Resilient & Inclusive Communities Fund

Fund Guidelines

The *Resilient & Inclusive Communities Fund* is a small grant programme from BEMIS, funded by **Foundation Scotland** from the Response, Recovery and Resilience Fund, for diverse Ethnic Minority community groups and organisations to set up programmes and services supporting disadvantaged and excluded communities.

The programme will run from **September 2020–March 2021**.

Grants of up to **£3,000** are available to local community groups and organisations supporting communities that are:

- Experiencing, or are at risk of, domestic abuse
- Living with poor, interrupted or impaired access to food, shelter and necessary amenities (e.g. sanitation, heating)
- Experiencing poor of interrupted access to critical advice, services or care (owing to poor digital access, language barriers, physical or cognitive restrictions, changing circumstances, etc.)
- Experiencing poor or worsening mental health (e.g. compulsion, dependencies, depression)
- In poverty, or are at risk of poverty or destitution (especially those with no recourse to public funds)

Who can apply?

This fund is open to non-profit community groups and organisations who:

- Are constituted with a governing document (you will need to provide this along with your application)
- Have a bank account in the name of that organisation
- Have not already received similar funding
- Have an annual income of **no more than £150,000**
- All appointed cheque signatories must be unrelated, and there must be at least 2.
- You must have at least 3 unrelated members on your management committee

Aims

The aim of this programme is to advance community resilience, empower local communities, enhance community spirit, increase responsive healing activities, stimulate inclusive national identity and facilitate responsive and inclusive local support provisions through providing small grant fund that will assist in:

- Initiating empowerment activities that can deliver on community-led programs / service provision that helps in tackling poverty, isolation, mental health issues for the disadvantaged, vulnerable and excluded groups,
- Initiating local interventions that act as a facilitator for engagement, community cohesion as well as enhancing openings for social and community resilience.
- Enabling communities to plan and establish new or enhanced responsive services addressing poverty and inequalities.
- Supporting local organisations to increase levels of engaging with and responding to local needs, inclusion, and enhance community resilience especially for deprived or fragile communities.
- Accelerating the healing and rebuilding of community spirit through delivering local projects and services that, again, strengthen community resilience and community spirit while empowering individuals, families, and communities.

Criteria

- Your proposal must be for a **new** project, service or programme, not an existing one.
- Your proposed project must be for the benefit of one or more of the following disadvantaged communities: those who are…
    - Experiencing, or are at risk of, domestic abuse
    - Living with poor, interrupted or impaired access to food, shelter and necessary amenities (e.g. sanitation, heating)
    - Experiencing poor of interrupted access to critical advice, services or care (owing to poor digital access, language barriers, physical or cognitive restrictions, changing circumstances, etc.)
    - Experiencing poor or worsening mental health (e.g. compulsion, dependencies, depression)
    - In poverty, or are at risk of poverty or destitution (especially those with no recourse to public funds)
- Your project must be completed by 31 March 2021
- Your proposed activities must adhere to all Scottish Government guidelines around social gatherings and physical activities
- You must provide contact details of another organisation as a reference for your own organisation
- You must keep records of activities, and details of supported families (if providing equipment)
- You will cooperate with BEMIS staff to check on progress of your activities
- You **must complete the provided evaluation** form within one month of the end of your project.
- Priority will be given to grassroots community organisations working directly in their communities.

We *can* fund*:*

- Equipment for use by beneficiaries (e.g. to help with digital exclusion)
- Software and online services
- Services/contracted costs…
- Volunteer costs (e.g. travel)
- Essential supplies/needs
- Mental health support

We *can not* fund:

- IT equipment for staff and organisation use
- Existing staff costs
- Other costs unrelated to this project

Your application will be assessed on:

- Your organisation's eligibility
- Your proposal's viability
- Your budget's feasibility
- Your group's experience of, or commitment to working with diverse communities
- Your group's skills and experience in running projects or services previously
    - Evidence of financial planning/budgeting
    - Evidence of publicising/marketing
    - Evidence of organisational/planning skills

You must supply a copy of your constitution or equivalent governing document along with your application.

How to apply

Download and complete an application form – available from bemis.org.uk/ricfund – and return it **along with a copy of your constitution** or equivalent governing document by email to:

ricfund@bemis.org.uk

What next?

When you submit your application, you should receive a confirmation by email within 3 working days with an application number. Please use this application number in any future correspondence regarding your application.

Your application will be reviewed by a panel within 14 working days and you will be notified of our decision by email, or potentially be asked for further detail regarding your application. Please note that we may not be able to offer the full amount applied for.

All successfully funded applications will be advertised on our website for transparency.

If you have any queries regarding your application or the grant programme itself, please email us at ricfund@bemis.org.uk.