

\*\*\*\*\* **Coronavirus Updated Guidance** \*\*\*\*\*

## Investing in Communities

*Making grants to community organisations and local charities in Kent to strengthen their resilience and build their capacity to deliver sustainable, face-to-face services to people at the margins of society.*

Colyer-Fergusson Trust believes that locally focussed organisations are often best placed to deliver flexible, responsive and direct support to the most vulnerable people in society. It also recognises that charitable organisations and their beneficiaries have been particularly hard hit by the coronavirus pandemic. In response, the Trust has remodelled this grants' programme so that it can meet its original aims, whilst also helping charities facing unprecedented challenges. The programme has two strands:

***Stabilising:*** providing grants for basic running/core costs or **any costs associated with meeting the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic.**

***Extending:*** providing one-off grants for costs associated with developing and strengthening local charities and grassroots organisations. For example, helping groups investigate and test new ways of operating, diversify their services, introduce efficiencies or establish partnerships.

This programme was developed to support smaller charities in Kent; those delivering essential services to the most vulnerable people in the community and working at grass roots and local community level. **In response to the coronavirus the remit of the programme has been widened and the criteria loosened to help more charities meet the challenges they are facing.**

### Eligibility criteria

- Organisations must be a registered charity, CIC, social enterprise or other properly constituted not-for-profit organisation<sup>1</sup> with a management committee with at least three unrelated members
- Organisations must be based in Kent and benefit local communities
- Free reserves in the last financial year must be less than twelve months of expenditure
- Grants can be paid only into a UK bank account in the organisation's name.

### Level of funding available

Organisations can apply for a grant of between £500 and £5,000 per annum, for a maximum of three years **or a one-off grant of up to £25,000.**

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<sup>1</sup> You will be expected to demonstrate your not-for-profit tax status in your application.

## **STABILISING GRANTS**

The Trust aims to help 'stabilise' grassroots groups, community organisations and charities at this very difficult time; helping them to meet the unprecedented challenges they face. One off grants of up to £25,000 and recurring grants of up to £5,000 per annum for three years will be awarded.

Grants are available for a wide range of **core costs** including, but not exclusive to:

- reduced fundraising income as a result of the coronavirus epidemic;
- staffing;
- recruitment;
- volunteer costs;
- travel and subsistence;
- utilities and telecommunications;
- rent and building costs;
- insurance.

**Please note** - newly established organisations, **unable provide at least one year of published financial records**, can only apply for grants of up to £2,500 per annum (£7,500 maximum award), or a one off grant for a **maximum of £10,000**.

## **EXTENDING GRANTS**

The Trust aims to help organisations extend their reach and impact by offering grants to help them explore new ways of working. **One-off grants** of between £500 and £15,000 are available for costs including, but not exclusive to:

- consultancy support;
- investigating mergers,
- partnerships and shared services related to core activities;
- Investigation and development (not delivery) of new contracts, income diversification or enterprise;
- Staff training and development;
- Working towards relevant quality standards
- Capital items where there is evidence of ultimate cost savings
- Implementing new IT systems, including monitoring systems

**Please note** – Extending grants **are only available** to organisations that can provide at least two years of published financial records.

### Extra priority

Extra priority will be given to groups that:

- work in a particularly disadvantaged or deprived area;
- have limited access to other sources of income;
- clearly define the need they are addressing;
- clearly demonstrate the benefit of their activities to local people;
- demonstrate a commitment to service user involvement;
- illustrate how they aim to deliver social outcomes;
- can demonstrate partnership working.

### Exclusions

We regret that we are not able to fund:

- Individuals - unless they are made as part of our 'Hardship Awards' Programme
- Large national charities receiving widespread support
- Statutory bodies and anything deemed to be the responsibility of the State
- Nurseries, schools and colleges
- Hospitals and health authorities
- Medical care, medical equipment or medical research
- Academic research, scholarships or bursaries
- Animal charities
- The promotion of religion
- Museums and galleries or the restoration or conservation of buildings
- Annual or one-off events and festivals
- Work outside of Kent
- Endowment appeals
- Work that has already taken place i.e. retrospective funding
- Round-robin, widely circulated appeals

### How to Apply

All applications **must be submitted** using the Trust's online application form. Applications by email will not be accepted. There are no deadlines and decisions are made on a rolling basis. Organisations are advised to download a copy of the application questions and prepare their answers in advance in Word, as they will be able to cut and paste these into the online form. **Please note:** organisations **cannot apply** to both the 'Stabilising' and 'Extending' funds in the same year.

## Decisions

We appreciate that these are very difficult times for charities and community groups. **Grant decisions will be made on a rolling basis, as quickly as possible.** The trustees and their staff regret that they are not able to enter into correspondence about the reasons for their decisions.

If you have a question that is not answered in this guidance, please email Steve Boucher [sboucher@cfct.org.uk](mailto:sboucher@cfct.org.uk)