

NHS Charities Together

Covid-19 Community Partnership Grants Programme

North East and North Cumbria

FUND CRITERIA AND GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS – JANUARY 2021

1. Background to the fund

NHS Charities Together (NHSCT) is a membership association for around 257 NHS charities throughout the UK. During the pandemic over £140m of charitable funds have been donated by the public for NHSCT. This amount includes funds raised by the efforts of individuals such as Captain Sir Tom Moore who inspired over £30m of donations.

Since the start of the pandemic NHSCT has distributed over £50m of grant funding to its NHS member charities as part of the Stage 1 funding round. NHS trusts have benefited enormously from the availability of additional funds to support patients and staff across the UK.

In Stage 2, NHSCT will distribute funding via the Covid-19 Community Partnership Grants Programme. The programme aims to support communities through partnerships of public and/or third sector social and health care organisations. The intention is to ensure maximum benefit of this unique and unexpected funding opportunity by funding projects that are not likely to have access to other funding streams.

2. Geographic focus

Covid-19 Community Partnership funding has been allocated to each Integrated Care System ICS across England. The North East and North Cumbria ICS includes the following Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs):

- Durham, South Tyneside and Sunderland ICP
- North Cumbria ICP
- North of Tyne and Gateshead ICP
- Tees Valley ICP

The total amount of grant funding available across the North East and North Cumbria (NENC) is anticipated to be in the region of £1.4m and is expected to support a wide geographical reach of initiatives.

3. Who can apply?

Applicants must comprise a partnership of social and health care organisations. The consortium should comprise **a minimum of 2 separate legal entities** - a lead organisation working with at least

one other partner. Proposals from a wide range of organisations of varying size and infrastructure are welcome. Eligible third sector organisations include registered charities, CIOs, companies limited by guarantee, community interest companies and social enterprises. Eligible public sector organisations include NHS agencies. Please note that the consortium/partnership does not have to include an NHS partner.

Applicants will need to identify which NENC integrated care partnership area(s) their project will be delivered in. National organisations can apply to the fund however they must be able to demonstrate an existing capability to deliver services in the specific ICP area or areas where the project will take place.

Organisations with the same operating name but established independently are welcome to apply as a partnership however no organisation (whether as a lead or a partner) can receive more than one allocation of funding. Organisations named as leads or partners on multiple funding applications for different projects will not be considered. For the avoidance of doubt an organisation can only be party to one application.

4. Key criteria

There are three key themes for the Fund. Proposals must evidence how they aim to address one or more of the following place related themes in NENC:

- I. Addressing health inequalities i.e. unfair and avoidable differences in health across the population, and between different groups within society
- II. Support for mental health and wellbeing
- III. Access to, and support for digital exclusion for those identified as vulnerable and/or disproportionately affected by Covid-19

Priority weighting will be given to bids that can demonstrate a sustainable, meaningful impact on the health and wellbeing of communities that are disproportionately affected by the direct and indirect impacts of Covid-19, due to clinical and/or social vulnerabilities. These populations will be defined based on place, local need and will include a focus on:

- specific neighbourhood communities ranked as being most deprived
- population characteristics including age, ethnicity and disability
- specific communities of interest such as rough sleepers, refugees and asylum seekers.

Applicants must demonstrate how the project will support the wider NHS and voluntary and community organisations in dealing with the impact of Covid-19. NHSCT has provided the following examples of potential initiatives:

- managing the transition of the elderly from hospital to home
- mental health support
- supporting vulnerable members of the community
- end of life care
- early intervention
- reducing disparity or focus on preventative health and social care with a focus on diversity within the population

Applicants should demonstrate how the project will support the future resilience of affected communities and how it might be scalable.

Projects will also be assessed to ensure that the fund delivers maximum benefit, by supporting projects that meet the criteria and which are unlikely to have access to other funding streams.

5. Size and duration of grants

Most grants awarded will be over £50k (smaller requests will be considered in exceptional circumstances). The maximum amount available from the fund is £250k. The amount requested must not exceed the annual income of the lead organisation. Grants can be used to fund projects for up to 2 years and must be spent by March 2023.

