

Solihull Voluntary Sector Resilience Fund

Introduction

It is recognised that organisations and groups in the voluntary, community, social enterprise and faith (VCSEF) sectors are facing a triple squeeze due to the rising costs of living. This can be seen through increasing demand as more people seek support; fewer and lower donations, and thirdly, the increasing costs of delivery, due to rises in rent and energy bills. Financial sustainability remains the main concern for many groups and organisations, which are still recovering from the financials pressure arising from the COVID pandemic.

In response, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council has announced funding of £50,600 to fund cost-of-living support to VCSE organisations and community spaces to stay open and be able to respond to rise in demand during the winter months.

Fund Aims

There are two priorities for funding. Applications can meet one or both priorities:

1. Core Costs

Core costs are essential costs your organisation has, to keep running. Successful applications will need to demonstrate how organisations are facing a rise in increased running costs that are not financially sustainable. The aim is to support through the rise in cost-of-living during the winter months and enable organisations that face increased running costs, including rent and utilities, to continue delivery of existing services. Where possible, organisations should show that the grant will have a positive impact on other organisations in shared spaces.

2. Project Costs

Project costs should be associated with a new or extension to an existing service that supports people in addressing cost-of-living pressures this winter. Successful applications will need to demonstrate that demand for support to households has increased but resources remain limited. This may include support around food poverty, offering a warm place, mental health, and tackling social inequalities.

Both priorities must show how the organisation is supporting individuals and households within Solihull.

Successful applicants will need to have expended their grant by 31st May 2023.

Available Funding

Grants of up to £5,000 are available. This is a one-off grant per organisation, you cannot reapply. This is to ensure that as many organisations as possible can benefit.

Priority Area

Grants are available for organisations which are located and actively benefitting households within Solihull.

We Will Fund

Examples:

- Increases in running costs such as rent and utility bills
- Additional volunteer or staffing costs only to extend or cover additional services or support that allow you to meet growing demand. For example, offering space as warm hub/ welcome hub
- Refreshments/ consumables for activities

Eligibility

You can apply if you meet the following criteria:

- Registered charity
- Constituted Community groups
- Companies Limited by Guarantee with charitable aims
- Community Interest Companies
- Co-operatives - registered Community Benefit Societies and registered Industrial and Provident Societies
- Social Enterprises

Additionally, your organisation income level must be equal to or less than £500,000, as shown in your most recent annual accounts. Reserves must be in line with the Charity Commission guidelines.

Please note, we are unable to fund the following:

- Individuals or sole traders
- Companies Limited by Shares
- Capital Builds
- Direct replacement of statutory obligations and public funding
- Promotion of religious or political activities
- Groups with significant financial free reserves
- Retrospective grants
- National Charities
- Organisations or charities which are set up solely to promote any particular religion
- Organisations who have indicated poor management of any previous grants or who present poor financial health
- Contribution to endowment fund, payment of deficit funding or repayment of loans
- Animal welfare, unless the project benefits people (e.g. disabled riding schemes)
- Statutory work in educational institutions
- Overseas travel or expeditions
- Medical research and equipment for statutory or private healthcare
- General appeals

- Pure sponsorship purposes or funding purely for costs of fund-raising events.
- Schools, Churches, Parish Councils or PTA's unless community benefit is demonstrated

Additional Supporting Information

To be eligible to apply you must be able to provide proof of:

- Your organisation / company has a management committee / board of trustees / board of directors with at least 3 unrelated people as members, a list of those directors will be required showing who has bank authorisation
- A written constitution / articles / set of rules
- A copy of your most recent annual accounts or financial records showing your organisation's balance of funds, income and reserves
- A bank account in the name of the organisation with at least two unrelated signatories
- A bank statement from the last 3 months
- Copies of your safeguarding/policy (if you will be working with children or vulnerable adults)
- Equal opportunities policy
- Quotes for capital items over £300