Welcome to the East Midlands Funding Forum e-bulletin, where we bring you highlights of the latest funding opportunities and funding related news. Please check deadline dates before starting or submitting any applications.

Don’t forget that you can also follow us on Twitter: @EMFundingForum for the very latest news.

**COVID-19 News** – We hope you are all doing well and have been able to continue your support to others in the very amazing and wide-ranging ways that you do. We are all experiencing some very different and ever-changing circumstances at the moment and we are aware that a few funders and grantmakers have suspended their grant programmes until they are able to reassess the situation and understand how they can support their current grantees. Please double check websites and links regularly before applying as the situation is changing daily.

The positive news is that lots of new pots of funding are being made available, we have tried to signpost you to some of these.

Also, funders are recognising that this is a difficult time for the sector and large number have signed up to ‘Stand together with the sector’, check out more information and who is supporting this initiative here: [We stand with the sector](#)

Also look out for a wealth of support tools, guidance and help from funders and charitable organisations. We have seen most of these being promoted through Twitter but we have also tried to include a couple of links in the Training and/or support section of the newsletter.

**UNSUBSCRIBE** – if you wish to unsubscribe at any time please click the UNSUBSCRIBE link or reply with and email to emfundingforum@gmail.com and include ‘unsubscribe’ in the subject.

**What’s in this month’s bulletin?**

**Grant Schemes open now!**

Click on the links below to skip to the grant in particular or scroll read through as normal:

- [Wesleyan Foundation – Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire](#)
- [Dave Hartley Fund – Nottinghamshire](#)
- [The National Emergencies Trust – check local Community Foundations](#)
- [Leicestershire County Council – Communities Fund](#)
- [CAF Coronavirus Emergency Fund](#)
Nottinghamshire County Council – COVID-19 Community Fund
Sport England – Community Engagement Fund

Training and/or support
Click on the links below to go directly to the training opportunity listed below.
Guidance on holding virtual group meetings via Zoom – FREE
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation – Remote Working

And Finally…our message to you

Grant Schemes

Small Charities Commission – link to UK wide funders
During these unprecedented times we are signposting you to the Small Charities Commission website which has collated the names and links to many different UK wide funders available at this time, all offering funding to deal with the impact of the Coronavirus. They have sections for:

- UK wide funders
- Country specific funders
- Regional funders
- Global funders
- Government financial support
- Specialist funding streams
- Platforms (for funding)

Please visit the Small Charities Coalition Covid-19 Fundraising tools page.

Wesleyan Foundation – Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire
The fund will support projects involving the promotion and or development of education, health, innovation and social development.

Registered charities as well as constituted voluntary and community groups can apply.

Grants available
There are two levels of grant available:

- Small Grants - The maximum grant available is £2,000 and the project should be completed within one year. This fund will only support groups with an income of less than £250,000.

- Large Grants - These grants are between £2,000 – £10,000 and should be no more than 20% of the organisation’s annual income (in the last financial year) with an
income less than £500,000.

To apply for a grant, you must go through your local Community Foundation:
Nottinghamshire Community Foundation – Wesleyan Foundation
Leicestershire Community Foundation – Wesleyan Foundation – small grants and large grants

Closing dates

Both grant schemes are open for applications from 24th February closing on 3rd May 2020.

A second round of both programmes is due later in the year, please check the links above for more information.

Dave Hartley Fund – Nottinghamshire
The aim of the Dave Hartley Fund is to encourage community and voluntary groups and individuals, to appreciate, learn and perform music to others. Grants of up to £250 will be available to people of the Mansfield and Ashfield area.

The funding can be used for the purchase of new instruments or supportive musical equipment and items to enable musical groups to develop and individuals to increase their musical ability and self-esteem.

Priority will be given to groups and individuals that cannot be supported through other funds.

Grant amounts of up to £250 are available and applications will be assessed immediately.

For more information please see the Dave Hartly Fund on the Nottinghamshire Community Foundation website.

For more information or to apply please visit: The Derbyshire Volunteer Fund

The National Emergencies Trust – check local Community Foundations
The National Emergencies Trust (NET) has launched an appeal to raise funds to help local charities to support those individuals suffering hardship as a result of the coronavirus outbreak. The National Emergencies Trust will distribute money raised through a number of charitable organisations including local Community Foundations, to ensure it reaches those who need it most.

