



Community COVID Recovery Grant

Guidance

Our Community COVID Recovery Grant Scheme is specifically set up to support Community, Voluntary, Arts and Sporting organisations which benefit the residents of Dacorum.

To apply for a Community COVID Recovery Grant, organisations must show they have been negatively impacted by COVID-19, lockdown and restrictions on social interaction

This grant is specifically for Community and Voluntary organisations to ensure they remain viable and sustainable whilst delivering support to residents who have been directly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This support could be in any number of ways, however you must show how your organisation has been affected by COVID-19 and how you have maintained support to the community for your application to be considered for funding.

Organisations must demonstrate they support the 5 Ways to Wellbeing

Eligible organisations must also support **at least two** of the key outcomes from The 5 Ways to Wellbeing (researched and developed by the New Economics Foundation). By supporting these outcomes, evidence links to improving wellbeing.

1. Connect

There is strong evidence that indicates that feeling close to, and valued by, other people is a fundamental human need and one that contributes to functioning well in the world. It's clear that social relationships are critical for promoting wellbeing and for acting as a buffer against mental ill health for people of all ages.

This could be encouraging new people to get involved with your group, club or project, initiatives which get people talking and listening, or any other ways you can think of to help people make a connection, even digitally.

2. Be active

Regular physical activity is associated with lower rates of depression and anxiety across all age groups, physical activity has also been linked to lowering risk of serious complications from COVID-19. Exercise is essential for slowing age-related cognitive decline and for promoting well-being. But it doesn't need to be particularly intense for you to feel good - slower-paced activities, such as walking, can have the benefit of encouraging social interactions as well providing some level of exercise.

This could be a club which encourages people to get active, try out a new activity or get back into sport.

3. Take notice

Reminding yourself to 'take notice' can strengthen and broaden awareness. Studies have shown that being aware of what is taking place in the present directly enhances well-being and 'savoring the moment' can help to reaffirm life priorities. Heightened awareness also enhances self-understanding and allows positive choices to be made, based on values and motivations.

This could be a project that helps people to take some time to enjoy the moment and the environment.

4. Learn

Continued learning through life enhances self-esteem and encourages social interaction and a more active life. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the opportunity to engage in work or educational activities particularly helps to lift older people out of depression. The practice of setting goals, which is related to adult learning in particular, has been strongly associated with higher levels of wellbeing.

This could be a group that has an opportunity for participants to learn new skills.

5. Give

Participation in social and community life has attracted a lot of attention in the field of wellbeing research. Individuals who report a greater interest in helping others are more likely to rate themselves as happy. During lockdown, numbers of people volunteering to help in their community rose sharply, people who volunteered their time reported an increase in their wellbeing and said they felt it gave them a greater sense of purpose.

This could be an organisation that encourages people to give their time and volunteer.

Who can apply?

Constituted groups:

Any voluntary or community group can apply, including those already in receipt of funds. These groups must comply with the following conditions:

- hold a bank account in the name of the group, requiring at least two signatories,
- have a Management Committee of at least three people,
- be non-profit making or a social enterprise where profits are reinvested for community or social benefit,
- operate with no undue restrictions on membership.

Non-constituted groups:

Informal / grass roots / non-constituted groups can apply. They must provide a letter of endorsement from a constituted charitable organisation, a local Councillor, Police Community Support Officer or other similar representative on their organisations headed paper.

What can be funded?

This is an **unrestricted** fund for organisations which have been directly supporting the community during the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding is retrospective funding to support organisations which have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Examples of what can be funded include:

- Rent and rates

- Insurance
- PPE
- Equipment
- IT and subscriptions
- Covid-19 compliance

What cannot be funded?

- Items which benefit an individual.
- Activities we deem to promote or be linked to religious or political ideologies or beliefs.
- Projects involving improvement or repair to buildings which are the responsibility of another statutory body.
- Activities that are the responsibility of another statutory body.
- Capital projects in schools or improvements to roads, pavements or associated items e.g bus stop, street lighting.
- Projects that take place outside Dacorum.
- Projects yet to start. If you would like to apply for a grant for a new project, please apply for our [Community Grants Scheme](#) instead.

When can I apply?

Applications must be received by 5pm on 30 July 2021.

How do I apply?

All applications and associated documents (see below) must be submitted via email to the Funding and Partnerships Officer, using the application form provided. If you are unable to provide documents to us via email, please contact us.

How much can I apply for?

Applicants can apply for up to £5,000.

What documentation will I need to supply with my application?

Constituted groups:

- Constitution (or set of rules)
- Insurance certificate/s
- Latest annual report
- A full set of most recent accounts, audited or otherwise certified
- Budget forecast for this year and next year
- A recent bank statement
- Planning and building regulation consents (if appropriate)
- Quotes (if your application involves purchasing goods or services)
- Safeguarding policy including safe recruitment and training
- Equalities policy or statement.

Non-Constituted Groups:

- Letter of endorsement (from a constituted charitable organisation, local Councillor, Police Community Support Officer or other similar representative on their organisations headed paper) when you submit your application.
- Quotes (if your application involves purchasing goods or services)

- Copy of public liability insurance (if applicable)
- Basic financial information held by the group (if any)

Will I be expected to show value for money?

If your application involves paying for goods/services, you will be expected to show how you have secured the best value option. Any relevant quotes, invoice and receipts must be submitted to support your application.

How will my application be assessed?

Applications will be assessed by a grant panel and will be scored according to how well they meet the following criteria:

- Supporting the Council's priorities and the 5 ways to wellbeing,
- the extent to which your organisation met a community need during the pandemic without duplicating services,
- the sustainability of your organisation.

Please note that we will be unable to assess any application where mandatory fields are not completed. In the instance that an incomplete or ineligible application is submitted, you will be advised that your application is not eligible for funding. This will not prohibit you from applying in future.

Who do I contact about this grant?

Please contact Niamh Thomas, Community Partnerships and Wellbeing Officer (Funding and Partnerships) regarding this grant scheme and your application.

Email: Niamh.Thomas@Dacorum.gov.uk

Telephone: 01442 228308