

Applicant Guidance

Background

As part of the Scottish Government's Recovery and Renewal Fund, the Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care announced a new Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for adults on 15 October 2021. 2021/22 is the first year of a two-year fund to support mental health and wellbeing in communities across Scotland. In Orkney the Fund will be managed and distributed by Voluntary Action Orkney to community groups and organisations.

This guidance outlines in more detail what the Fund is about and who can apply.

For further information and an application form please contact Clare Gee, Community Development Worker at clare.gee@vaorkney.org.uk or phone 01856 872897.

The Purpose of the Fund

The fund is part of the overall Scottish Government's Recovery and Renewal Fund and the Mental Health Transition and Recovery Plan. The Fund seeks to contribute to the four key areas of focus from the Mental Health Transition and Recovery Plan.

- Promoting and supporting the conditions for good mental health and wellbeing at population level
- Providing accessible signposting to help, advice and support
- Providing a rapid and easily accessible response to those in distress
- Ensuring safe, effective treatment and care of people living with mental illness.

Fund Aim

The overarching aim of the Fund is to support community-based initiatives that promote and develop good mental health and wellbeing and/or mitigate and protect against the impact of distress and mental ill health within the adult population, with a particular focus on:

1. Tackling priority issues such as suicide prevention, social isolation and loneliness, prevention and early intervention
2. Addressing the mental health inequalities exacerbated by the Covid pandemic
3. Supporting small 'grass roots' community groups and organisations to deliver such activities
4. Providing opportunities for people to connect with each other, build trusted relationships and revitalise communities
5. Supporting recovery and creativity locally by building on what is already there, what was achieved through the pandemic, and by investing in creative solutions

Local Priorities

Local priorities were identified in collaboration with statutory and third sector partners and service users:

1. Social Isolation
2. Prevention of Suicide
3. Unpaid Carers
4. Older People
5. Rurally/Island Distanced
6. Poverty
7. Trauma

Local Outcomes

We are looking for projects to deliver at least one of the three local outcomes, to:

1. Increase opportunities for people to engage with activities/services within their own local communities
2. Increase opportunities for people to take part in activities that are purposeful and meaningful to them
3. Increase opportunities to embrace and enable the conversation around suicide

Grant Awards

There are two levels of grant awards: Small Grants and Large Grants.

1 Small grants

Applications for projects **up to £2,500** can be made at any time up until **9am Monday 14 February 2022**. Matched funding is not required.

2 Large grants

For projects ranging from **£2,500 up to a maximum of £10,000**, the deadline for applications is **9am on Monday 17 January 2022**. Matched funding is not required.

All projects must be completed within 12 months of the grant award.

Eligibility

The ambition of this Fund is to support initiatives which promote mental health and wellbeing at a small scale, grass roots, community level. It is accessible to all groups, no matter how small or inexperienced they are. It can support both new and existing groups or projects. Your group does not have to have mental health and wellbeing as your main focus, but your application does have to clearly benefit the mental wellbeing of people in your community.

Applications can be accepted from a range of voluntary, 'not for profit' organisations, associations, groups and clubs or consortiums/partnerships which have a strong community focus for their activities.

The Fund can support an un-constituted group to become constituted, or a constituted entity (that meets criteria above) can hold a grant for an un-constituted group. **VAO will have to be satisfied that appropriate arrangements have been put in place.**

Whilst the Fund can support the expansion of existing activities it is intended to provide additionality, not replacement funding.

Payment of Grant

We aim to ensure that applicants will receive payment of their grants within two weeks of a decision being made.

If your application is on behalf of a partnership of organisations, a successful grant will be paid to the lead partner.

If you are a small group without a bank account do not let this put you off applying. Please get in touch to discuss how we can support you.

Help and support

VAO will provide one to one advice, support and resources to help you develop your project/activity ideas and complete your application form.

We will also keep in close contact with you during the delivery phase of your project/activity and will support you with any concerns or difficulties you may face.

Please do not hesitate to contact Clare Gee, Community Development Worker at clare.gee@vaorkney.org.uk or phone 01856 872897.

Reporting

At the end of the project the applicant will be required to report on the delivery of the project. A template will be provided. It will seek the following information:

1. What we expected to do
2. What we actually did
3. What difference did we make (benefits and successes)
4. What were the challenges
5. What did we need to change to make the project work
6. Learning for the future
7. Final project budget

Submitting your application

Please ensure that you complete the application form correctly, with support if required, and attach the required documents.

Completed application forms should be submitted to: clare.gee@vaorkney.org.uk or posted to Voluntary Action Orkney, 6 Bridge Street, Kirkwall, KW15 1HR marked CMHWF.