Please check your local Community Foundation website regularly. Here are the links:

- Foundation Derbyshire
- Leicestershire and Rutland Community Foundation
- Lincolnshire Community Foundation
- Northamptonshire Community Foundation
Leicestershire County Council – Communities Fund

Leicestershire County Council has established a £1m fund to support the local voluntary and community sector, during the current Coronavirus pandemic. Charities, constituted voluntary and community organisations and social enterprises can apply for a minimum of £5,000 and a maximum of £25,000 for support with the following activities:

1. Support for core organisational running costs, for organisations who have experienced a loss of income due to services closing or operating at a reduced level and where this may lead to the permanent closure of the organisation
2. Additional staffing capacity required to meet existing/current or increased demand for services, to support vulnerable people during the crisis
3. The need to rapidly adapt current service delivery models to maintain contact with service users
4. Funding for essential capital equipment such as ICT equipment, safety equipment e.g. PPE or any other essential equipment
5. Funding for use of vehicles, transport, fuel etc. to enable visits to service users
6. Funding for increased expenses costs such as reimbursing travel costs for staff/volunteers who need to visit service users, if it safe to do so, in their home or in other locations.
7. Anything else deemed acceptable in relation to the criteria for the Fund

In addition to the organisations listed above who can apply for funding, Parish and Town Councils may also apply on behalf of non-constituted groups who are delivering services for vulnerable people in their local area, during the pandemic. Please note, however, that the Parish Council will be responsible for ensuring the services or activities are eligible and that all the terms and conditions of the fund are met.

To find our more and to apply for the funding to support vulnerable people in Leicestershire, visit the Leicestershire Communities website

CAF Coronavirus Emergency Fund

CAF has launched this Fund to help smaller charitable organisations affected by the impact of Covid-19. Grants of up to £10,000 will help them to continue to deliver much needed support to our communities across the UK.

This is intended as a rapid response fund, and we aim to make payments to selected organisations within 14 days of application. We anticipate high numbers of applicants and unfortunately it is likely that we will not be able to offer a grant to all eligible applicants.

Who can apply? Organisations with a charitable purpose and charitable activities, which had income of £1million or less in their last financial year. This includes:
• UK registered charities (registered with Charity Commission, Scottish Charity Regulator or Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, or as shown in the Charities Act 2010)
• Organisations registered with Companies House or the Public Mutuals Register, as a charitable or not-for-profit entity, eg Community Interest Companies, Companies Limited by Guarantee and others
• Unregistered entities and social enterprises.

What can you apply for? You can apply for unrestricted funding for core costs, staffing, volunteer costs, supplies and equipment, communications or other critical charitable areas. You must be able to describe how an emergency grant will improve the situation for your organisation and community. Please remember that this is intended as an emergency fund to enable your charitable activities to continue at the moment in whatever way is needed; it is not designed to replace other lost income in the longer term.

For further information and details upon how to apply head to the CAF website

Nottinghamshire County Council – COVID-19 Community Fund
A £1 million Nottinghamshire COVID-19 Community Fund has been created to help communities as they respond to exceptional challenges over the coming months.

We want to support local charities and community organisations that are delivering essential services to vulnerable Nottinghamshire residents impacted by COVID-19. Nottinghamshire charities and voluntary groups can now apply for a grant of anywhere between £200 to £10,000 to deliver projects or services that meet the Nottinghamshire COVID-19 Community Fund criteria.

We are particularly prioritising:
• Projects that directly help vulnerable people affected by the effects of COVID-19, such as by providing access to food, toiletries, necessities, as well as projects to help vulnerable people in isolation.
• Projects that are already set up and helping vulnerable people now.

Priority will be given in the first instance to projects that help and support vulnerable Nottinghamshire people impacted by COVID-19 and that fall into one or more of the following categories:
• Access to food, e.g. help with food shopping, food delivery etc.
• Access to medicine, e.g. help with collecting and delivering prescriptions and medicines from supermarkets and pharmacies
• Dog walking, e.g. to help with the cost of running dog walking schemes, such as phone calls
• Social wellbeing, e.g. befriending / buddy schemes - friendly chat via phone
• Emotional / mental health wellbeing
• Physical wellbeing, e.g. help to stay mobile and active, advice about health
• Transport, e.g. help for essential travel
• Other projects/services not listed above that support vulnerable people impacted by COVID-19 may also be considered for funding.
Applications are welcome to help cover the running (revenue) costs as a result of responding to COVID-19 (e.g. the costs of recruiting, training and supporting volunteers to deliver essential services, costs such as telephone calls, rent, gas and electricity or other costs relating to a new site or community hub where people can more easily access community support and services). Help towards the cost of some capital items, such as a piece of equipment, may also be considered.

