



MHCLG – COVID-19 Homelessness Response Fund

Application Guidance

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has announced £6 million of emergency funding to provide relief for homelessness providers directly affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. Homeless Link will be distributing the Fund on the Ministry's behalf to facilitate this much needed support to the sector at a time when many services are at risk due to the impact of the pandemic.

The Covid-19 Homelessness Response Fund opened on 14 May 2020, and funding will be allocated in June 2020. We will fund frontline organisations working directly with people experiencing homelessness and where more than 50 per cent of beneficiaries are people experiencing homelessness.

If you are unable to apply for funding in this timeframe, there will be further opportunities to apply for funding, from other sources, for both emergency relief, and to develop new services, in this financial year.

Objective of the project

- To support the homelessness and rough sleeping charitable sector in their effort to help keep people who are homeless safe and supported during the pandemic.

Criteria for applicants

The grants are open to registered charities, Charitable Incorporated Organisations, Community Benefit Societies and Community Interest Companies (with an asset lock) in England working to support those rough sleeping or experiencing homelessness through the COVID-19 crisis.

Your organisation must be a small to medium sized organisation (up to £5 million annual turnover) that currently works **directly** with people experiencing homelessness and where more than 50 per cent of beneficiaries are people experiencing homelessness.

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

Your **forecasted unrestricted cash reserves will be below 3 months** following the impact of COVID-19 this financial year.

Successful applicants will be required to report to Homeless Link on how grant funding has been used through a monitoring report at the end of the grant period (format to be determined by Homeless Link). We want to know that you will work with Local Authorities and partners towards delivery of agreed strategic plans to meet the needs of those rough sleeping and experiencing homelessness. 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 member/councillor will not be considered and so should not be submitted.

Only organisations meeting these criteria to be eligible for the project:

- Incorporated registered charity, CIO, Community Benefit Society or CIC
- Based in and operating in England
- Organisation is already working to end homelessness and rough sleeping.
- Proposed activity is in line with the organisation's charitable mission/purpose
- Full accounts (audited or independently examined) are submitted
- A bank statement from the last 3 months is submitted

Proposal Guidance

The Homelessness COVID-19 response fund will provide grants to be spent on organisational sustainability in order to ensure the ongoing activities that help keep people who are homeless safe and supported during the pandemic.

Grants must be for one or both of two purposes:

1. To help alleviate the financial impact of COVID-19 on your organisation. This may be because of a reduction in your actual or expected income this year, and/or as a result of higher costs you have incurred or expect to incur as a result of providing services to your beneficiaries as a direct result of the COVID-19 crisis.
2. To provide new or adapted services to people experiencing homelessness who are affected by COVID-19.

Please note this fund is not designed to provide 'emergency' funding for supplies and equipment, but to mitigate the financial impact of the COVID -19 crisis on your charity.

We want to know if you will be providing support for specific groups such as, BAME people, vulnerable women, LGBTQ people, or couples.

How much can you apply for?

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

All grants must be spent by 31st October 2020

What cannot be funded?

Grant funding must be used to deliver front line services and we are unable to fund the following types of activities:

- Activities of a political or exclusively religious nature;
- Lobbying or activity intended to influence or attempt to influence Parliament, Government or political parties;
- Using grant funding to petition for additional funding;
- Input VAT reclaimable by you from HMRC;
- Good or services that you have a statutory duty to provide;
- Payments reimbursed or to be reimbursed by other public or private sector grants;
- Contributions in Kind (i.e. a contribution in goods or services, as opposed to money);
- Depreciation, amortisation or impairment of fixed assets by you;
- The acquisition or improvement of fixed assets by you;
- Interest payments (including service charge payments for finance leases);
- Gifts to individuals and promotional items;

- Entertaining (entertaining for this purpose means anything that would be a taxable benefit; to the person being entertained, according to current UK tax regulations);
- Statutory fines, criminal fines or penalties;
- Liabilities incurred before the issue of this funding agreement unless agreed in writing by us;
- Use in respect of costs reimbursed or to be reimbursed by funding from any other source;
- Use to cover interest payments (including service charge payments for finance leases); and
- Use to purchase buildings or land.

How to apply

To apply, please complete our online application form.

The grant application window will open on Thursday 14th May 2020 and close on Wednesday 27th May 2020 at 11:59pm.

If you have an enquiry that is not covered in our guidance materials you can send you enquiry to fund@homelesslink.org.uk. Please insert 'MHCLG 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.

Application Timetable

Grant application window open	Thursday 14 th May 2020
Grant deadline for grants	Wednesday 27 th May 2020
Grants awarded	By 19 th June 2020

Applications received by 21st May 2020 will be considered at the first grants panel to be held on the 28th May 2020.