6. What can the funding be spent on?

The fund will support a broad range of expenditure including core, capital and project costs and other costs that are directly related to project delivery.

Exceptions to this include capital equipment that is a statutory/medical requirement such as uniforms or specific hospital equipment. Capital equipment and core costs should have demonstrable community benefit. Projects or initiatives covered by core NHS or social care funding, or those which are only hospital focussed, will not be considered.

Retrospective funding will not be considered.

7. Application and decision-making process/timeframe

The application process is made up of two stages. Applicants are initially invited to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) via an online document (see Appendix B for a summary of the information requested in the EOI). The window for submitting EOIs will be open from 11th to 31st January 2021.

EOIs will be reviewed by County Durham Community Foundation (CDCF) in the first week of February. Applicants that successfully demonstrate how their partnership proposal meets the key criteria and aim of the fund will be invited to submit a full application (incorporating evidence of engagement, consultation and identified need, together with a strategic/practical plan, identified outcomes and proposed monitoring systems) before 7th March 2021. Being asked to submit a full application does not signal that funding will be awarded.

Applicants are required to include details of a referee in their EOI. This individual should be a health or social care professional in an established organisation working within the relevant geographical area outlined in the application. The referee may be contacted during any stage of the assessment process to endorse the partner organisations and/or the project proposal.

Full assessments will be undertaken by CDCF and reports will be forwarded by mid-March to the Approval Body (NHSCT and the ICS Population Health and Prevention Board) for review and decision-making. It is anticipated that applicants will be notified of the outcome of their proposals during April 2021.

8. Grant distribution and monitoring & evaluation

Lead organisations of partnerships funded by the Approval Body will receive initial payments (50% of total project cost) from April 2021 or the date at which grant awards are confirmed. Subsequent payments will be released on submission of satisfactory monitoring reports at 6 months (into duration of one-year projects) or 12 months (into duration of two-year projects). Funding must be spent within two years of the initial payment.

Grant recipients will be expected to collect appropriate data to monitor and report on identified project outcomes. Example outcomes and monitoring indicators are attached at Appendix C. Outcomes and indicators will differ between funded projects so the example list will not be relevant to every grant recipient. Applicants should note from the outset however of the reporting requirements before submitting an EOI.

9. Further Information

If you require further information, please contact info@cdcf.org.uk If you are applying in the North Cumbria area and need more information, please email grants@cumbriafoundation.org

To help us deal with your query more promptly please include **NHS Charities Together** in the subject field of your email.

Expressions of interest will only be accepted on the online form that can be found at www.cdcf.org.uk

January 2021

APPENDIX A: FUND SUMMARY

- The total funding available to distribute across the North East and North Cumbria is anticipated to be in the order of **£1.4m**.
- Grants of between **£50k and £250k** are available for a **minimum of 1 year up to 2 years** to support the wider NHS and voluntary & community sector in dealing with the impact of Covid-19.
- Projects **must** be delivered collaboratively through partnerships with relevant social and health care organisations.
- Applicants should comprise a **minimum of 2 separate legal entities** - a lead organisation working with at least one other partner.
- **Priority weighting** will be given to bids that demonstrate a sustainable, meaningful impact on communities disproportionately impacted by Covid-19.
- **No** organisation (whether as a lead or a partner) can receive more than one allocation of funding
- Applicants **must** evidence engagement and consultation in how the needs have been identified and prioritised.
- Initiatives covered by core NHS or social care funding **will not** be considered.
- The total amount requested **should not** exceed the annual income figure of the lead organisation.
- National organisations **must** be able to demonstrate an existing capability to deliver services in the geographic ICP being applied to.
- Proposals should address **one or more** of the 3 place related themes: (i) Health inequalities; (ii) Support for mental health and wellbeing; and/or (iii) Access to, and support for digital exclusion
- Expressions of Interest to be submitted between **11th and 31st January 2021**, and will only be accepted on the online form available at www.cdcf.org.uk
- Full applications invited by **7th March 2021**
- Applicants notified of decision and initial grants to successful partnerships by **April 2021** (this date might be subject to change).

