

## COVID-19 Emergency Funding Guidance

At Findacure we are aware of the impact that Covid-19 has had on small charities and rare disease patient organisations. We have compiled this guidance to help your organisation to find funding in these difficult circumstances by utilising the emergency funding resources that have become available.

### Advice from NCVO

#### What immediate actions do we need to take to manage our finances?

The implications of covid-19 will create a financial crunch and charities should now do what they can to prepare for this. These are a few things you may want to consider:

- Focus on cash flow management.
- Know what your fixed costs are and when you will need to pay them.
- Delay committing to any expenditure that you can.
- Chase all outstanding debts.
- Invoice for all services already delivered and then ensure that these invoices are paid.
- If you are receiving funding, submit any required reports on time to make sure that you receive future instalments on time.
- Talk to your bank manager and see if they will offer you an overdraft facility (even if you don't need one right now).
- If you have loan repayments the lender may be willing to delay the capital repayment.
- Implement a recruitment freeze on all vacant posts.
- The Charity Finance Group has compiled a [guide for charity finance professionals](#) which will be updated with new information and advice as the crisis unfolds.
- [Haysmacintyre](#) are collating, analysing, and providing insights on the various financial, tax and accounting measures and initiatives being announced.
- Charities may be eligible to receive support with their tax affairs through HMRC's [Time To Pay service](#). You can call the HMRC on 0800 0159 559 but it may take some time to get through as demand is high.

## What other financial implications should we think about?

You and your board may want to consider the potential financial impacts of the continued spread of the virus, and what steps you might need to take.

- You may want to budget for increased contingency costs over the next financial year.
- You may face increased need for support from people who rely on your organisation.
- You may also face increased costs if the impact on global trade continues.
- The Institute of Fundraising has developed [guidance for fundraisers](#) in relation to covid-19.
- Speak to your funders about the impact of cancelling or delaying project activities which are part of funding agreements. [The Association of Charitable Funders](#) have encouraged funders to contact their grantees and discuss how they can best support them.
- The Charity Commission has said that it will take a pragmatic approach to regulation during this period. [They've said that if you're due to file an annual return](#) but don't feel you can, then you can call them to request an extension.
- If, despite efforts to restructure your finances and make contingencies the trustees foresee that your organisation will be unable to pay its debts as they become due, and the value of its assets are less than the charities liabilities, then trustees should consider [guidance on solvency](#).

## What should I expect from funders?

We think funders should take a supportive and pragmatic approach to helping the organisations they fund throughout this period.

- Speak to your funders about the impact of cancelling or delaying project activities which are part of funding agreements.
- London Funders has released a [joint statement](#), signed by an alliance of funders from across sectors, pledging to offer support to civil society groups affected by the coronavirus outbreak.
- [The Association of Charitable Funders](#) have encouraged funders to contact their grantees and discuss how they can best support them.
- [Arts Council England](#) will refocus grant programmes to support artists and freelancers who have lost income.
- The [Blagrave Trust](#) has written to grant holders to reassure them of their continued support and flexibility around awarded funding and how it can be used.
- In addition to signing the London Funders' joint statement, the [City Bridge Trust](#) is promoting a [survey from London Plus](#) to assess the impact of covid-19 on London's civil society.

- [Esmée Fairbairn](#) is offering flexibility with payments and reporting dates and is offering grants plus support.
- The [Garfield Weston Foundation](#) is continuing to support its grantees and will be as flexible as possible regarding projects and timelines.
- Good Finance has released a [joint statement from social funders](#) stating their continued support and flexibility for all the organisations that they invest in.
- [JRF](#) is focusing its efforts to support people on low incomes by working closely with people with direct experience of poverty and listening to their concerns.
- [The National Lottery Community Fund](#) will continue funds to support people, communities and organisations.
- [Nesta](#) will continue to support grantees and will be flexible if grantees need to stop work or change the work they are doing.
- The [Paul Hamlyn Foundation](#) are adjusting reporting requirements and/or suspending them.
- The [UK Community Foundations](#) is looking to coordinate its network of community foundations and partners to respond to the impact covid-19 will have on those they support.
- The [William Grant Foundation](#) has converted all existing revenue grants to unrestricted for the current year.
- In Scotland the [Corra Foundation](#) will continue to support grantees.
- [The Community Foundation](#) will offer emergency funding for community organisations in Northern Ireland to assist older people who have been affected by covid-19.

## How will our investments be impacted?

- Stock prices have fallen significantly.
- Charities with stocks investments will see a fall in their investment's valuation.
- This could have an impact if your charity uses its investments to secure borrowing.
- A reduction in stock values could also impact defined liability pension schemes, where the employer guarantees the pension on retirement regardless of what happens to the underlying assets of the scheme. This should be less of an issue provided stocks recover in the medium to long term.
- In the long term, it is likely that markets will recover, and investments will regain the value they lost.

