

## Blaby District Council Community Grants Scheme – Coronavirus Grant Round

In light of the Coronavirus pandemic and feedback from local organisations, we have made some changes to this year's Community Grants programme. Our aim is to provide timely, financial support to local voluntary sector organisations, groups and sports clubs as they begin to re-open and re-start activities. **The changes listed below apply to the first two grant rounds for 2020-21 only.** If you are intending to apply for a grant in these rounds 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.

- We have made more money available for the first two grant rounds as we anticipate increased demand, particularly for revenue costs.
- 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, priority will be given to projects that address a need that has arisen as a direct result of the Coronavirus pandemic (\*see below). If over-subscribed, those that have not received COVID-related funding from another source as well as the usual prioritisation criteria will apply to determine successful applicants.
- We have increased the amount of funding for which organisations can apply to £1000 for Revenue and Small Capital grants with no match-funding required for these two grants. This increase is only for applications demonstrating a COVID-related need.
- Any applicants with existing unspent grants will be offered the opportunity to vary the expenditure to help meet needs to arise from the Coronavirus pandemic and/or apply for a 'top up' grant up to a maximum total of £1000. For example, if you received a grant in March 2020 for £500 and have been unable to spend it, you could apply for a further £500 to help your group/venue re-open in a way that is Covid-secure or safe.
- 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 (i.e. not paid for prior to award of the grant). Organisations will be expected to provide proof of expenditure in the usual way.
- Our Youth Grants programme is suspended currently but all eligible applications will be considered through one of the other grants (i.e. small capital, revenue or Everyone Active)
- Our online application form is not available for the two grant rounds. Please request a grant form from the Funding & Awards Officer using the details below. **Please answer all relevant questions on the form in a concise but clear way** to help the grants panel to assess what we expect to be a high number of applications. 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, the need for your project and how it will benefit your service users in Section 2 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.

\*Some examples of projects might include:

- Purchase of PPE (e.g. face masks, aprons, gloves, cleaning products)
- 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 (e.g. tablets) to support virtual access by service users
- Replacement of out of date lunch club stocks/food

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