



Funders offering support in response to the Coronavirus Pandemic

Information correct as of 24th March 2020

National Emergencies Trust (NET) - <https://nationalemergenciestrust.org.uk/>

The NET was established in late 2019 to respond to large-scale disasters and emergencies taking place within the UK. In many ways it can be regarded as the domestic equivalent of the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC).

The NET launched a public fundraising appeal in response to the coronavirus crisis. The appeal aims to “raise funds for local charities and grassroots organisations that can provide vital support to people in the quickest way possible.” The money will then be distributed through grants to “those organisations and local charities who can do most to help those in need”. This suggests you will need to show how your activities are directly helping to address those impacted by the current coronavirus situation, rather than helping to replace lost funds or keep organisations going.

The funding is being distributed through the local community foundations.

Local Community Foundations

Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation - <https://www.blcf.org.uk/>

The Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation currently has 12 grant programmes open. Many of them are focused on Luton, in partnership with London Luton Airport Ltd.

At the time of writing, the criteria for the NET-funded coronavirus appeal have not been published. However, the Community Foundation has partnered with other local funders to launch The Bedfordshire Emergency Coronavirus Fund (<https://www.blcf.org.uk/2020/03/23/bedfordshire-coronavirus-emergency-fund/>).

Grants of up to £7,500 are available from this fund. There are two strands:

- ⊕ Project Grants – for costs directly related to activities that provide a direct service or support to beneficiaries
- ⊕ Core Cost Grants – to support organisational running costs such as rent, heating, stationery or equipment needed for remote working.

Organisations can apply for funding across both strands but the total grant awarded cannot exceed £7,500.

Museums and arts organisations are not listed in the “ineligible” list. However, the types of work the fund will support appear quite restrictive. Applicants will need to clearly demonstrate that they are a good fit for the fund’s aims. If in doubt, we would recommend contacting the administrator to discuss your application in advance.

Applications should be made online - <https://ukcf.secure.force.com/forms/CEFBLCF>. There is no advertised deadline. Instead, the administrators are aiming to make a decision on grants within one week of receiving an application.

Cambridgeshire Community Foundation - <https://www.cambscf.org.uk/home.html>

The Cambridgeshire Community Foundation currently has 19 open grant programmes with a deadline of 1st May 2020. These range in size, area of interest and geographic preference. For the updated list of open grant programmes, visit <https://www.cambscf.org.uk/funds-a-z.html>.

The Cambridgeshire Coronavirus Community Fund (<https://www.cambscf.org.uk/cambridgeshire-coronavirus-community-fund.html>) is open to organisations across Cambridgeshire who are supporting older and vulnerable people during the COVID-19 crisis. Grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 are available, although they can make larger grants to organisations working in partnership.

The funding can be used to support organisations directly working with those considered to be most vulnerable. To be eligible, your work must achieve one or more of the following:

- Support the ongoing needs of people to ensure that their well-being is maintained
- Reduce isolation and vulnerability during any isolation period that may arise as a result of the threat of Covid-19
- Help ensure people remain safely connected with the outside world during this time.

One example provided is “enabling home education for children and young people”. Therefore, there might be opportunities for museums looking to make their collections or activities available online during this time – both for education and leisure purposes.

There are no applications and grants are being made on a rolling basis. Applications should be made via the website - <https://ukcf.secure.force.com/forms/CoronaResponseFund>

Essex Community Foundation - <https://www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk/>

At the time of writing, there are no open grants programmes listed on the Essex Community Foundation’s website. There are no published guidelines for distributing the NET Coronavirus appeal funding, although these are expected in the coming days.

