experiencing homelessness safely and effectively.

Aims of the Fund

- To provide financial relief to small and medium sized homelessness organisations meeting the eligibility criteria to ensure they can stay open and survive the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- To help those organisations adapt their service delivery to respond to the crisis and what they have learnt over the last few months about how to deliver services better to people experiencing homelessness during periods of increased demand and challenges.

Who we can fund

- Incorporated registered charity, CIO, Community Benefit Society or CIC (with asset lock)
- Based in and operating in England*
- Organisation is already working to end homelessness and rough sleeping.
- Organisation currently works **directly** with people experiencing homelessness and more than 50% of its beneficiaries are people experiencing homelessness.
- Proposed activity is in line with the organisation's charitable mission/purpose.
- Small to medium sized organisation (up to £5 million annual income).
- Organisations with forecasted unrestricted cash reserves below 3 months operating costs following the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.**

* Through the partnership with Comic Relief, £680,000 will be available for organisations meeting the above criteria but based in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.

** For grant applications requesting financial relief we would expect evidence of your need for funding to include that the COVID-19 situation will result in your unrestricted cash reserves falling below 3 months expenditure without our funding.

The main aim of this round of funding is to support organisations to adjust and/or expand services to meet the demands created by COVID-19, we will assess applications on a case by case basis to understand the need for the grant and the impact it would have on the organisation and its ability to respond to the needs of its beneficiaries. We may take your reserve levels into account in prioritising organisations for funding.

Please note we cannot fund organisations that were successful in Round 1 of the COVID-19 Homelessness Response Fund which distributed funding from MHCLG.

What we can fund

You can apply for a grant for one or both of two purposes:

1. To provide emergency financial assistance, preventing closure, service cuts or staff redundancies threatened by increased operational costs and a loss of fundraised income due to the Coronavirus.
2. To expand or adapt services in light of COVID-19 to support people experiencing homelessness safely and effectively.

Grants must be for **revenue** expenditure only.

Please see FAQs for further information on what can and cannot be funded.

How much you can apply for

Turnover	Min. Grant	Max. Grant
Less than £100,000	£10,000	£10,000
£100,000 - £1 million	£10,000	10% of turnover
£1 million - £5 million	£25,000	£100,000

All grants must be spent within 6 months of receipt or 19th April 2021 if this is earlier.

State aid

We are working on the basis that the element of our fund that is provided by the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport's Coronavirus Community Support Fund, delivered in partnership with The National Lottery Community Fund will constitute State aid under EU Law¹. So to comply with the law, you will need to meet the requirements of the [UK's COVID-19 Temporary Framework Scheme](#) (the "Scheme").

You will need to provide confirmation that you meet the Scheme requirements when you accept a grant offer.

Specifically, you will need to confirm that:

- the total amount received by your organisation under the Scheme (from us or anyone else) does not exceed €800,000 (**£699,000**);
- your organisation was not 'in difficulty' on 31 December 2019 (essentially that your organisation was not insolvent at that time [see the link here for the actual test for 'an undertaking in difficulty'](#));
- your organisation is not involved in processing or marketing of agricultural products and that this grant shall not be transferred to primary producers of agricultural products.

If your grant is found to be unlawful State aid

It is important that you properly consider whether your organisation meets the Scheme requirements above. Failure to do so may result in recovery of the grant with interest.

We have the right to take action to recover the grant if information you provide to us is later discovered to be incorrect.

UK State aid guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/state-aid>.

How to Apply

To apply, please complete our online application form. This can be accessed from our website.

There is a single stage application process. Applications received before the earlier deadline will be assessed at an earlier Grants Panel meeting and payments will be received sooner.

Application Timetable

Comic Relief

We are pleased to announce that we are able to extend the deadline for applications for the COVID-19 Homelessness Response Fund, giving homelessness organisations one final opportunity to apply for grant funding to adapt or expand services in light of COVID-19. The closing date for applications is now 28th September 2020.

