



Coronavirus Community Emergency Funds

Mid Ulster Area Funding Bulletin

CWSAN & COSTA

Rural Community Development

Support Service

We are still here for the community

As your Local Rural Support Networks
we continue to support our local communities and groups
in Mid Ulster.

We are continuing to follow official advice on how to handle the current
Coronavirus situation and keeping you all regularly up-to-date.

**We are maintaining services strictly in line with all current
restrictions – our offices remain closed to the public.**

**If you require any support or assistance on Charity Registrations,
Annual Returns, Holding Meetings/ AGMs, Funding, Governance,
Capacity Building or any other support or information contact
COSTA or CWSAN:**

Tel: COSTA 028 855 56880 / CWSAN 073 843 56676

Email COSTA: info.costa@btconnect.com

CWSAN: info@cwsan.org



NI Direct

Extremely comprehensive information website for all citizens on all NI Government Services: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/>



NICVA

Link to NICVA's Funding information Page:

<https://www.nicva.org/covid19/funding-and-fundraising-covid19>



MUDC Community Response Hub & Interactive Map

MUDC Residents can now access community support near them with the click of a button, via Mid Ulster District Council's interactive online map and community response hub.

The online hub provides details of the many local groups and organisations offering help including community groups, food banks, pharmacies delivering prescriptions and local shops offering food delivery

services.

To access the community response hub please visit:

<https://mid-ulster-council-covid-19-response-midulster.hub.....>

JobCentre Online NI

Vacancies Notified To The *Northern Ireland* Employment Service

Job Centre On-line

There are many employment opportunities out there at present with many employers urgently seeking workers:

<https://www.jobcentreonline.com/JCOLFront/Home.aspx>



NI Business Info

For very comprehensive information on the full range of support and grants for Businesses under Covid-19:

<https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/campaign/coronavirus-updates-support-your-business>



MUDC Council - Emergency Community Support Fund (STILL OPEN)

As part of an on-going **support package** for the voluntary and community sector, MUD Council has opened an emergency grant programme for those organisations which are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in their local communities. The programme offers financial support to assist constituted groups which are working in their local communities to:

- ✓ Deliver food and essential items
- ✓ Link to pharmacies to deliver prescriptions
- ✓ Other emergency crisis community support

If you feel your group would benefit from funding support, please contact one of the members of our staff or complete the **short grant application form**.

Contact us: Paula Kelly paula.kelly@midulstercouncil.org
Sean Henry sean.henry@midulstercouncil.org

MUD Council - Other useful pages

- [COVID-19: Advice And Information](#)
 - [Emergency Community Support Fund](#)
 - [Local Community Support](#)
 - [Counselling and Advice Services](#)
 - [Food Box Scheme and Food Banks](#)
 - [Business Advice and Support](#)
 - [Mental Health and Wellbeing](#)
- [Fuel Stamps](#)
- [Energy Efficiency Scheme](#)
- [Home Safety Scheme](#)
- [Make A Change](#)
- [Blind Cord Safety](#)
- [Community Life Saving](#)
- [Mid Ulster Macmillan Move More](#)
- [PARS Scheme](#)
- [Affordable Warmth](#)
- [Mental Health Support Services](#)

Sign up to MUD Council mailing list to hear about news and events in the local area!

You can change your mind at any time by unsubscribing in any email you receive, or by contacting us at communications@midulstercouncil.org



Re-opening of Community Halls & Venues

COSTA in conjunction with CWSAN and the Mid Ulster Rural Community Development Support Service (RCDSS) have developed information to help community venues reopen.

We are aware that for many people government rules on social distancing, as well as the activities that are permitted to take place in our community buildings are complicated, frequently changing and can be hard to interpret for venues, many of whom are run by local volunteers.

COSTA has developed a number of information sheets and resources in conjunction with the other Rural Networks.