Hertfordshire Community Foundation - <http://www.hertsfcf.org.uk/>

The Hertfordshire Community Foundation has 7 funding programmes currently open. These provides grants of up to £5,000. The different programmes include a HCF Small Grants programme (up to £1,000 for grassroots organisations with total annual income under £100,000) and the HCF Large Grants (up to £5,000 for organisations that “address an identified need within Hertforshire). Details about all of the current funding programmes can be found here - <http://www.hertsfcf.org.uk/grant-making>

Coronavirus Relief Fund for Hertfordshire - <http://www.hertsfcf.org.uk/coronavirus>

“The programme will provide grants to charities and community groups working with those considered to be the most vulnerable during the Covid-19 outbreak...Priority for funding will be given to organisations providing services and support to older and vulnerable people as well as those with low and insecure incomes¹. We also invite applications from groups applying to support people of all ages with mental health issues.”

To be eligible to apply your project will support these groups and will help to:

- ⊗ Reduce isolation and vulnerability during the isolation period that has arisen due to Covid19
- ⊗ Support the ongoing needs of older people and vulnerable adults to ensure that their wellbeing is maintained whilst the outbreak continues
- ⊗ Ensure older and vulnerable people remain connected with the outside world during this time
- ⊗ Enable people experiencing poverty and isolation to access food, support and/or advice

Applications should be submitted online here -

<https://ukcf.secure.force.com/forms/HCFEmergency>

Grants are being allocated on a rolling basis and are currently open. The fund is using money donated through the National Emergencies Trust fundraising appeal. The guidance says that the focus of the fund might change as the crisis develops. It suggests there might be some flexibility and encourages potential applicants to contact the Grants Team if they have any questions or wish to discuss their application. Their email address is grants@hertsfcf.org.uk.

Norfolk Community Foundation - <https://www.norfolkfoundation.com/>

The Norfolk Community Foundation currently has 11 funding programmes open to charitable organisations. These range in size with the smallest offering maximum grants of £250, while the largest can make grants of up to £20,000. Each programme has a specific focus – both in terms of the type of work to be funded and the geographic location of interest. You can find out more about the different funding programmes currently available here - <https://www.norfolkfoundation.com/funding-support/grants/groups/#listing>

¹ It is our understanding that this relates to individuals with low and insecure incomes, rather than organisation

One of these funding programmes is the Covid-19 Community Response Fund - <https://www.norfolkfoundation.com/funding-support/grants/groups/covid-19-community-response-fund/>

“The Covid-19 Community Response Fund has been created to support vital community projects as they respond to exceptional challenges over the coming months. For those charitable groups well placed to take action, this additional funding aims to help them to take steps to provide the much needed care and support for our vulnerable people.

Grants of up to **£1,000** are available to support community action to help vulnerable people affected by the Covid-19 outbreak.

As fundraising is in the early stages, at this time we are limiting grants to activity which is responding directly to urgent emerging needs in our communities. We understand that many existing charities will be under severe financial strain during this time, as operations are limited or withdrawn, and planned fundraising events are cancelled. If enough local funds can be raised, we may be able to open up this funding opportunity to provide support for operational and financial recovery. Details will be publicised if/ when this is the case.”

Applications are now open through the online portal - <https://ukcf.secure.force.com/forms/NorfolkCF/Covid-19CommunityResponseFund>

Suffolk Community Foundation - <https://www.suffolkcf.org.uk/>

The Suffolk Community Foundation website lists 15 open funding programmes. These vary in size, area of interest and geographic location. The largest grants available are up to £20,000. One of the funding programmes is specifically for arts and culture organisations, providing grants of up to £2,000 “to ensure equality of access to the benefits that arts and culture can provide to improve the lives of those most in need in Suffolk”.

The Suffolk Coronavirus Community Fund (<https://www.suffolkcf.org.uk/grants/suffolk-coronavirus-community-fund/>) can provide grants of up to £5,000.

The fund will support “charity groups and community organisations throughout Suffolk to reach the most vulnerable during this pandemic”.

