



CHARITIES

An update to UK Government support to charities during COVID-19
26 May 2020

Further to the government's announcement of a £750m package directed specifically at charities, this briefing provides an update on some further information that has been made available as to the allocation of funds, details on eligibility and the application process (where known at the time of writing). Please see our previous [C-19 Charities briefing note, dated 15 April 2020](#).

This note covers an update in relation to:

- Support to food charities
- Coronavirus Community Support Fund
- Additional funding from dormant accounts
- Advice sector funding
- Domestic abuse charities

Support to food charities

On 8 May 2020, the Government announced that up to £16m will be deployed to provide food for those struggling as a result of the pandemic. This funding stream forms part of the £750m allocated by the Chancellor for frontline charities in the UK.

It is intended that at least 5,000 frontline charities and community groups, including rehabilitation services, homeless shelters and refuges in England will benefit from this grant. The fund will be used to provide millions of meals to be delivered through charities including FareShare, Wrap and other food distributors.

The Food Charities Grant Fund is open for applications and is being administered by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. If you run a frontline charity that provides food, you may be eligible to apply for a grant to help your organisation provide food to those in need.

Coronavirus Community Support Fund

The Coronavirus Community Support Fund ("CCSF"), managed by the National Lottery Community Fund ("NLCF"), forms part of the Government's charities package and is aimed primarily at small and medium-sized charities. The Fund will make £200m available, in accordance with two key objectives:

1. Increasing community support to the vulnerable impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic through civil society organisations.
2. Reducing temporary closures of vital charities to ensure that the services available for the vulnerable impacted by the pandemic have the requisite sources to operate, thereby reducing the burden on public services.

The CCSF opened to funding applications on 22 May 2020 and applications are being handled by the NLCF (further details on the application process are published on the NLCF website). Applications are being assessed in the order received. Priority will be given to:

- Organisations supporting people and communities who experience disproportionate challenge and difficulty as a result of COVID-19.
- Organisations providing services and support to vulnerable people, where there is an increase in demand for services.
- Organisations connecting communities and supporting communities to work together to respond to COVID-19.

Additional funding from dormant accounts

On 20 May 2020, the Government announced an additional £150m will be available for charities and social enterprises. The £150m will come from dormant bank and building society accounts and it includes accelerating the release of £71m of new funds from dormant accounts and £79m of already unlocked funds that will be repurposed to aid charities.

This fund will help schemes that tackle youth unemployment, expand access to emergency loans for civil society organisations and provide credit to people in vulnerable circumstances. It has been announced that:

- £10m will go to the Youth Future Foundation to assist organisations supporting unemployed and disadvantaged people into jobs. The Foundation will launch an Emergency Levelling up Youth Fund to assist the youth from the hardest hit communities and will expand its Development and Impact grants programme to increase the youth employment provisions.
- £45m will be deployed by Big Society Capital and is aimed at allowing better access to investment including emergency loans for charities, social enterprises and some small businesses facing cash-flow problems and business disruption.
- £65m will be used by Fair4All Finance to support affordable credit providers to provide people experiencing financial difficulties with an alternative to high-cost loans.
- £30m will be deployed by Access – The Foundation for Social Investment. This will support social enterprises assisting people in vulnerable circumstances. Of this £30m, up to £10m will be made available for emergency support through social lenders and to develop a programme of recovery finance.

In order to access any of the above funding, reference would need to be made to the particular organisations referred to above and their funding criteria and application process.

Advice sector funding

The Ministry of Justice (“MoJ”) is making available £5.4m to support law centres and the legal advice sector during the pandemic. This fund will benefit people seeking help with housing, debt, discrimination and employment issues as it supports the organisations providing vital legal advice.

Of this £5.4m, £2.4m is allocated to the Community Justice Fund and will be administered by the Access to Justice Foundation. The remaining £3m is allocated for law centres and will be overseen by the Law Centres Network.

Domestic abuse charities

The MoJ has secured £25m from the Government’s £76m package to support charities helping the vulnerable, including victims of sexual violence and domestic abuse. This fund will be distributed through the Police and Crime Commissioners (“PCC”) and the national Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Fund.

In addition to the above, the Home Office will launch a £2m fund for domestic abuse charities, to be allocated to charities with a national or regional presence impacted by the COVID-19 crisis for which other funding is not specifically designed. The Home Office is currently finalising the application procedure and expects to be inviting applications soon.

This £2m Home Office fund forms part of the £76m additional package announced by the Government on 2 May 2020 to support survivors of domestic abuse, sexual violence and vulnerable children and their families and victims of modern slavery.

We trust that you have found this short note helpful. If you have any further queries or would like to speak to us, please contact your usual contact at Slaughter and May or please email probono@slaughterandmay.com