**Rochdale Communities Fund – Health Inequalities Fund Guidance Notes**

Many communities across Greater Manchester continue to face health inequalities and high levels of deprivation. **This funding aims to improve access and reduce these inequalities in groups with low engagement and uptake—particularly in relation to the Covid-19 vaccine.**

In Rochdale Borough, communities experiencing racial inequality have been identified as the most underrepresented in vaccination uptake. The priority for this funding is to increase the vaccine uptake through getting health messages into underrepresented communities via the trusted relationships of VCSFE organisations, community leaders and faith groups.

Thanks to funding from NHS GM, we are offering grants of up to £10,000 for the VCFSE sector to engage with communities experiencing racial inequality around **the following priorities identified by the Rochdale Ethnic Communities Network.**

**Your project could fall within one or more of the following priorities:**

* **Priority 1: Trusted Spaces and Information -**   
  Projects that establish or strengthen safe, welcoming spaces within trusted community organisations, where open conversations about Covid-19 vaccinations can take place. These spaces should support people to explore and overcome barriers to vaccination, while also providing opportunities to share experiences and gather community stories.
* **Priority 2: Accessibility and Communication –**   
  Projects that reduce barriers to engagement by helping people access trusted spaces and reliable information. For example, supporting communities with travel support to get to sessions, translation services, tailored resources or social media outreach.
* **Priority 3: Community Outreach –**

Direct engagement to reach communities most at risk of serious illness from COVID-19, and therefore most likely to benefit from vaccination. For example, adults aged 75 and over. More information on eligibility can be found [here.](https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/COVID-19-vaccine/)

**Grant amount:** Grants of up £10,000 are available.

**Deadline:** Tuesday 30th September 2025.  
Please note: All projects must align with the Winter Vaccination Season and therefore be completed by March 2026.

Please note, we encourage all groups submitting an application form to include your management costs within the budget for your project. We are able to fund up to 10% of management costs of the total grant amount.

**Who is the funding for:**

* You are a voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) group locally rooted or actively working in the borough of Rochdale, supporting Ethnic Minority Groups; ***and***
* You are a member of Action Together CIO (you can register for free to become a member [here](https://www.actiontogether.org.uk/become-member))
* You are formally constituted.

**Decision making process:**

Grant decisions will be made by Action Togethers Community Panel. Decisions will be made once the fund has closed for applications. You may be asked for more information or to redevelop some aspects of your proposal.

All applications must be sent to [laura.augustine@actiontogether.org.uk](mailto:laura.augustine@actiontogether.org.uk) and you will receive the decision via email.

**Monitoring:**

At the end of your project, we will ask you to fill out a monitoring form to tell us:

* The story of your project
* Data relevant to your project
* Any learning from your project
* Photos, feedback sheets, promotional materials or anything else relevant to the project.

Our Community Development Workers will check in with you during the project and can help you plan how you want to share the impact and success of your project.

**Please note:**

* Action Together is an accredited Living Wage Funder. This means we encourage organisations that employ staff to become an accredited [Living Wage Employer.](https://www.livingwage.org.uk/become-a-living-wage-employer)

**Completing the application form**

* Please ensure that ALL boxes on the application form are completed.
* When completing your budget, please clearly evidence how you have arrived at your costings and use exact figures.
* If you have any queries about the application form or application process, please contact Laura Augustine on [laura.augustine@actiontogether.org.uk](mailto:laura.augustine@actiontogether.org.uk)
* Please note, we can only accept one application per organisation.

**The use of AI within your application**

We recognise that AI can be a valuable tool in various aspects of project development, such as brainstorming or editing responses. However, we strongly discourage its use for the drafting of

answers within funding applications, as it can compromise the integrity of the application process.

It is often clear when an organisation uses AI to draft their application as we notice similar or identical language and content within numerous funding applications. Strong applications help us understand your organisation and your community, but when they are drafted by AI the generic language which is used makes it hard to understand what your organisation is planning to do and why.

AI written responses often claim to have taken certain steps to develop their project idea, such as a needs assessment, focus groups or consultation with users. Unless the group includes statistics and quotes in their bid, it raises doubt about whether these steps have actually happened. This can affect the decision-making process and an outcome of an application as the authenticity of the application can be called into question.

Where there is doubt about if your application has been drafted by AI, we will ask for some additional information to support your application.