



Council Funding for Community Groups – Covid 19 Volunteer Support Fund

Brief Description

The Volunteer Support Fund has been made available to provide vital support for volunteering in recognition of the crucial role that volunteers have played in addressing the many challenges faced by Covid-19 to date. Funding has been provided by the Department for Communities (DfC) to councils to distribute to Voluntary Community sector organisations to provide support for volunteering in recognition of the crucial role that volunteers have played in response to Covid-19 to date and that will help deliver the ongoing food need within the Council district up until March 2021.

This funding will provide volunteer support both for building capacity and supporting volunteers as they continue to be relied upon to support the ongoing community food response to the pandemic, contingency planning to March 2021.

Programme Specific Criteria

To be eligible for funding, organisations must:

- I. Have involved volunteers who have delivered a community response within the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area.
- II. Supporting community need in response to Covid-19
- III. Be a constituted group

The following costs for the period **1st November 2020 - 31st March 2021** will be eligible through the Volunteer Support Fund:

- Reimbursement of volunteer expenses; based on actual incurred costs (such as mileage, refreshments or PPE) and
- Support for building volunteer capacity e.g. recruitment, training, Personal development, volunteering governance including safeguarding and Access NI checks

***Provided these costs have not been previously claimed through another grant**

The maximum grant you can apply for is **£500** with a minimum grant of **£250** available.

Applicants are encouraged to register (if they have not already done so) with either Omagh Volunteer Centre or Volunteer Now (Enniskillen). Both these organisations provide advice and support as well as facilitating training to groups involving volunteers.

Groups are also encouraged to sign up to Volunteer Now's volunteer management system 'Be Collective' [Volunteer Now's new volunteer management system - Coming Soon! - Volunteer Now](#)



Claims can be made from 1 November 2020 until the 31 March 2021. Payments will be made on receipt of invoices / receipts / travel claim forms.

Please ensure that the areas of expenditure are solely focussed on the main headings under listed in the next section.

Eligible Costs

Travel - Reimbursement of travel costs for volunteers can be claimed within this grant from **1st November 2020 – 31st March 2021**. A travel claim form will be supplied to successful applicants. Volunteer travel is reimbursed at 38p per mile based on guidance from DfC. Volunteer travel include meetings, training or any travel on behalf of the organisation relevant to the volunteer role and from volunteer's home to place of volunteering organisation/opportunity.

Refreshments - Volunteer refreshments can also be covered under volunteer subsistence.

PPE – protective clothing can be purchased as long as it is for the volunteer so that they can carry out their role. Gardening gloves, uniform items, hi-vis vests etc are eligible areas of expenditure.

Training - Training for volunteers, this should be directly related to the role that the volunteer is undertaking on behalf of the organisation, for example, first aid training, safeguarding, food hygiene etc.

Access NI - Volunteer Access NI costs

Recognition - Volunteer recognition event costs

***Cash payments made to volunteers are not eligible.**

Eligible groups must:

- Provide a list of committee members
- Be non-party political
- Be non-profit distributing
- Have an equal opportunities policy/statement.
- Membership organisations must demonstrate that their beneficiaries do not pay in excess of £1,000 per year.

Application Process

A short form Application will be required under this Scheme. Applicants should log onto the Grant Manager system to access an application form at <https://fermanaghomagh.eformz.info/> or log onto the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council website where a link will also be available.



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Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

Successful applicants will be issued with a letter of offer (through the Grant Manager system) outlining the terms and conditions of the grant. The letter of offer will be issued to the email address supplied in the application form. The group can accept the letter of offer by logging onto the Grant Manager.

Organisations are required to keep appropriate records relating to expenditure and the Council will have the right to audit all aspects of your claim.

Also listed below is contact details for the Community Support Officers for each DEA who can assist with any queries you may have:

Erne West – kellie.beacom@fermanaghomagh.com

Enniskillen/Erne North – steven.ormsby@fermanaghomagh.com

Erne East – catherine.garry@fermanaghomagh.com

Omagh – josephine.treanor@fermanaghomagh.com

West Tyrone – neville.armstrong@fermanaghomagh.com

Mid Tyrone – hugo.sweeney@fermanaghomagh.com