If you would like to receive a copy and / or would like any assistance please contact us at info.costa@btconnect.com

We hope this information will prove useful to you in ensuring a safe return to operation by your group.





FREE COSTA WORKSHOPS

AVAILABLE TO LOCAL GROUPS

- **‘Planning & Holding an AGM / Meetings during Covid-19’** Information Workshop (practical support also available on request).
- **‘Charity Registration & Annual Returns’** Information Workshop (practical support also available on request).
- **‘Good Ltd Company & Director Governance’** – Available to groups on request (particularly suitable for Directors & Ltd Companies).
- **‘Good Governance & Committee Skills’** – Available to groups on request (particularly suitable for newer / grass roots groups).
- **‘Funding Readiness’** – Available to groups on request (suitable for all).
- **‘Promoting Social Inclusion’** – Available to groups on request (suitable for all groups / orgs).
- **‘Preparing for Sustainability’ Workshop’** – Available to groups on request. (Helpful guidance for groups and halls aiming for greater future sustainability).
- **‘Ensuring GDPR Good Practice’** Workshop – Available to groups on request. (Helping small groups to ensure compliance and good practice in Data Protection).

Many more – ask us any time if you have a need or request.

Contact Loraine Griffin @ COSTA - if we are not in the office leave a message or email us and we will get back to you as soon as possible

Tel: 028 855 56880 or E-mail: info.costa@btconnect.com



Department for Communities (DfC) & Co-operation Ireland

Small Capital Grants Programme

2020/2021

On behalf of the Department for Communities (DfC), Co-operation Ireland announces the opening of the 2020/21 Small Capital Grants Programme for Northern Ireland.

The Programme, which has a total fund of £800,000, is aimed at assisting voluntary and community organisations purchase items of equipment to enhance and sustain the activities and services they provide to the community.

Who can apply?

Applications must include a minimum of 2 organisations - the amount of grant available to groups is dependent on the number of partners to the application:

- **2 partner groups** = can apply for £1,500
- **3 - 4 partner groups** = can apply for up to £3,500
- **5+ partner groups** = can apply for up to maximum £5,000

To be eligible for grant assistance applicants must be constituted voluntary or community sector organisations located in Northern Ireland, with an annual unrestricted income of less than £100,000 per year.

("Unrestricted" income relates to funds that the non-profit organisation may use for any purpose. "Restricted" income relates to funds whose use is restricted by a particular purpose and must be used in a specified period e.g. grant offer from a Funding Body)

Applicants must deliver the project, pay supplier(s) and submit a grant claim **by 31st March 2021**.

Interested groups are encouraged to submit completed applications as soon as possible.

Application forms and guidance notes can be accessed at:
<https://www.cooperationireland.org/small-capital-grants-programme>

Completed applications should be emailed to
smallcapitalgrants@cooperationireland.org

Applications must be received by **5pm Friday 14th August 2020**.

Funding Announcement

Short Term Funding Programme 2020/21

Making Life Better through COVID-19 Short term funding programme

Western, Belfast, Southern & South-Eastern Areas

The Public Health Agency (PHA) have identified funding to address Health and Well-being in Northern Ireland. The short term funding will support a range of strategic themes and priorities including:

- 'Making Life Better' (Public health framework) priorities
- Protect Life 2 Suicide Prevention Strategy
- Mental Health, Emotional Well-being, Suicide Prevention and Self-Harm

The PHA are inviting community and voluntary sector organisations, through the Clear Project, to apply for non-recurring short term funding to address the outlined themes. The PHA has commissioned the Clear Project to facilitate this process in the Western, Southern, South Eastern and Belfast Local Commissioning Group areas. Short term funding will be allocated in the Northern area via the four community networks. Two types of awards are available under this scheme.

1. Award one funding of up to £1,000 that non-constituted and constituted non-profit taking Community / Voluntary Sector groups can apply for.
2. Award two funding of between £1,001 and to a maximum of £5,000 for constituted, non-profit taking Community / Voluntary sector groups.

