Coronavirus (COVID-19) | Guidance and support



Home Office

Vulnerable Children National Charities

Guidance

Strategic Relief Fund: prospectus Published 10 June 2020

Overall aim of funding

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Funding has been allocated to the Department of Education and the Home Office in

coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Introduction

order to support charities working to safeguard vulnerable children.

On 8 April 2020, the government announced a package of £750M of support for the

voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations during the

Search

Overall aim of funding:

The Vulnerable Children National Charities Strategic Relief Fund is to provide relief to national children's charities that provide services to safeguard vulnerable children and that have financially suffered due to the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19). The £7.6m fund is aimed at large, national VCSEs and fits alongside a range of government and

other support, including the National Lottery coronavirus (COVID-19) community fund

which supports small and medium-sized VCSEs.

As a result of coronavirus (COVID-19) and its impact, many of these risks to vulnerable young people will have been heightened. In recognition of this heightened risk, this funding aims to ensure national charities can continue to provide or enhance services that safeguard children and protect them from harm, including from risks and threats: from child sexual exploitation and abuse • serious violence criminal exploitation (including county lines)

 online harm and substance abuse Charities may also support children and young people at higher risk of becoming not in education, employment or training (NEET), disengaging from education and experiencing wider wellbeing issues.

- In order to apply for funding, VCSE organisations need to demonstrate that:

work with vulnerable children; or

companies 2. their purpose includes provision of services that safeguard vulnerable children, as defined in the government guidance, and they continue to provide these services safely over the period of the funding (until 31 October 2020) 3. they offer services nationally, i.e. would intend to use the funding to provide direct

enterprise; this includes companies limited by guarantee and community interest

increased demand on an existing service or increased costs or resource burden to adapt services in order to safeguard children during coronavirus (COVID-19). For example, adapting the service due to requirement for social distancing or other coronavirus (COVID-19) issues, such as schools and other key locations being

• an increase in workload due to coronavirus (COVID-19), which includes either

- 5. the organisation has not received relief for the same purpose through any other mechanism (details of any other relief received covering the period 1 April to 31 October 2020 must be listed) 1
- furloughing of staff) 7. they were not in financial distress prior to 31st December 2019
- The fund is for spend incurred no later than 31 October 2020, to cope with any financial distress owing to a loss of income or rise in demand/workload/need to adapt due to coronavirus (COVID-19). For example, funding may be used to: • address short-term income disruption, only insofar as spend meets the needs of safeguarding vulnerable children as set out above
- those unable to work for reasons related to the pandemic address increased demand provide short-term contracts for additional staff up to 31 October 2020

increased hours, subject to working time regulations), up to 31 October 2020

Applicants should be aware that the minimum request for funding is £1 million and the

services. Funding can be used to address costs associated with coronavirus (COVID-19)

maximum request for funding is £3.8 million for the term 1 April to 31 October 2020.

Organisations must not use this funding for the development of new projects or

pressures from 1 April 2020. Any spend to which organisations commit beyond 31

October 2020 will not be met by this fund. Support must be prioritised on immediate needs, specifically the risk of temporary or permanent closure of the organisation as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19)

Please note that the Department for Education and the Home Office are working with other government departments, sharing relevant data to prevent fraud and duplication of funding. This does not restrict services applying separately to other coronavirus

pandemic, or an inability to deliver services. Support cannot be used to cover capital

relevant to the proposal's objectives. How to apply

The fund was launched on 10 June 2020. Applicants are required to submit applications

 completed application form • completed leadership support form • link to or attachment of financial accounts for the last two financial years current cash flow statement

submitting applicant clarifications is midday on 16 June 2020, we will not accept any subsequent requests. Applicant clarifications should be e-mailed to ChildrensVCSE.COVID19fund@education.gov.uk inserting "Applicant Clarification -

this clarification process, and phone calls will not be permitted.

• from 8 July 2020: response to successful applicants

• 14 July 2020: grant agreements finalised

there is any delay to the intended timetable.

Assessment criteria

reserves minimum policy

without any impact.

response.

number and work e-mail address in the application form.

no later than midday on 24 June 2020 to:

ChildrensVCSE.COVID19fund@education.gov.uk

The indicative timetable is set out below: • 10 June 2020: application documents issued, application period opens • 16 June 2020 (midday): applicant clarification period closes

There will be one application round to allocate funding of up to £7.6 million.

government departments who have a business need to see them. The Department for Education or Home Office may request further financial information later in the process to seek clarification or enable the transfer of funds to successful applicants. Applicants must ensure that they do not do anything which would constitute a breach of the Bribery Act 2010.