## Commitment from funders

- [More than 70 grantmakers](#) have signed a statement promising to support charities during the coronavirus emergency. SEE FULL LIST HERE <http://covid19funders.org.uk/>
- They said that they would be understanding of difficulties and be flexible on reporting requirements and how funding is used.

- Other organisations in the sector have also separately pledged support and are reportedly considering further ways of helping.

## At a time where online shopping is at its peak – register & promote these donation platforms to your supporters:

- Give as you live

<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/>

What is Give as you Live?

Give as you Live is an award-winning fundraising platform for UK charities. They help people raise money through their everyday online and in-store shopping, as well as make direct donations and create fundraising pages. To date, they've helped raise £11,820,628 for thousands of deserving causes.

Give As You Live work with 4,200 online retailers and also offer in-store shopping cards for dozens of retailers. You can find retailers for everyday shopping and gifts, booking a holiday and ordering office products.

- Amazon smile

[www.smile.amazon.co.uk](http://www.smile.amazon.co.uk)

You shop. Amazon gives.

Amazon donates 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) of eligible purchases to the charitable organisation of your choice. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Support your charitable organisation by promoting shopping at [smile.amazon.co.uk](http://smile.amazon.co.uk) and registering your charity.

## Online Community Fundraising Ideas

- Tiltify**

<https://tiltify.com/> The platform helps non-profits raise money through livestream broadcasting. Tiltify also allows non-profits to partner with gamers and celebrities for campaigns, who can mobilise their online followers to contribute to their favourite charitable causes. Tiltify supports a wide range of livestream fundraising activities beyond gaming, including food-related and art broadcasts, such as live music performances, and events like 5K runs and walks for charity.

- Ziffit & virgin money giving**

[Virgin Money giving](#) Raise money selling unwanted items without leaving home

We know it's tough for fundraising teams right now, so here's a brand new and simple way to recoup some of your lost fundraising income. People up and down the country are finding new and inventive ways to do things. At Virgin Money Giving have teamed up with our new friends over at [Ziffit.com](http://Ziffit.com), who turn unwanted items into donations that go directly to people's fundraising pages.

They can turn unwanted Books, DVDs, CDs and Games into donations, in 4 easy steps. It's completely free and Gift Aid can also be reclaimed, so 100% of the money plus the any Gift Aid goes directly to you.

And your fundraisers don't even need to leave the house, as Ziffit.com will go and collect their unwanted stuff from them (whilst taking every care to observe social distancing rules).

## Funders Offering Support

### **Community foundation UK**

<https://www.ukcommunityfoundations.org/our-network>

There are 46 accredited Community Foundations in the UK, covering all of Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and most of England.

NET have launched a Coronavirus Appeal to support grassroots charities and groups who'll be supporting some of society's the most vulnerable people throughout the outbreak. If you are an organisation looking for funding please find your local community foundation below.

If you want to find out more about what is happening in your area, apply for funding or just speak to someone about your project idea, please get in touch with your local community foundation.

### **The National Lottery community fund**

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all-scotland>

Awards for All has relaxed the application criteria for organisations that need help to respond to Covid-19 and will consider an application even if the applicant has already had a National Lottery Awards for All grant for something else (or have had a grant in the last 12 months). Applications will also be dealt with more quickly than normal. The fund is open to voluntary and community groups and grants of between £300 and £10,000 are available.

### **Charities aid foundation**

<https://www.cafonline.org/charities/grantmaking/caf-coronavirus-emergency-fund>

Smaller charities, not for profit organisations, social enterprises and unregistered community groups can apply for grants of up to £10,000 to help them to continue to deliver much needed support to within their communities. The funding is available to help with core costs, staffing, volunteer costs, supplies and equipment, communications or other critical charitable areas. CAF will aim for grants to be paid to selected organisations within 14 days of application.

## **Esmée Fairbairn**

<https://esmeefairbairn.org.uk/coronavirus---reassurance-for-those-we-fund>

Organisations that are already in receipt of funding from the Esmée Fairbairn foundation may be eligible to receive a share of £16million of additional funding which has been made available in response to the coronavirus pandemic. More details will be made available over the next two weeks.

## **The Fore**

<https://www.thefore.org/the-raft-emergency-fund/>

The RAFT (Rapid Action by The Fore Trusts) programme has been launched to support small charities and social enterprises adversely affected by the crisis. The RAFT Fund offers grants of up to £5,000 to existing grantees so that they are able to meet the rapidly changing needs of their beneficiaries, remain viable and prepare for delivery for when the acute phase of the coronavirus pandemic is over.

