**FUNDING FACTSHEET**

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**Apex Housing - Common Fund**

**Calling all local charities!**

If you could make use of a grant of up to £1,000 for your work in local communities, we want to hear from you. Apex Housing Association is now inviting applications for funding from its Common Fund.

Applicants must be registered charities with a proven track record of delivering services and projects in Northern Ireland; and use the funding to provide housing accommodation and / or infrastructure to support and develop communities. Support social, environmental, recreational, health and well-being activities in communities; or support educational training and employment activities in communities.

Application forms can be requested by emailing FinanceDept@apex.org.uk

**Deadline for applications: Monday 11th May 2020**

**Live Here, Love Here Grants!!**

Local charity Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful, in partnership with ten local councils, Northern Ireland Housing Executive and McDonald’s UK has extended its application criteria for this year’s Live Here Love Here’s Small Grants Scheme to include support for communities struggling during the pandemic.

Communities across Northern Ireland can benefit from up to £5,000 of funding to support actions that help care for those in need as a result of COVID-19 with a focus on practical environmental action as well as supporting those who are trying to make steps to improve their local areas.

Applications are now open, closing on 18th May 2020. The Small Grants Scheme, which is now in its seventh year, is part of the successful Live Here Love Here programme that has been supported from the start by the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, helping make it Northern Ireland’s largest community and civic pride campaign -inspiring and motivating community volunteers to create real change for a cleaner, greener, healthier and more sustainable Northern Ireland.

Due to Covid-19 additional criteria have been added, encouraging groups to send in their ideas on how they feel the money could support their local community –by reaching out to those affected most by the crisis .Nicola Fitzsimons, Community Development Officer comments: “The Small Grants Scheme provides crucial funding directly to local communities that are striving to make change for the better amongst their neighbourhoods. This year is obviously different as we find ourselves in the middle of a global pandemic, so we’re opening up the application process to include support for groups who are striving to relieve some of the pressures on vulnerable people who are suffering from reduced contact with society. We know groups are currently active in their local communities supporting those who are isolating and we want to show them our support. It may be some small steps such as providing grow-your-own garden kits or encouraging people to spend time outdoors to help relieve anxieties and keep active but we want to hear all suggestions and we’ll support as many groups as we can with the funding available.”

Inspiring community efforts at a local level will be vital to national resilience during this challenging time and fits with the ethos and spirit of the Live Here Love Here programme.

Over £180k of funding is available with grants from £500 to £5,000 open to volunteer and community groups, all school and third level education organisations, youth groups and sports clubs undertaking community based environmental projects.

For ideas on how to help your community and to apply online, visit [www.liveherelovehere.org](http://www.liveherelovehere.org)

Applications are now open –closing date is Monday 18th May, for any questions email smallgrants@liveherelovehere.org or call 07912178384.

**Slieve** **Kirk Wind Park Fund - launches £50,000 COVID- 19 Response Fund – CURRENTLY CLOSED BUT WILL RE-OPEN!**

SSE Airtricity owners of Slieve Kirk have launched the Response fund. Applications are open to community groups within a 12 mile radius of the Wind Park, the area is Glenconway Hill outside Limavady, it will cover the Dungvien/Foreglen area. The funding will be made immediately available and will support groups that are currently mobilising a rapid response to support those most in need at this current time. Applications will be made on a first come, first served basis.

For more information please email – communityfundireland@sse.com or contact Michelle Donnelly on 07921099663.

**The Raft Fund is now open!**

Apply for unrestricted grants of up to £5000 to help your small charity or social enterprise respond to the challenges of COVID-19 and build your resilience. The Fund has up to £1 million in its pot and will accept 500 applications initially and allocated on a first come, first served basis – for more information and to apply, please check the website [www.thefore.org](http://www.thefore.org)

**Community Cashback Grant - £20,000**

The Henderson/Vivo group are providing funding for communities in need in NI at this current time – applications will close on 20th May – 4 applications will be shortlisted each week from entries and all applications will be put to public vote. To apply and find more information please email – brandteam@henderson-group.com