If you are interested in applying for the small grant go to www.dhcni.com for the following documents:

- [Guidance notes](#)
- [Application form](#)
- [Guidelines for completing application form](#)

For further details please contact: Clear Project - Tel: 028 7138 3386. Email:

clear@dhcni.com

Closing: Thursday 6th August at 3 pm.



The New Needs Fund

Who can apply:

- Constituted organisations with charitable purposes operating within Northern Ireland
- Organisations whose income is £1million or below
- Organisations who have applied to the Coronavirus Community Fund are eligible to apply for financial support, providing this is for a new project in line with the New Needs fund criteria
- Grassroots organisations working within their local community in particular to support the following beneficiaries:
 - ✓ *Children and young people, in particular young women and girls*
 - ✓ *Older people*
 - ✓ *People with disabilities*
 - ✓ *People with poor mental health*
 - ✓ *Black, asian and ethnic minorities*
 - ✓ *Rurally isolated people*
 - ✓ *People in poverty*
 - ✓ *Persons in institutions such as care homes (children in care, older people in care) rehabilitation centres*
 - ✓ *LGBTQ+ community*
 - ✓ *Anyone identified as discriminated and excluded; particularly when it comes to practice and policy.*

Fund objectives:

- To help organisations and communities to **respond better**, addressing new needs appearing as a result of the Coronavirus and where restrictions mean finding new ways of meeting existing needs.
- To help organisations and communities to **#build back better**, helping to ensure organisations can thrive **and** continue to provide longer-term support to communities.

It will focus on **community led** responses that will:

- Enhance existing community services and activities around health and wellbeing and help people cope with adversity.
- Provide ongoing emergency support initiatives that directly support those most at risk as a result of the threat of coronavirus, and that clearly evidence the need for support.

- Support innovation and creativity for those community organisations disrupted as a result of covid-19 but that are continuing to provide a valuable service at this time.
- Encourage collaboration and strengthen collaborative activity and responses to issues affecting those most marginalised in Northern Ireland, in particular the LGBTQ+ community, black, asian and ethnic minorities, and those most at risk, including those suffering from domestic violence, and those living in poverty.
- Invest in social cohesion and resilience, and empower and connect community based organisations.
- Encourage adaptation, innovation and agility of the sector, and ensure preparedness for the future.

The funding is primarily to support communities, and as a result we would expect to see communities, and communities of interest taking action, and to prepare to implement solutions that will work in their areas.

What can be supported?

- Costs associated with implementing new systems and procedures, supporting beneficiaries in different ways, and costs associated with identifying new ways of working, or to build capacity, and to develop a plan for the organisation to prepare to continue to support beneficiaries.
- Capital costs (**no more than £4,500**) associated with implementing new systems and procedures.
- Bringing together expertise to provide advice, mentoring support, and other actions to maintain viability of the organisation.
- Additional core costs such as rent, heat and light, salary contributions, are eligible, **of up to 20% of the amount awarded.**

What can be supported within the fund themes?

With grant sizes **of between £1,000 to £15,000**, it is the expectation that this funding will support organisations to continue to provide services over the next 6 to 7 months. **Projects must be complete by the end of February 2021, with end of grant reports completed by Friday 12th March 2021.**

The Foundation will prioritise:

- Initiatives that empower and connect community based organisations
- Initiatives that have a clear social impact
- Initiatives that involve those with lived experience
- Organisations who have fewer live grants, ie: less than four live grants (with the Community Foundation), at any one time

Examples of projects may include:

- Financial support to develop new agile and adaptive ways of working, that strengthen preparedness for the future, and build capacity and resilience for those organisations who are supporting

vulnerable people, who are experiencing health inequalities, and/or suffering from loneliness and social isolation. This might include health and safety measures to adapt and enable provision of important services, or support for external consultancy and development of a new IT system, to enable an organisation to adapt and continue to support at least one of the fund target beneficiaries.

