**Funding to help communities affected by Covid-19**

On 18th March, the Scottish Government announced an investment of £350 million to support local communities and households in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic:

 [www.gov.scot/news/helping-communities-affected-by-covid-19](https://www.gov.scot/news/helping-communities-affected-by-covid-19)

We know that ‘community anchor organisations’ sit right at the heart of their communities and many are already responding to and co-ordinating effort in their communities and neighbourhoods to help people in need of support. Community anchor organisations exist across communities of Scotland in many forms, know best what their communities need, and have a wealth of experience in responding to complex social challenges and delivering networked activity.

Scottish Government wants to get money to where it is most needed as quickly as possible to support the rapidly growing and inspiring community efforts at a local level and it recognises that anchor organisations are best placed to do this. We are working with Scottish Government as part of the first delivery phase and are contacting organisations across Scotland to identify those that consider themselves to be a community anchor or are prepared to act in this role during the emergency, many of which are already providing emergency support or have the capacity to do so

We are seeking organisations which are able to work with and support relevant local charities, third sector organisations, volunteers, communities of interest, etc, as well engage with relevant local authority and statutory services in order to co-ordinate activity in their local community and to channel support where it is needed. This will help make the most of the resources available both in terms of funding and people/volunteers.

We are looking to those community anchors organisations to provide a route through which other community groups can access funds and support in responding to the challenges they face now and those that will continue to emerge as the pandemic progresses. This will be across a range of different themes such as:

* Providing and delivering food to those who cannot buy it for themselves or are unable to access it due to self-isolation
* Providing advice for people to access benefits and emergency funds for fuel, accommodation etc
* Connecting services and volunteers to where they are needed
* Financial support for community organisations to increase or deliver new activity to meet additional demands for energy (e.g. fuel cards)
* Funding to support community organisations to deliver services in new ways in response to Covid-19 for example digital tools to enable people to remain connected.
* Funding to support and maintain organisations cash flow and staff costs while dealing with the emergency, for example due to loss of other income sources.
* To meet costs of supporting personal safety.

This is not an exhaustive list, there will be other themes and new ones will emerge.

The funding will also provide support to community anchors to cover additional costs of co-ordinating this effort. We expect that where more than one community anchor exists in a neighbourhood or community that those organisations will come together and work towards a single funding proposal. If you can take on a co-ordinating role but would not be able to channel funds directly we still want to hear from you, and value your help in identifying / recommending other community groups that should get funding as they are doing good things locally in response to the emergency. An outline expression of interest template is included below to provide us with a guide on the potential take up of funding and understand where there may be gaps across the country for the next phase of the funding. Further details will then follow on how funding will be allocated.

Details of the community anchor organisations who wish to take up this role and access the fund will be shared with partners including the LA, Third Sector Interfaces, Community Councils and others as appropriate and will be included in a mapping exercise of the country so that organisations know who to contact in their areas.

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| What is the name of your organisation?  |
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| Are you or can you act in the role of local coordinator for your community?  |
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| Are you able to support other organisations by disseminating funding across your community to where it is needed?  |
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| What activity are you currently delivering or aware of in your community in response to Covid-19 which would benefit from support from the funding? (If you are unable to disseminate funding yourself please identify here the names of any groups who you would recommend for funding) |
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| Please give an indication of the amount of funding needed – if this is for more than one community organisation please list the amount for each organisation below: |
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Please return your completed expression of interest to sam.jordan@scdc.org.uk as quickly as you are able and we will be back in touch with further detail as soon as possible.