APPENDIX B – INFORMATION REQUESTED IN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expression of Interest

Section 1 – Lead organisation and Partner organisations

Name of lead organisation

Address of organisation

Website

Telephone

Email

Contact details for correspondence

Type of organisation?

Are you part of a larger regional or national organisation? YES/NO

If YES, do you have an office base and currently deliver services in the north east and/or north Cumbria?

Lead organisation's annual income in most recent accounts - £

What are the overall aims and objectives of the lead organisation and what activities/services does it provide? Please specify which area of the North East and/or North Cumbria the organisation is active in.

Partner organisation 1

Name of organisation

Website

Type of organisation? Other

Partner organisation 2

Name of organisation

Website

Type of organisation?

Number and names of additional partner organisations?

Briefly outline how the partnership organisations were identified to establish this consortium? And the consultation process gone through.

Referee

Name

Job title

Organisation

Section 2 – Project details

Project name

Project start/end dates

Which Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) area will the project be delivered in?

- Durham, South Tyneside and Sunderland ICP
- North Cumbria ICP
- North of Tyne and Gateshead ICP
- Tees Valley ICP

Briefly describe the project activities. Outline how they will make a sustainable, meaningful impact on communities disproportionately impacted by Covid-19. Summarise how the project will aim to address one or more of the place related themes: (i) health inequalities; (ii) support for mental health and wellbeing; (iii) access to, and support for digital exclusion.

Briefly describe how you will manage and monitor the project

Section 3 – Grant request

Amount requested

How will the grant be spent? Summarise the main costs that the funding will meet.

APPENDIX C – EXAMPLE OUTCOMES AND MONITORING INDICATORS

Advance people's physical and mental health, wellbeing and safety

- Number of groups providing health-related activities
- Number of hours of sport, exercise & leisure activities provided by projects
- Number of new hours of sport, exercise & leisure activities provided by project
- Number of people reported improved physical / mental / emotional health
- Number of people reporting illness
- Number of people who participated in sport, exercise & leisure activities

Promote reduction of isolation and disadvantage and access to local services Increase access to services

- Number of people accessing services for the first time as a result of the project
- Number of people accessing services for the first time as part of the project

Reduce isolation

- Number of people accessing support services as a result of the project
- Number of people accessing support services for the first time as a result of the project
- Number of people who participated in community activities for the first time as a result of the project

Support vulnerable people

- Number of people accessing support services as a result of the project
- Number of people accessing support services for the first time as a result of the project
- Number of people achieving independent living/no longer requiring support as a result of the project
- Number of people who participated in community activities as part of the project

Maximise ability to strengthen community cohesion and build social capacity

- Number of new volunteering opportunities available as part of the project
- Number of new volunteers as part of the project
- Number of people engaged in regular volunteering as part of the project

Improve community cohesion

- Number of people who have taken part in a community activity for the first time as part of the project
- Number of people who participated in community activities as part of the project

APPENDIX D: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. *An application request must not exceed the lead organisation's annual turnover. Can this include the turnover of the combined partnership?*

No, the request for funding must not exceed the annual turnover (gross revenue or income) of the lead organisation.

2. *'Applicants must comprise a partnership of social and health care organisations' -what constitutes a social and health care organisation?*

All partners should have social, or health and wellbeing objectives defined within their governing documents. If applications proceed to second stage, applicants will be asked to evidence how all partners meet this within their work.

3. *Can I apply for £250,000 in one year?*

Yes, £250, 000 is the maximum request either for 12 or 24 months.

4. *Projects or initiatives covered by core NHS or social care funding, or those which are only hospital focussed, will not be considered. What does statutory funding or responsibility of NHS mean?*

The Fund cannot support any activities or items that would ordinarily be or previously has been funded by the NHS.

5. *I note that organisations named as leads or partners on multiple funding applications for different projects will not be considered and acknowledge that an organisation can only be party to one application. I am the main contact as a lead on an EOI but our organisation has been approached by several others asking if we can partner with them. How can we show our support for their proposals without making our own organisation ineligible?*

If you (or colleagues) are a health or social care professional in an established organisation working within the geographical area outlined in the other partners' application, and it is not planned that you will be in receipt of funds from any grant awarded, then you can show your support by being the named referee on their EOI.