- Costs associated with community activity, including volunteering, and co-ordination of services that support, and/or increases participation in activities and services that improve the health and quality of life of at least one of the target beneficiaries. An example could include a safe summer scheme for children living in rurally isolated areas, with support for delivery costs, promotion and hygiene and PPE needs. Or continued delivery of a Good Morning Project supporting older people, with support for volunteer mileage and expenses, staffing costs associated with programme delivery, **as well as up to 20%** of general core costs associated with the applicant organisation.
- Support to address the impact of the covid crisis on vulnerable groups through creative means, for example youth theatre, providing it is done in a safe way and is in line with government restrictions around social distancing. This might include external tutor and facilitation costs, **as well as up to 20%** of general core costs associated with the applicant organisation.
- Financial support to re employ staff who have been furloughed, providing they are delivering a programme of activity that fits within the wider criteria, for example, online counselling provision for those with poor mental health.

The Fund will not support:

The Community Foundation will not fund organisations or activities which promote causes that are contrary to our purposes. Causes and activities that are contrary to our purposes include, but may not be limited to, those outlined in our investment policy. We will not therefore fund organisations or activities which we determine are linked to the promotion of armaments, alcohol, human rights abuses, tobacco or pornography.

Further to this the Fund will not support:

- We are unable to fund organisations whose purposes include the advancement of religion. However, if your application fully meets all other criteria, we will pass it to the Rural Community Network who may be able to provide you with funding support
- Individuals.
- Trips outside Northern Ireland, holidays away, and one-off residential.
- Funding for projects that have already started.
- Payment that directly supports lobbying or activity intended to influence or attempt to influence Parliament, Government or political parties, or attempting to influence the awarding or renewal of contracts and grants, or attempting to influence legislative or regulatory action. Notwithstanding this, the Foundation recognises the importance of an independent civil society sector and as such civil society organisations are entitled to campaign within the law, in order to advance their aims
- The establishment of endowment of any school or institution providing further education within the meaning of the education and libraries (Northern Ireland) order 1972
- The provision of assistance to any Housing Association within the meaning of the housing (Northern Ireland) order 1976
- Organisations which adopt a partisan political stance or activities which are party political. We will not support organisations that advocate the use of violence to campaign or influence public opinion
- One-off conferences or workshops, as it is difficult to demonstrate what impact such events are likely to achieve. We can fund conferences, workshops and other gatherings as part of longer-term activities or work
- General appeals, individual and group sponsorship, marketing appeals, proposals for bursaries from individuals or proposals from individuals for the funding of study or attainment of qualifications.

- Work where the long-term institutional care of children or young people is a preferred way of working over the longer term (e.g. setting up or running orphanages). Where short-term, temporary institutional care is used as part of an intervention to support children and young people, applicants will need to demonstrate how the work they propose seeks to develop and implement community-based alternatives;
- The provision of services that are the primary and legal responsibility of the state.
- VAT reclaimable from HMRC
- Payments reimbursed or to be reimbursed by other public or private sector funding
- Interest payments (including service charge payments for finance leases);
- Gifts to individuals other than promotional items with a value of no more than £25 a year to any one individual
- Use to purchase buildings or land; and/or to top up reserves of your group

Guidance for applicants:

The Fund will close for applications on Friday 28th August 2020 but will be assessed on a rolling call basis. We anticipate significant demand and so we may have to close the fund for applications sooner than planned. Groups are therefore encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

- Applications must be completed online
- Applicants are also required to provide the following with their application:
- A copy of your governing document, e.g. constitution – this must be in the name of the applicant organisation unless governed through an umbrella organisation
- A copy of the organisation's most recent accounts
- A copy of your safeguarding policies. These must be appropriate for the project you are applying for, for example to provide online counselling provision.
- A current account bank statement dated within the last three months (If this is not in credit, you must provide an explanation as to why. The Foundation reserves the right not to offer funding to applicants who are significantly overdrawn, and/or who have not provided a suitable explanation as to why the account is overdrawn.)
- A copy of your equality policy.