1. Financial stress Applications must evidence that they meet the financial distress test, through submission of a link to or attachment showing their last two years of financial accounts (prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice), as well as their current cash flow statement and their cash flow forecast through to 31 October 2020. Organisations that meet any of the following three criteria will be deemed to pass this test:

they are forecasted to move into a negative cash position by 31 October 2020

• they would be unable to meet monthly payroll on or before 31 October 2020

• the organisation's forecast free reserves on 31 October 2020 is below its free

The organisation may not be able to recover services quickly once the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak is over. Applications that receive a score of 3 or above will pass this criteria.

3. Outputs and outcomes

must score 3 or more in this assessment.

1 - Very poor: the response clearly fails to meet a number of the criteria of the fund. Inadequate or no supporting evidence has been provided to support the response. **2 - Poor**: the response only satisfies some of the aims of the fund. Some evidence is provided to support the response, however this is lacking in sufficient detail in one or

3 – Satisfactory: a score of 3 will again address the majority of the fund aims but will

lack some clarity or detail in how the outputs will produce claimed outcomes. Evidence

provided while giving generic or general statements is not specifically directed toward

4 - Good: a score of 4 will reflect that applicants will have addressed, in some detail, all

provided to show not only what will be provided but will give evidence strong outcomes.

aims of the fund and be specific, rather than general, in how they address the fund aims.

5 - Excellent: a score of 5 will reflect that applicant as well as addressing all, or the vast

majority, of requirements will demonstrate a deep understanding of the fund aims. All

the aims of the fund. Any omission of key information will point towards a score of 3.

or the majority of requirements as stated in the fund aims. Evidence will have been

Applicants should make clear how their outputs and outcomes relate directly to the

and pressures on their service and deliver against the fund purpose. They must also confirm that they have appropriate governance and procurement procedures in place to ensure VfM across their organisation. Applications that do not provide evidence of this will fail this criteria.

The assessment and funding process

than four pass marks will not be offered any funding.

provides an example

5

4

3

3

3

В

C

D

The government is required to ensure that funding delivers value for money (VfM) –

applications must demonstrate how the funding being requested will meet the demand

Example award table: **Applicant Evidence of Requested Award type** Outputs & Percentage outcomes income drop funding needs score

15

17

22

20

7

any changes will align as closely to this process as possible

score

4

3

3

3

3

Education and Home Office officials.

conditions of the grant agreement.

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Benefits

Births, deaths, marriages and care

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Childcare and parenting

Crime, justice and the law

Disabled people

Driving and transport

<u>No</u>

<u>Yes</u>

Release of funds cannot take place before the grant agreement has been signed by both parties. Due diligence checks will be undertaken to validate client eligibility, including sharing key application details with other crown bodies. In the event that fraudulent activity is identified the Department for Education or Home Office will take appropriate investigatory and legal action. The grant amount and any eligible expenditure claimed are inclusive of all VAT chargeable. The government is responsible for the expenditure of public funds. Please note that if

your application is successful, the Department for Education or Home Office will

received for money not assigned to the grant agreement shall be returned to the

Department for Education or the Home Office). Successful organisations will be

required to provide independent assurance of their grant spend. These will be

mandate a report on the outcomes of this grant funding at agreed intervals and / or

once the grant period ends. Any underspends will need to be reported (grant funding

- Arrangements for payments to successful applicants will be determined in the coming weeks.

<u>Is there anything wrong with this page?</u>

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Keeping vulnerable children safe during coronavirus (COVID-19) is our urgent priority.

peer/relationship abuse

Eligibility 1. they are a registered charity, a charitable incorporated organisation or social

services in multiple regions throughout England and / or Wales and thus form a strategic part of the national vulnerable children's VCSE sector 4. their usual annual income is greater than £40m and are in financial distress as a result of: • a reduction in income due to coronavirus (COVID-19), placing the organisation's

closed

expenditure.

6. need cannot be met through existing coronavirus (COVID-19) measures (for example

General conditions of funding

• meet essential costs of sustaining current activities, such as the purchasing of assets to support the move to remote and digital working, and additional staff to cover • meet additional staffing costs for existing employees (for example overtime or

(COVID-19) support packages for different aspects of their service, but any funding applied for or obtained from such funds will need to be declared. Applications will have to comply with <u>managing public money guidelines</u>.