For more details upon the programme including who can apply, and how to apply, head to the Nottinghamshire County Council website here

**Sport England – Community Engagement Fund**

As the country deals with coronavirus (Covid-19), we know sport and physical activity organisations are facing a hugely difficult period of time.

Our Community Emergency Fund aims to deliver immediate funding to those most in need. It’s specifically targeted at organisations, including those not currently supported by us, who have a role in supporting the nation to be active but who are experiencing short term financial hardship or the ceasing of operations due to the ongoing crisis.

The types of organisations eligible include local sports clubs forced to close at short notice but who are facing ongoing costs around maintenance and utility bills, and voluntary and community sector organisations who deliver or enable sport and physical activity.

This £20 million fund is designed to complement other sources of funding from the government, such as funds targeted at small businesses. Please click here to see the funding support that the government has available before you consider applying to this fund.

**Who we’ll fund** – Any organisation delivering community sport and physical activity can apply to our fund if it’s experiencing short term financial hardship or the ceasing of operations due to the impact of coronavirus. These organisations include:

- Local sports clubs
- Voluntary and community sector organisations that deliver or enable sport and/or physical activity, including organisations that are not solely or primarily sports organisations and have an important role to play in keeping people active, that may need support for other parts of their organisation to remain open
- Small charitable trusts that do not qualify for financial help elsewhere
- Regional or county level organisations or leagues that have already paid out funds for activities that are now cancelled and are not able to claim funds from elsewhere.

**What we’ll fund** – The fund has been developed to help community sport and physical activity organisations meet their obligations, in particular fixed costs, which are no longer supported with revenue as a result of coronavirus. This might cover expenditure on:

- Rent
- Utility costs
- Insurances
- Facility or equipment hire
• Core staffing costs (including casual workers) that cannot be met elsewhere by other
government funds
• Retrospective losses dating from 1 March, 2020.

Some examples of the sort of things our fund can help with are:
• Support a boxing club to pay for their utility bills and other costs for their facility when
no activity is taking place
• Support a local league who have paid for equipment to run a competition which is now
cancelled and therefore will not receive the money the players in the league would
have paid.

Who the fund’s not able to help – This fund is designed to help grassroots sport and
physical activity providers. This means we’re not able to help the following organisations
with this fund.
• Local authorities, including town and parish councils
• Schools, colleges and universities
• Commercial sport and physical activity providers, e.g. private gyms
• Leisure operators
• Individuals who are either employed or self-employed within the sport and physical
activity sector.

Any organisation or individuals who can access support through the government’s financial
packages should do so in the first instance. We’ll review the availability of these packages on
an ongoing basis.

For more details upon the programme head to the Sport England website here.

Training and/or support

Guidance on holding virtual group meetings via Zoom – FREE
Through these unprecedented circumstances many charities are finding ways to connect
and virtually support their customers/service users/patients. Here are a couple of links to
how to run large group meetings via Zoom (including additional tools in the Esmee Fairbairn
link below):

Shared Learning group on Involvement. Look in their news and featured documents
sections

Esmee Fairbairn Foundation – Remote Working
The foundation has pulled together a good list for those both new to and experienced at
Remote Working. It provides details and links upon tools and services covering Team Chat,
Video conferencing, Webinars and Document Collaboration, plus others. Well worth a look
and read through: Remote Working
And Finally……
Unfortunately, there really is only one news item at the moment and as you will see above funders and grantmakers are starting to respond by developing specific funds/programmes to support community groups and charities at this time. All of these programmes are expected to be massively oversubscribed due to the demands being places on organisations and the sector, as highlighted by the MSE Charity Fund opening and closing their fund within a couple of weeks.

Therefore, take your time with reviewing the criteria and make sure you work fits both the basic eligibility and the priorities/focus of the fund you are applying to.

Take care and best of luck in these challenging times
All at the East Midlands Funding Forum

The East Midlands Funding Forum is a group of funders, investors and supporters of the voluntary, third and social sectors in the East Midlands. We decided to come together to improve the practice of funding and investment by sharing information, knowledge and good practice. If you wish to join, please get in touch.

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