The above documents must be uploaded online along with the completed application, or emailed to applications@communityfoundationni.org

Closing Date: 28th August 2020 at 1:00pm.

It is recommended that you read our [Grant FAQs](#) before starting your grant application. If you require any help with this application, please contact the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland Grants and Donor Care Team at 028 9024 5927.

Please note that due to the high number of enquiries we may not be able to respond to queries immediately.



Wesleyan Foundation Large Grants.

The Wesleyan Foundation Large Grants Programme

Fund Aims

Applications will be considered from charities, constituted voluntary and community groups that focus on:

- ✓ Education – projects that address positive social mobility, disadvantage and raising aspirations. Initiatives that develop individuals' skills and employability are also of high importance.
- ✓ Health – projects that address mental and physical well-being and create opportunities for inclusion.
- ✓ Social – Wesleyan Foundation aims to support projects that develop conscious inclusion, so will prioritise projects that bring the community together.

Other priorities – Projects that can demonstrate an ongoing sustainability, both from a financial and an environment perspective. In addition, projects which build in an element to help reduce an organisation's carbon footprint.

We Will Fund

- ✓ Groups that have been running for at least 2 years.
- ✓ Salary, equipment or volunteer costs that are clearly budgeted and only used for the project – evidence will be required.

Grants can be made for a wide range of purposes including consumables, project or activity costs. For example:

- Pilot projects
- The purchase of equipment and resources
- Extension and development of existing projects (though Wesleyan may give a lower priority to projects they have funded before)

The Wesleyan Foundation is in favour of funding:

- Mental Health – all age groups
- Bereavement
- PSE (Personal Safety Equipment)
- Domestic Violence (including women's refuges)
- Isolation /befriending /listening
- The vulnerable and elderly
- Dementia / quality of life
- Social prescribing – alleviating the pressure from the NHS
- Getting back to work – innovative travel (cycle schemes) / reducing carbon footprint
- Employment – reskilling people (not so much those that support with CV writing) but those that actively prepare you for a new job / new career etc interview prep etc
- Outdoor projects – making changes so that services can be delivered outside

The delivery of the projects needs to be following Government guidelines in terms of social distancing etc.

Please note:

- No more than 10% of the project costs can be assigned to operational/core costs.
- Your application value must be no more than 20% of the organisation's annual income.
- Your organisation's income level must be less than £500,000, as shown in your most recent annual accounts.
- If your organisation has been funded by Wesleyan Large Grants, you will not be able to reapply for funding for 3 years after the award of the initial grant.

Eligibility

You can apply to this fund if you are one of the following:

- Registered charities
- Constituted Community groups
- Companies Limited by Guarantee with charitable aims
- Community Interest Companies
- Co-operatives – registered Community Benefit Societies and registered Industrial and Provident Societies
- Social Enterprises

**Funding to Community Interest Companies and other non-charities may include conditions to restrict funding to charitable objectives only.

The Foundation will **not** fund organisations or activities which promote causes that are contrary to our purposes. Causes and activities that are contrary to our purposes include, but may not be limited to, those outlined in our investment policy. We will not therefore fund organisations or activities which we determine are linked to the promotion of armaments, alcohol, human rights abuses, tobacco or pornography.