## **Sylvia Adams charitable trust**

<http://sylvia-adams.org.uk/what-we-will-fund/>

Small and medium-sized registered charities working with disadvantaged children aged 0-3 years in England and Wales can apply for small, grants to help them during the coronavirus pandemic. The Sylvia Adams Charitable Trust has changed the application guidelines and processes for the spring application round of its Early Years' Preventative Work Fund to make one-off payments of £5,000 available to charities with an income of less than £750,000 which may need extra assistance. Charities applying must show a likelihood of increased demand for their services and/or a loss of anticipated income. The closing date for applications in this round is the 28th April 2020.

## **Tesco bags of help**

<https://tescobagsofhelp.org.uk/grant-schemes/tesco-cv-fund/>

Tesco Bags of Help is responding to the current COVID-19 (Coronavirus) crisis by setting up a new short-term fund to support local communities. Organisations that support vulnerable groups will be encouraged to apply for a grant of £500 to support organisational need in this time of crisis rather than fund specific projects. Applications will be welcomed from a wide range of organisations including: voluntary and community organisations, registered charities, schools, health bodies, Parish and Town councils, social enterprises, Community Interest Companies, community councils, local authorities and social housing organisations.

## **Thomas Pocklington trust**

<https://www.pocklington-trust.org.uk/covid-19-emergency-fund-for-the-sight-loss-sector/>


To support the essential role sight loss organisations play in providing vital services to blind and partially sighted people, Thomas Pocklington Trust (TPT) has suspended its normal grant funding activities and set up an emergency fund for sight loss organisations.

£500,000 of essential support will be available to sight loss sector organisations which are providing critical services for the physical and emotional well-being of blind and partially sighted people in these uncertain times. Grants will be available of up to £10,000 pounds or the equivalent of two months' running costs (whichever is less) for use over the next six months.

 **The Will Charitable Trust**

<https://www.willcharitabletrust.org.uk/covid-19.htm>

The Will Charitable Trust is currently focussing on providing grants of up to £5,000 to charities in urgent financial need that have previously received support, so that they can concentrate on their response to the difficulties caused by the Coronavirus pandemic. Further funds will be made available next month for potentially larger awards.

 **Steve Morgan Foundation** (North Wales, Merseyside, Cheshire and North Shropshire)

<https://www.tfaforms.com/4811567>

The Covid-19 Emergency Fund has been introduced to support charities and not for profit organisations in Merseyside, North West and Cheshire (west of the M6). The fund will provide help with the costs of additional emergency services to support people affected by the virus, it will also help charities experiencing a loss of fundraising revenue to stay in business.

 **RPP Group**

RPP Group UK, a political communication agency with a unique focus on healthcare. Patient advocacy is a fundamental part of good healthcare decision making. Now more than ever, policies need the voice of patients to help guide decision making around COVID19 and to support the continuing attention to other disease areas. For this reason and building on our long history of supporting patient groups RPP is making its services available to any patient group to help ensure continued advocacy during this difficult period. We are offering a public affairs grant for engagement plans, trainings, social media and internal policy. Please find enclosed our grant flyer. We would be glad if you could share this with your membership, network and the organisations which truly need public affairs support. Should you be interested, get in touch with us by write an email with a subject line "RPP Patient advocacy Grant 2020" to Lutz Dommel, CEO of RPP, at [l.dommel@rpp-group.com](mailto:l.dommel@rpp-group.com) and we will set up a call with a group of our healthcare-specialised public affairs colleagues to discuss how we can support you during this time.

## SCOTLAND

<https://www.visitscotland.org/news/2020/third-sector-resilience-fund-announced>

The Third Sector resilience fund provides grants of between £5,000 and £100,000 to provide emergency support for charities, community groups, social enterprises and voluntary organisations working in Scotland. The fund supports organisations which already deliver services and products but find themselves in financial difficulty as a result of the current COVID-19 pandemic. The fund aims to help provide finance to stabilise and manage cash flow during these challenging times. Interest free loans will also be available.

## WALES

<https://www.moondancecovid19relieffund.com/> The Covid-19 Relief Fund has been created to help Welsh charities continue with their operations during the Covid-19 crisis. Funding is available to registered charities working in Wales to help with any of the following: Staff Retention; Current activities and services in jeopardy; Evolution of services to adapt to the current crisis. Moondance encourages only those who are truly in need to apply.

### **Important resource - the charity commission – FAQ:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-the-charity-sector>

### **Where charities should look for covid-19 advice:**

<https://www.civilsociety.co.uk/voices/where-charities-can-find-covid-19-advice.html>