The fund will currently support:

- ④ Groups that support the ongoing needs of vulnerable people to ensure that their health and wellbeing is maintained
- ④ Groups and activities that support vulnerable people self-isolating (the elderly, people with pre-existing medical conditions etc)
- ④ Support for foodbanks and organisations working to combat hardship caused by the pandemic including child hunger
- ④ Community response coordination

- ⊗ Volunteer costs for new and existing organisations responding to the effect of the pandemic.
- ⊗ Additional costs of working remotely and adapting services delivered in the wider community
- ⊗ Additional support as required for emotional support, mental health and bereavement support

The guidance notes that “this is a rapidly developing situation, and as a result, the focus of the fund will continue to evolve in line with the support required. **If you have other needs that require support, please email grants@suffolkcf.org.uk.**”

Applications should be made through the online portal - <https://ukcf.secure.force.com/forms/coronavirus-community-fund>

Government Support - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses>

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

All UK employers with a PAYE scheme will be able to access support to retain staff who would otherwise have been laid off as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. For museums, this would include staff who would be laid off as a result of the museum being closed, or who would be unable to work during this time.

This funding applies to furloughed workers – those being kept on payroll but being asked not to work during this time.

The government will reimburse up to 80% of the furloughed worker’s salary, up to £2,500 per month. The funding can be backdated to 1st March 2020 and is initially available for 3 months. However, it has been announced that this will be extended if required.

To access this funding you will need to notify staff that they are being furloughed. It is important to note that this remains subject to UK employment law and can be negotiated, so you should seek advice from your HR professional or advisor. During this time they will not be allowed to carry out any work for the museum, so you need to factor this in to your plans. For example, furloughed staff would not be able to carry out any conservation work during this time. Having notified staff that they are being furloughed you must then notify HMRC, who are currently setting up a new online portal for this.

The government aims to reimburse organisations for furloughed staff by the end of April.

The CIPD have published a useful FAQ sheet on furloughing staff and the Coronavirus Job Retention Fund - <https://www.cipd.co.uk/news-views/coronavirus/faqs>

VAT and Income Tax Deferments

VAT payments will be deferred by three months until 30th June 2020. This will be automatically applied to all UK businesses.

Income Tax payments due in July 2020 under the self-assessment system will be deferred until January 2021. This is also an automatic process, so you do not need to apply for this deferral.

All business “in financial distress” and with existing tax liabilities can apply to HMRC’s Time To Pay service to receive support. If you have missed a tax payment, or are worried that you might miss your next payment you should call 0800 0159 559.

Support to pay Statutory Sick Pay (SSP)

Companies with fewer than 250 employees can claim a refund for up to two weeks of statutory sick pay (SSP) for each employee having to take time off due to COVID-19.

The eligibility guidelines and repayment mechanism are still being developed. We will update this when more information becomes available.

Support for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses

Special measures have been put in place to support companies working in the retail, hospitality and leisure businesses. The Association of Independent Museums have confirmed that this includes museums. These measures include:

- ⊕ **A business rates holiday** for the 2020-2021 tax year where a building is wholly or mainly being used as shops, restaurants, cafes, drinking establishments, cinemas, live music venue, used for assembly and leisure, or used as hotels, guest and boarding premises and self-catering accommodation. This will be automatically applied to your council tax bill in April 2020.
- ⊕ **Cash grants** of up to £10,000 (where the rateable value of the property is up to £15,000) and up to £25,000 (where the rateable value of the property is between £15,000 and £51,000). You will be eligible if the building is wholly or mainly being used as shops, restaurants, cafes, drinking establishments, cinemas, live music venue, used for assembly and leisure, or used as hotels, guest and boarding premises and self-catering accommodation. Your local authority will write to you if you are eligible for a cash grant.

Support for businesses playing little or no business rates

If you are a small business that occupies property and receives Small Business Rate Relief (SBRR) or Rural Rate Relief (RRR) you can apply for a one-off grant of £10,000 to meet your ongoing business costs. These grants are administered by your local authority. If you are eligible your local authority will write to you with more information.

Business Interruption Loan Scheme

Organisations classed as Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) can access loans, overdrafts, invoice finance and asset finance of up to £5million for up to 6 years. The government will also cover the first 12 months of interest payments and any lender-levied fees.

These finance options are being offered through 40 accredited finance partners, which includes all of the major banks. Organisations wishing to access these loans should talk to their bank.

