

Coronavirus Mental Health Response Fund Frequently Asked Questions

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General Questions

Where has the funding come from?

This fund has been supported by both Comic Relief and Government through the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). The total funding available is £270,000. Organisations and partnerships can apply for grants of between £5,000 and £50,000.

Who can apply?

Any Wales-based, voluntary sector organisation that provides mental health services. They need to be a registered charity, community interest company (CIC) charitable incorporate organisation (CIO), community benefit society with charitable purposes, or a company limited by guarantee.

Partnerships who have a lead partner who is one of the above can also apply.

Can non-mental health organisations apply?

We recognise that many organisations may have specific knowledge, expertise and reach into particularly vulnerable populations, but may not be solely focussed on mental health.

We will therefore consider applications from Wales-based voluntary sector organisations who can demonstrate a track record in delivering work that has a strong mental health or wellbeing focus.

See the guidance document on the Fund's webpage on Mind's [website](#) for more details.

What type of services can be funded?

The fund is focused on supporting VCS mental health organisations in Wales respond to increased need as a direct result of the coronavirus pandemic. The funding will support organisations to:

- **Scale up existing activity** – for example, your organisation may manage a helpline or a forum that is experiencing an unprecedented amount of requests
- **Adapt existing activity** – for example, you may have traditionally delivered all of your services in-person and now want to adapt them in order to continue meeting the needs of existing, or new, service users
- **Introduce new activity** – You may want to introduce a new service that will meet the specific needs of your service users that arise due, in part, to the coronavirus crisis

See the fund guidance document on the Fund's [webpage](#) for more details.

Why is Mind being given this money?

Comic Relief and DCMS have awarded the money to the **Mental Health Consortia (MHC)**, a group representing the leading mental health organisations.

Mind is a MHC member alongside Rethink Mental Illness, The Centre for Mental Health, The Mental Health Foundation, the Association of Mental Health Providers and the National Survivor and User Network (NSUN).

With a strong presence in Wales through Mind-Cymru, and its expertise in grant-making, Mind will be administering the fund on behalf of the MHC.

Can you explain why you have indicated that highly scoring applications might be unsuccessful?

The demand for this fund is anticipated to be high and, with limited funds available, we will have to make difficult decisions.

The Investment Panel panel has also been charged with ensuring that funding is distributed to a diverse range of organisations delivering services to different communities across Wales. These considerations will need to be taken into account alongside assessment score.

Our assessment process will be applied equally to all applications and organisations. Applications will be scored fairly by our assessors and our Investment Panel. No organisation will receive preferential treatment.

We understand that this will mean disappointment for some applicants. We know that this fund is a good start but that much more needs to be done to support the Mental Health Voluntary and Community Sector, and all of its service users.

Questions from Applicants

Our accounts for 2019-20 have not yet been audited. Can we submit 2018-19 accounts as our most recent accounts?

Yes, this is acceptable. Please ensure that your organisation's management accounts are also provided.

We are a newer organisation and have a limited track record of managing grant funding. Can we apply?

DCMS will conduct Spotlight Checks on all organisations that we recommend before an offer of funding is made. This will include checks against the Government Grants Information System and the Contract and Spend Insight System (see the fund guidance for more detail). If you are a newer organisation that does not return results from these searches, unfortunately an offer of funding may be unlikely.

What constitutes an appropriate level of reserves?

Reserves that cover your organisation's running costs for 3-6 months are appropriate.

If your organisation retains more than 6 months running costs in reserve, your application should be clear on whether those additional reserves can be used at this time, and how.

If your organisation currently has less than 3 months running costs in reserve, this does not preclude an application. However, your application should indicate why this is the case and if that reasoning relates directly to the current circumstances e.g. a fall in income from community fundraising sources.

Can we apply for funding that is more than 25% of our annual turnover?

The amount you apply for must not exceed 25% of your annual turnover according to your most recent audited accounts. As the minimum grant you can apply for is £5,000 your organisation's annual turnover cannot be less than £20,000.

If your turnover is less than this, you may want to consider applying as part of a partnership, where the Lead Organisation's annual turnover meets this criteria. The combined expertise of a partnership application may also enhance the efficacy and reach of each individual partner organisation.

Why are we only able to apply for funding of 25% or less of our annual turnover?

Mind aims to be a responsible funder. We seek to balance that responsibility between managing risks in the distribution of public funding and maximising the impact of the grants we award.

We have to ensure that any organisation in receipt of an award has the capacity and appropriate experience to manage the funding it receives. This includes taking all reasonable steps to ensure that awards are made to organisations that are suitably sustainable beyond our funding.

In seeking to maximise the impact of the grants we award, our approach is to support organisations with ambition to grow, develop and learn whilst making sure that is done with a reasonable expectation of the capacity required.

Our intention is that, by setting our minimum award at £5,000, many smaller organisations will still be able to apply. We also recognise that it will impact the ability of organisations with an annual turnover of less than £20,000 to do so. We welcome such organisations applying as part of a partnership.