**Standard Life**

Funding is available for larger COVID -19 related strategic work. It has been announced that they will be making funding available for work directly related to the pandemic and those on low to middle incomes. Grants will range from £5000 to larger amounts, there is no fixed deadline, applicants should submit a one page document outlining their idea and send to – applications@standardlifefoundation.org.uk

For more details about the fund, please check their website – [www.standardlifefoundation.org.uk](http://www.standardlifefoundation.org.uk)

**Radius Housing**

Radius’s Community Chest Funding is open for groups supporting local communities through the current situation. Grants are available of up to £500 and we have tried to keep the criteria as accessible as possible. We would particularly like to ensure that we support groups all over Northern Ireland.

Any queries, or if you would like to apply please get in contact with Melanie Rintoul melanie.rintoul@radiushousing.org – 03301230888 – 07741741525.

**Halifax Foundation NI**

The Halifax Foundation NI board have decided to focus on their small and medium grants over the coming months in direct response to COVID-19.

Their Large and Special Initiatives grants will be put on hold for now due to the activity based nature of these programmes, to be awarded at a later date. They are inviting applications from charities and constituted groups that focus on supporting the community at this time.

They hope to get grants out quickly to where funds are needed most – rather than quarterly grant making, they will process applications monthly, even weekly where needed.

We want to ensure that we can support you in any way that we can which will include flexibility around funding and reporting.  If your charity is affected by the Coronavirus outbreak and you receive grant funding from us:

* **We will be reasonable if you need to request budget changes to ensure your projects can continue.**
* **We will consider any project extension requests sympathetically.**
* **If you think you will struggle to meet your end of project evaluation deadline please get in touch to request an extension.**

From 19 March 2020 we will be closing our Belfast Office and will be working remotely until further notice – if you need to get in touch with us please email us at admin@halifaxfoundationni.org and we will endeavour to answer all queries and requests as quickly as possible.

**Our Small and Medium Grants Programmes will remain open, please visit our website should you wish to apply at** [**www.halifaxfoundationni.org**](http://www.halifaxfoundationni.org/)

**The Community Foundation NI - Coronavirus Community Fund – Rolling Programme**

This fund is continually evolving.  Originally available for constituted community organisations throughout NI supporting isolated older people over 50, it has now widened to also support activities for people at increased risk, particularly in relation to poor mental health and wellbeing and also vulnerable isolated people and families, particularly those living in rural areas.  Grants range from £1000 to £2500 for small scale emergency support up to £10,000 for longer term support or for those significantly enhancing their services at this time.

NB. Safeguarding guidelines for this fund also changed on 27 March 2020 to reflect the fact that groups want to respond to immediate COVID-19 issues and may not yet have full adult safeguarding policies and procedures in place.

For more details please check the website – [www.communityfoundationni.org.uk](http://www.communityfoundationni.org.uk)

**The Community Foundation – Comic Relief – No Child Goes Hungry Community Support Programme**

The fund is now open and grants of up to £2,500 are available for locally led based groups and organisations, there is no closing date and groups will have to demonstrate how they are helping children under the age of 10 who may face food poverty as a result of the order to close schools and/or loss of household income as a result of COVID -19. As this closure may run in to the summer period the fund is keen to support community based programmes that can provide help over this period.

To apply, please check the website – [www.communityfoundationni.org.uk](http://www.communityfoundationni.org.uk)

**The National Lottery – Community Fund**

The latest statement from NLCF is as follows and still remains:

“All the funding decisions we make for the next six months (up to £300m of National Lottery funding) will be devoted to addressing the current crisis. In addition, we will accelerate the cash part of this funding as much as we can, so that we can get money to where it needs to be. This is not new money, but it will be faster money and we know that we must act quickly and with confidence.”

For continually updated news on how National Lottery Community fund is helping grant holders please see website – [www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk](http://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk)

**Heritage Lottery Fund**

£50 million has been launched by the Heritage Lottery Fund to support the heritage sector as an immediate response to COVID-19. For more information and to make an application, please check the website – [www.heritagefund.org.uk](http://www.heritagefund.org.uk)