Protection from eviction for commercial tenants

Commercial tenants who cannot pay their rent due to COVID-19 will not automatically forfeit their lease or be forced out of their premises if they miss a payment up to 30 June 2020. However, it should be noted that this is not a rental holiday and the missed payments will have to be paid in full.

Other Funders suitable for Museums

Arts Council England - <https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19>

ACE has announced a package of £160million to support arts organisations and individuals through the COVID-19 crisis.

If you are a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO)

£90million will be available to organisations that are part of the National Portfolio. While ACE hopes this money will be used to “reboot” an organisation’s creative work, they understand that some of this funding will need to be used to support organisations and keep them afloat during this time. There is also an expectation that NPOs that receive this funding will show how they have continued to support their freelance workforce during this time. ACE will be contacting all NPOs directly to provide them with more guidance about what this funding can be used for and how to apply.

NPOs will have relaxed funding conditions for up to six months. They will also be able to request advance payment of funding up to six months ahead. Finally, ACE have announced

that they are going to delay the application process for the next round of NPO funding. Current NPO funding will now continue until March 2023.

If you are not a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO)

£50million will be available to organisations that do not get regular support from ACE. Grants of up to £35,000 will be available to “organisations with a track record in publicly funded culture. This funding can be used for financial resilience during this time. It can also be used to help organisations continue to create arts and culture during this time. This could include support to make your work accessible online.

If you are an individual artist, creative or freelancer

£20million will be available to individual creatives and freelancers. Grants of up to £2,500 will be available to “Creative practitioners whose main work is focused on music, theatre, dance, visual arts, literature, combined arts or museum practice. This includes: choreographers, writers, translators, producers, editors, freelance educators in the disciplines and artforms we support, composers, directors, designers, artists, craft makers and curators.

More details about these funds will be published on 30th March. Those wishing to apply need to have registered on ACE’s online Grantium platform by 3rd April.

National Lottery Heritage Fund - <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/news/coronavirus-update>

The trustees of the Heritage Fund met on 24th March 2020 to discuss their response to the coronavirus crisis. An update on their funding plans are expected in the coming days. We will update this document when more information is available.



National Lottery Heritage Fund @Herit... 1d

Our Board met today to review the immediate help we can provide to support people and organisations across UK #heritage respond to the #COVID19 crisis.

We will be announcing our rescue and recovery support within the next few days.

2 77 154

[Show this thread](#)

In the meantime, the Heritage Fund website says that the fund is still open for new applications.

John Lewis Partnership Community Support Fund

The John Lewis Partnership has committed to making £1million available to communities across the UK “to help those in need at this time of national crisis”. The fund will be distributed by local Waitrose shops but it is not clear if this will be in the form of cash grants or whether the money will be used to provide services directly to those affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

You can read the announcement launching this fund here - <https://www.johnlewispartnership.co.uk/media/press/y2020/jlp-announces-new-measures-to-support-customers.html>

We will update this as more information becomes available.

Sylvia Adams Charitable Trust - <http://sylvia-adams.org.uk/>

The trustees have announced that the Trust will be suspending its normal grant-making programme and putting in place new policies as a response to the coronavirus pandemic. Information has not yet been published but will be shared on their website.

We will update this entry as more information becomes available.

London Funders Statement - <https://londonfunders.org.uk/about/covid-19>

Many of the grant funders that typically support museums and cultural organisations have signed a statement to set out their approach during the coronavirus crisis. This is a commitment to organisations they are already funding, saying that they will:

- ⊕ Maintain grants at the agreed level, even if organisations have to change their work or their previously agreed deliverables
- ⊕ Moving reporting deadlines to reduce pressure on grantholders at this time
- ⊕ Allowing grant money to be used for different purposes to help organisations to respond to the current challenges they are facing
- ⊕ Be open to listening to organisations and understanding the challenges they are facing

While this commitment has been coordinated by the London Funders network, it has spread to funders across the country. To date, it has been signed by 224 funders, including Wolfson Foundation, Garfield Weston Foundation, Pilgrim Trust, the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts, Comic Relief, John Ellerman Foundation and Henry Smith Charity.