Open for applications	Monday 13th July 2020
Deadline	Monday 28th September 2020, 1 pm

The National Lottery Community Fund

Open for applications	Monday 13th July 2020
Deadline #1	Monday 3rd August 2020, 1 pm
Deadline #2	Monday 28 th September 2020, 1 pm

Grants applications will be assessed against a set framework of criteria and the final decisions will be made by a Grants Panel comprising 2 members of the Homeless Link Board, 2 officials from MHCLG, 2 Grants Managers from other national funders and one individual with lived experience.

Before applying

Consider if this is the right fund for you

There will be high demand for this funding. We anticipate only being able to support a proportion of applications and having to make difficult decisions. We advise you to consider all relevant Coronavirus

Community Support Funds (CCSFs) that can be applied to at this time. Applicants should choose the most relevant pot only. If you are looking for funding related to:

- **Specialist social welfare legal advice organisations** who provide advice and support to people who are pushed into crisis can consider the [Community Justice Fund](#)
- **Community Businesses** who are facing financial difficulties caused by COVID-19 can apply to the [COVID-19 Community Response Scheme](#). The scheme is aimed at organisations delivering services in their local community with an emphasis on BAME-led businesses.
- **Social Enterprises** can consider the COVID-19 [Social Enterprise Support Fund](#) Partnership
- **Specialist small and medium voluntary sector groups supporting migrant and refugees** can consider the [Barrow Cadbury Trust Covid-19 Support Fund](#)

If the above partnerships aren't right for your organisation then please apply to the [Coronavirus Community Support Fund](#), where your application will be considered for either Government or National Lottery funding

- For all other CCSFs delivered in partnership with The National lottery Community Fund apply here: <https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/covid-19>

Please make sure you have fully read the FAQs and this guidance before completing the application form.

Guidance for answering the questions of the application form

Please do not include any line breaks within your answers.

Provide a short narrative describing what your organisation does, the beneficiaries you support and the geographical area you work in?

Please use this section to tell us about what your organisation does, its main activities and provide details of the beneficiaries you support. We would also like to understand more about the geographical area you work in, including local services, work with the local authority and whether you operate in a rural or urban area.

What is the net financial impact of COVID-19 on your organisation? (figure)

Please provide a figure for what you estimate to be the net financial impact of COVID-19 on your organisation from loss of income, fundraising and/or increasing costs.

(Please either complete A, B or both)

A) If you are applying for financial relief to enable your organisation to stay open and survive the crisis caused by COVID-19, how will this grant enable you to do this?

We want to know how this grant will be used to enable your organisation to stay open and/or survive the crisis caused by COVID-19. As the funding can be used for core costs, will this impact on staffing, financial stability and/or other areas.

B) If you are applying to expand or adapt services in light of COVID-19 to support people experiencing homelessness safely and effectively, how would you use the grant to do this?

We want to know how you will use this grant to adapt or expand your services to increase/improve support to people experiencing homelessness in light of COVID-19. Please be specific and link your response to what you have already told us about the impact on beneficiaries above. This can include a contribution towards equipment costs but cannot make up the entirety of the grant.

What will be the main outcome(s) if successful in receiving funding (between 1-3 outcomes only)

Please provide between 1 and 3 outcomes for the funding you are applying for, please include outcomes that are linked to the reason you are applying. For example please provide beneficiary outcomes if applying under point A and organisational outcomes in applying under point B or both if applying under A and B.

You will be required to provide the following additional information with your application:

- A copy of your organisation's latest published annual accounts (audited or independently examined)
- A bank statement from the last 3 months
- We want to know that you will work with Local Authorities and partners towards delivery of agreed strategic plans to meet the needs of rough sleepers and homeless people. We strongly encourage applicants to submit the relevant local authority's endorsement, by letter or email, to ensure that bids complement (and do not duplicate) the council's work. Supporting letters from an elected members/councillors will not be considered and so should not be submitted

Further Information

If you have an enquiry that is not covered in our FAQs or guidance materials you can send your enquiry to fund@homelesslink.org.uk. Please insert 'Homelessness COVID-19 Fund enquiry' as your email subject and provide your organisation and contact name.

We are a small team working remotely from home right now, so we cannot provide a telephone number for you to call. If you wish to speak to someone on the phone, please email us with your contact name and number and we will arrange a call back. We aim to respond to all enquiries within 2 working days.