In addition we are **unable** to fund the following:

- The advancement of religion. This includes organisations whose purposes include advancement of religion
- The establishment of endowment of any school or institution providing further education within the meaning of the education and libraries (Northern Ireland) order 1972
- The provision of assistance to any Housing Association within the meaning of the housing (Northern Ireland) order 1976 – *Note: Housing Associations will be eligible for some funds, providing they meet all other eligibility requirements, and if they apply as part of a partnership project, and are not named as the applicant organisation
- Individuals or sole traders
- Arts and media focused projects and organisations
- Sports clubs and societies (unless the project benefits disabled people)
- Contact sports such as boxing
- Capital Builds
- Direct replacement of statutory obligations and public funding
- Promotion of religious or political activities
- Groups with significant financial free reserves
- Organisations or charities which are solely to promote any particular religion
- Organisations who have indicated poor management of any previous grants or who present poor financial health
- Payment of deficit funding or repayment of loans
- Animal welfare, unless the project benefits people (e.g. disabled riding schemes)
- Statutory work in educational institutions
- Pure sponsorship purposes or funding purely for costs of fund-raising events

Additional Supporting Information

To be eligible to apply you must be able to provide proof of:

- Your organisation / company has a management committee / board of trustees / board of directors with at least 3 unrelated people as members, a list of those directors will be required showing who has bank authorisation.

- A written constitution / articles / set of rules.
- A copy of your most recent annual accounts or financial records showing your organisation's balance of funds, income and reserves.
- A bank account in the name of the organisation with at least two unrelated signatories
- A bank statement from the last 3 months.
- Copies of your safeguarding policy (if you will be working with children or vulnerable adults)
- Equal opportunities policy.
- Quotes for capital items over £300.

Common reasons for rejection:

- Application ineligibility – please read the guidance fact sheet carefully, as we often must turn down applications due to them not meeting the requirements of the fund. These reasons include applying for over 20% of the organisation's income, insufficient policies, or length of time an organisation has been set up, unclear links to Wesleyan's priorities.
- Low evidence of need
- Unclear outcomes or impact of the project
- Concerns around the long-term sustainability of the project.

<https://communityfoundationni.org/grants/the-wesleyan-foundation-small-grants-programme/>

Closing Date: Aug 14, 2020 13:00



The David Cross Young People's Fund

Closing Date: Sep 11, 2020 13:00

**Area: Northern Ireland
Grant size: Grants of up to £15,000**

Priorities: The fund has four key objectives: To support youth entrepreneurship; To enhance young people's skills and employment prospects; To encourage cross community working and reconciliation; To support creative and innovative thinking and problem solving.

The David Cross Young People's Fund has been established by the David Cross Foundation, in partnership with the Community Foundation for NI and the Department for Communities.

The Fund has been established to support young people in Northern Ireland, with a particular focus on entrepreneurship and employability. The fund recognises that we all face huge challenges to our way of life as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. This is particularly true of young people, many of whom will have seen their education interrupted at a key moment, their future plans derailed and their employment prospects damaged.

To help address this the fund aims to make a small number of awards to organisations working with young people to enable them to meet these and other challenges. It's one of five philanthropic funds investing in the voluntary and community sector to roll out this year. Philanthropic funding has been secured from individuals, families and charitable trusts and is being matched funded by DfC to support innovative and sustainable projects within a broad range of themes across NI.

<https://communityfoundationni.org/grants/the-david-cross-young-peoples-fund/>



The Sports Hardship Fund

Sport NI in partnership with the Department for Communities are delighted to announce the re-opening of the Sports Hardship Fund; to help sports clubs and other organisations delivering sporting activities, who are experiencing financial hardship.

The Sports Hardship Fund initially opened on 14 April and has provided support totalling £1.245M to help over 600 sports clubs maintain facilities during the lockdown.

Who we can support

Any organisation delivering sport and physical recreation can apply to our fund if experiencing short term financial hardship.

These organisations include:

- National Governing Body of Sport (based in NI)
- Constituted local sports clubs affiliated to a Governing Body of Sport recognised by Sport NI
- Community & Voluntary sector organisations that deliver or enable sport and/or physical recreation. Sports and Activities must be recognised by Sport NI.
- Small charitable trusts that do not qualify for financial help elsewhere. Sports and Activities must be recognised by Sport NI.

