



# SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES FUND

Community Responses to Covid-19

## GUIDANCE NOTES

Fund administered and distributed locally by  
Voluntary Action Badenoch & Strathspey (VABS)

on behalf of Scottish Government  
and Highlands and Islands Enterprise



## **Supporting Communities Fund Funding to support community responses to Covid-19**

### **About this funding**

On 18th March, the Scottish Government announced an investment of £350 million to support local communities and households in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.

[www.gov.scot/news/helping-communities-affected-by-covid-19](http://www.gov.scot/news/helping-communities-affected-by-covid-19)

The Supporting Communities funding forms a part of this investment package and since that time the Scottish Government, in partnership with Highlands and Islands Enterprise, has been working on rolling out the funding to provide financial support for community responses to Covid-19, delivered through community anchor organisations.

In Badenoch and Strathspey, VABS has been identified as a community anchor organisation well placed to respond to local circumstances - co-ordinating and distributing funds at grass roots level and working in partnership within the community and with public services, to co-ordinate efforts in response to the pandemic.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

Funding requests can be from incorporated voluntary organisations, unincorporated groups, charities, or social enterprises based in Badenoch and Strathspey, that are delivering Covid-19 related services/activities in Badenoch and Strathspey communities.

Funding will be for any new or extended activity in the community, that is being delivered solely in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and which supports all members of the community experiencing challenge as a result of the pandemic.

New or extended activity will be considered as having started no earlier than 16th March 2020 and will be available over a 4-6 month period.

Fund recipients must agree to provide basic financial information (eg receipts) retrospectively, to demonstrate how funding has been spent and maintain a simple record of how these Scottish Government funds are used. Templates will be provided for this.

### **FAQs**

#### **How long is funding available for?**

This fund is designed to provide financial support to your community for new or extended activities that are Covid-19 related and occurring between 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020.

#### **How much funding can we apply for?**

There is no minimum or maximum amount of request for funding. However, requests should appropriately reflect the population size of the community and/or types of activity being delivered.

It is recommended that you first contact Karen or Ann at VABS (see end of document for details) to talk through what you are delivering and the level of resource required, before completing the form.

This will ensure that the funding support you are requesting is eligible and appropriate to the community size and type of activity.

It also minimizes the risk to voluntary/third sector groups of 'double-funding' ie confirms that other Covid-19 emergency funds have not been received to deliver the same activity for the same period.

### **What activities are eligible for this funding?**

Funding will be available to respond to what you consider to be your local community priorities and can cover:

- Capital costs such as equipment, materials, technology including hardware and software, food supplies
- Revenue costs such as staff/volunteer expenditure including travel and allowance for increased capacity

The above are some examples. If in any doubt, please call Karen or Ann at VABS, who will be able to advise and support.

### **What reporting information will we need to provide?**

Every funding recipient will need to keep receipts for **all expenditure** and a simple record of how the agreed allocated funds have been used. VABS will provide templates for this purpose.

### **How will we receive funding?**

Funding will be paid by BACS directly into the bank account given on the funding request form.

### **When will we hear about our application?**

VABS will confirm the response to your funding request by phone or email within 2 working days.

To discuss your funding request with VABS, with regard to eligibility or any other queries, please contact:

Karen Derrick  
E: [karenderrick@vabs.org.uk](mailto:karenderrick@vabs.org.uk)  
T: 01479 870415  
M: 07754 410644

Ann Traill  
E: [antraill@vabs.org.uk](mailto:antraill@vabs.org.uk)  
M: 07725 171280