If your proposal applies to England only, grants will be administered by Department for

Education, those proposals covering both England and Wales or Wales only will be

grants administered by the Home Office. Grants will be awarded under statute(s)

Applicants must include a: • cash flow forecast through to 31 October 2020

Please include all (but only) the above documents. Any other documents, forms or

The Department for Education will not assess submissions received after application

have closed. Any submissions that do not include all required documents will not be

An individual must be nominated for contact purposes. Please provide a telephone

Applicants may seek clarifications from the Department for Education about any

aspects of this prospectus by submitting an applicant clarification. The deadline for

Applicant Name" in the subject title. Please identify the section of this prospectus to

To ensure that the competition is open, fair and transparent to all applicants, neither

the Department for Education or Home Office will discuss this opportunity outside of

which your applicant clarification refers, but please note that we cannot acknowledge your clarification. The Department for Education aims to present responses by midday on 18 June 2020 at Vulnerable Children National Charities Strategic Relief Fund.

evaluation

annexes will not be reviewed.

assessed.

• 18 June 2020 (midday): Department for Education aim to publish response to clarifications • 24 June 2020 (midday): application period closes

24 June 2020 to 8 July 2020: compliance checks, due diligence, assessment and

The Department for Education will keep all applications confidential and will not share them beyond those staff in the Department of Education and other relevant

The Department for Education will endeavour to keep interested parties up to date if

Applications which meet all eligibility criteria will be assessed against the following four criteria. Applications must pass all four criteria to qualify for funding. The application form is marked to show which questions address specific assessment criteria.

2. Evidence of need Applicants are asked to evidence the impact of not receiving funding on the organisation and its work with vulnerable children. This need will be assessed as follows:

O – No impact: the organisation and its work with vulnerable children would continue

1 – Minimal impact: the response clearly fails to meet a number of the criteria of the

2 - Marginal impact: the response shows that the organisation would suffer a reduction

in services offered to children during coronavirus (COVID-19), this would only impact a

services to vulnerable children. This could constitute the closure of some local services

4 - Severe impact: the organisation will close or pause a large part of its operations

focused on vulnerable children; it will create a nationwide gap in provision for children

at risk. The organisation will make redundancies or furloughing (under the Coronavirus

Job Retention Scheme) of key frontline employees working with vulnerable children.

small proportion of the children the charity serves and may be constrained to one

3 - Significant impact: the response shows a large impact on the organisation's

or a material curtailment of availability for national services.

fund. Inadequate or no supporting evidence has been provided to support the

5 - Catastrophic impact: the organisation will cease to operate on temporary basis and permanently withdraw some services - there are likely to be widespread furloughing (under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme) or redundancies of key frontline workers and a gap in service provision impacting vulnerable children across England and Wales.

locality, rather than nationwide.

Applications must demonstrate that the proposal will be effective in enabling the organisation to keep relevant safeguarding services operating for vulnerable children and/or to meet the extra demand on the service, as identified within the application form.

Outputs and outcomes will be scored against the criteria below. To pass, applicants

0: no response or the response does not meet required criteria.

information offered is linked directly to fund requirements and clearly shows a substantial positive impact to vulnerable children. 4. Value for money

from highest score to lowest score up to the budget of £7.6 million. Grants may be awarded in full, or alternatively, awarded in part • the highest scored application will be awarded a full award for their requested funding (up to the £3.8 million limit). Dependent on remaining funds from the residual budget, the next highest scoring applicant will be awarded either a full award or a partial award. In the instance of tied scores, the applicant scoring highest in need will be prioritised. Where this is still a tie, the applicant with the largest percentage drop in income since 24 March 2020 will be prioritised. The awarding of grants will

proceed on this basis until there are no further funds available. The below table

• adjustments to the fund attribution may be required in order to meet the requirement

for the fund to attribute at least £4 million to activities in England. In this instance

£2.2

£3.7

million

£1 million

£2 million

• in the above example applicants A, B, and C, all receive full awards leaving £500,000

million

Full award: £2.2 million

Full award: £3.7 million

Partial award: £0.5 million

No award (but may receive a partial award if 'D' declines)

£1.2 million Full award: £1.2 million

Remaining

budget

£7.6

million

£5.4

£1.7

million

£0.5

nil

million

million

All applications that meet the fund eligibility criteria and receive a pass score for all four

of the above assessment criteria are eligible for funding. Applications that receive fewer

• the available budget for the fund is £7.6 million. The Department for Education and

the Home Office will award grants to successful applicants in order of precedence

of available funding remaining. As applicant D's request was for £1,000,000, they receive only a partial award utilising the final remaining funds • the total funding budget available for this programme shall not be increased beyond the original £7.6 million Applications will be assessed by an assessment board comprised of Department of

The Department for Education and the Home Office reserve the right to withdraw this grant fund and choose not to award grants to any organisation. 1. This would not include funding from departments to mobilise new programmes or services. 亡

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