What we'll fund

The fund has been developed to help sport and physical recreation 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/Lease
- Utility costs
- Essential ground maintenance
- Insurances

How much we'll fund

Each successful applicant will receive £2,000 for costs incurred from 1st April 2020.

Where to apply

Please click [here](#) to read the programme guidance note and to begin an online application for the financial support fund.

The fund is only open to new applicants. Organisations **should not apply** if they have:

- Already received a grant through the Sports Hardship Fund;
- Been unsuccessful with an application to the Sports Hardship Fund; or
- Received grant funding through the Department for Economy Retail Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure Grant (£25k).

To apply for the Sports Hardship fund, please click [here](#)

This fund will close for completed applications at 12 noon on Wednesday 5th August 2020.

Help and Advice

If you need help or if you have any questions please contact:

Email: sportshardshipfund@sportni.net

Telephone: Angharad Bunt 078 1018 3023 / Conleth Donnelly 079 6724 054

Sports Hardship Fund - Update as at 24 July 2020

We know this is an incredibly difficult time and the impact on our sporting partners has been immeasurable. As every part of our community adjusts to the impacts of coronavirus (Covid-19), we know sport and physical recreation organisations are facing a hugely difficult period of time.

In partnership with the Department for Communities, our Sports Hardship Fund aims to deliver immediate funding to those most in need. It's specifically targeted at sports clubs, and other organisations delivering sporting activities, who are experiencing immediate financial hardship.

Organisations delivering sport and physical recreation can apply to our fund if experiencing short term financial hardship; and do not qualify for financial help elsewhere.

These organisations include:

- Governing Body of Sport (with an office base in NI).
- Constituted local sports clubs affiliated to a Governing Body of Sport recognised by Sport NI.
- Community & Voluntary sector organisations that deliver or enable sport and/or physical recreation as their primary activity. Sports and activities must be recognised by Sport NI.
- Registered NI charities that deliver or enable sport and/or physical recreation as their primary activity Sports and activities must be recognised by Sport NI.

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

- Rent/lease payments
- Heat
- Light
- Utilities
- Water Rates
- Essential grounds/facility maintenance (to maintain a state of readiness)
- Some Insurance (essential building/contents insurance, public liability, pro – rata)

A total of 288 clubs and sports organisations have been awarded funding from the Sports Hardship Fund, representing a wide variety of sports and activities recognised by Sport NI.



Arts Council NI Small Grants Programme

This scheme is **open**. Deadline for applications: Ongoing.
The maximum award available is £10,000.

A sample application form and set of guidance notes for the Small Grants Programme is available below. All applicants should read and familiarize themselves with the guidance notes before starting an online application.

The Arts Council has designed this programme to encourage you to develop and deliver your ideas, linked to your artistic needs and to your future plans.

The aim of this programme is to assist organisations to deliver arts projects which contribute to the growth of arts in the community for new and existing audiences and which reflect the diversity of Northern Ireland's society and culture.

We want to support activities which benefit the people of Northern Ireland or that help arts organisations in Northern Ireland carry out their work. All applications should fit within the objectives stated in the Council's five year plan and within its artform policies.

Note: It is the case that the Council's programmes, priorities and criteria can change. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are using the most up to date guidance notes and application forms. If you are thinking of making an application please check the Council's website to make sure that you are using the current guidance notes.

Before making an application it is essential that you read the **Guidance Notes**

Who can apply?

We welcome applications from the widest possible range of organisations. You will be required to provide proof that you have a legal constitution.

- Registered charities and other organisations which cannot distribute profits
- Groups of organisations working together to deliver specific projects
- formally constituted parent-teacher associations

Who Cannot Apply?

• **Organisations currently in receipt of Arts Council funding from its Annual Funding or Lottery Project Funding programmes**

- Individuals or Sole traders
- Commercial trading companies
- Companies that exist to distribute a profit
- Statutory authorities or organisations governed by statutory authorities i.e. ELB schools

How to apply?