Our Top Tips

- 1. Contact your existing funders.** The people most likely to help you at this time are those already supporting your work. Many grant funders are changing the conditions of their grants to enable organisations to respond to the current situation. This includes turning restricted grants into unrestricted donations, relaxing reporting deadlines and advancing grant payments.
- 2. Be honest with your current funders about the challenges you are facing.** Funders can only respond if they know what the problem is. Many are actively asking organisations to tell them about the challenges they are facing. Funders are trying to adapt to this situation just like you are. Their trustees and managers will be discussing how best to help organisations at this time. Your input can help ensure they come up with an appropriate response. (NB. The Association of Independent Museums are also asking museums to let them know of any emergency financial situations they might find themselves in to help support their current advocacy work. You can inform them by emailing info@aim-museums.co.uk).
- 3. Sign up to receive announcements from your local community foundation, your local MP, your local council and your local ACE and Heritage Fund officers.** A lot of decisions on how to respond are being taken quickly. As we have seen with the NET funding, national bodies are turning to local partners to help get funding and support to organisations as quickly as possible. Proactively connecting with the people likely to be distributing this in your area enables you to stay on top of calls for proposals. Make sure you are signed up to their newsletters and follow them on Twitter.
- 4. Sign up to receive announcements from the Museums Association, the Association of Independent Museums (AIM), SHARE Museums East, Arts Council England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF).** There is a drive to get funding out as quickly as possible. This has resulted in rolling programmes, where getting your application in early can be an advantage. This means you need to be in the know when funding becomes available. Funding pots or support specifically targeted at museums are likely to be communicated through the sector-wide support organisations. Make sure you are signed up to their newsletters and following them on Twitter. (You can find information from AIM about coronavirus financial support here - <https://www.aim-museums.co.uk/coronavirus-support-finance/>). This can be extended to other sector press, such as Arts Professional, who have removed the paywall for coronavirus-related content.
- 5. Sign up to receive the daily UK Fundraising newsletter.** This free resource is a good source of information for more general funding opportunities around the coronavirus crisis. While not everything will be relevant to museums, there are likely to be some funds to support charities across the spectrum. You can sign up here - <https://fundraising.co.uk/>.

- 6. Reach out to funders before submitting new applications.** Many of the traditional arts and culture funders are still “open for business”, making grants based on their existing criteria and, where possible, working to their pre-COVID-19 timetables. However, there are likely to be conversations going on in the background about possible changes. Before submitting a new application – either as part of your work to respond to COVID-19 or for post-coronavirus projects – try and make contact to check that nothing has changed. You don’t want to spend time on an application if the trust is about to pivot their grant-making, or pause their programmes.
- 7. Check in on existing individual supporters.** Some of the most important fundraising actions you can take today won’t feel like fundraising. Your supporters and volunteers are going to be just as scared and confused by all of this as you are. It’s likely they will also feel lonely, bored and isolated as the lockdown continues – if they don’t already. Reaching out to check they are ok and focusing on their needs rather than the museum’s needs can help to strengthen the relationship you have with them. Pick up the phone, send an email, arrange a video call. Talk to them human to human and let them know you are thinking of them. Something as simple as sending a picture of something in your collection you think they might like can brighten someone’s day and help build a bond. This is about building long-term relationships.
- 8. Give people the chance to convert refunds into donations.** If people have bought tickets to exhibitions, give them the chance to turn their refund into a donation. This won’t be appropriate for everybody – remember, a lot of people will be worried about how the lockdown is going to impact their finances. However, for those in a more stable position this can be an easy way for them to support your work at this time.
- 9. Consider launching an appeal.** In times of crisis it is natural for people to want to help. We have already seen people donating in large numbers to their favourite causes to help them respond to the current crisis. Your museum will have a passionate and loyal group of supporters already known to you. People will help if they know you need it. Let them know what has been put at risk as a result of the coronavirus outbreak, what you need people to do to help and what impact it will have. Then make sure you have made it as easy as possible for people to help.