You **MUST** apply online. **We will not accept applications in hard copy, by email or by fax.**

Online applications may be edited, saved and returned to at any time until you submit. You **MUST** submit ALL mandatory enclosures associated with the application at the same time, ie. at the point at which you submit your online application. These enclosures are listed within the online application and also in the sample application document (available for download on our website).

The online application allows you to upload and attach the necessary enclosures to your application. All such documents must be in Word, Excel or pdf format. We cannot accept documents in other formats. Total size of documents should not exceed 25 Mb. All of the information you provide will be held on computer. This information will be used for the administration of applications and grants, for producing statistics and information on successful applicants. Remember to keep a copy of the completed form and enclosures for your own records.

Online Applications

Applications for the Small Grants Programme can be made using the online application only. We aim to inform you of our final decision within three months of the closing date. Click here to access Website: http://artscouncil-ni.org/funding/scheme/small-grants-programme?utm_source=NewZapp&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=15_July_2020



Begin Together AWARDS

The Search for Ireland's Most Enterprising Town 2020

The Bank of Ireland Begin Together Awards are launching this initiative.

There are only 20 awards across the island of Ireland in total so competition will be high!

Town/Village/City awards are about vision going forward to help rebuild and restart, while the initiative awards highlight how our towns and villages possibly stand out for specific initiatives they introduced to respond to the crisis and how they helped their own communities especially the vulnerable - this is based on things that have already happened.

- **Town/Village/City Awards** - recognising those businesses and communities who came together to support local recovery and rebuilding in response to Covid-19. The Criteria looks at the vision for the town and how a financial award could help achieve this vision. (6 winner awards and 6 runners-up depending on population categories).
- **Rising Star Award** – for a town or village who has overcome major challenges as at 1 Jan 2020 – about how communities have increased employment and new businesses as at 1 Jan (1 winner, 1 runner up).
- **Special Initiatives Awards** – honour work of communities who came up with highly creative initiatives or sustained existing initiatives so that the vulnerable population could be cared for during and after Covid 19 and community life sustained as much as possible:
 - **Local Town Promotion Initiative** – specific marking or promotional initiative that a town has started to sustain itself both during Covid 19 restrictions and to assist restart.
 - **Local Community Enterprise Initiative** – details of a local community enterprise – existing or newly created as a result of Covid 19 – who sustained employment and repurposed themselves during Covid 19.
 - **Overall Local Business and community Covid 19 response** – looks at complete town and how its business and communities responded by working together to ensure community life continued and the vulnerable were supported.

(1 winner and 1 runner up per category)

If you are aware of community projects which may benefit from applying, the process is quite straightforward using an online application form with max 1000 words why they should receive the award – it may be something you are interested in doing in conjunction with the community groups, or that you could promote for the groups to apply themselves.

More details are on the bank of Ireland website:
<https://businessbanking.bankofireland.com/campaigns/begin-together-awards/>



How can we recognise people volunteering their time in N Ireland?

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest civil Award given to local volunteer groups across the UK to recognise outstanding work done in their own communities. It is the MBE for volunteer groups. Any group doing volunteer work that provides a social, economic or environmental service to the local community can be nominated for the Award. So many volunteer groups rose to the challenge during COVID-19, this is an amazing opportunity to recognise their efforts.....

An online information session to promote the Award and explain the nomination process, is being organised by Volunteer Now for potential nominators and interested groups. It will be an opportunity to hear from those involved in promoting the Award and from others who have been through the process.

Date: Wednesday 5th August
Time: 11am – 12.30pm

Please pass this onto anyone who might be interested in hearing more about how volunteers can get recognition. If you have a newsletter or email that goes out to your networks or other organisations please include this in it to help spread the word.

Please register your interest with sandra.faulkner@volunteernow.co.uk
and we will send you out joining information

Closing date for nominations is 25 September 2020.

Details can be found at <https://qavs.culture.gov.uk/>

