**Rochdale Community Respond, Repair and Recover Fund**

**Guidance Notes**

**Aims/priorities:**

**Respond**

We recognise that community action continues to take place across the Borough in response to the pandemic. We value voluntary, community, faith-based and social enterprise sector organisations, mutual aid groups and individuals supporting communities through their action. We want to encourage and support this action.

**Repair**

We recognise the damage caused by the pandemic and have witnessed how the pandemic has deepened inequalities. We want to be part of repairing the damage to communities by supporting the voluntary community faith and social enterprise sector.

**Recover**

We recognise that the world has changed and that the voluntary community faith and social enterprise sector offer needs to flex to meet new needs and adapt to enrich and support communities in new ways. We want to help create the better future that communities deserve.

**Priorities**

We welcome applications which address inequalities, support, enrich and develop communities. We are interested in applications which have priorities connected to:

* Food, particularly social eating projects
* Projects to support healthy activity
* Practical support and help in the community
* Digital projects and services
* Projects to address inequalities
* Economic support projects and services
* Communications to and with diverse cohorts of people
* Advice projects and services that help individuals
* Creative or learning projects which enrich communities, families or individuals lives
* Emotional wellbeing, support and therapeutic projects
* Practical reopening costs
* ‘Care Packages’ of essentials to help people and families (including hygiene products, cleaning products, and items to help keep people well, warm and healthy items)
* Projects that respond to the climate emergency

Grant applicants will be offered development and partnership support and will be connected to our [thematic collaboration networks](https://www.actiontogether.org.uk/rochdale-networks). We can also help if you need volunteers or volunteer support. This support is offered weather or not you are successful with your funding application.

**Amount:** You can apply for a grant for either up to £200 or up to £1,000.

**Who can apply?** Groups and organisations from the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector. Mutual Aid groups (informal groups of neighbours or friends or people united around a cause, working together to help and be supported by their community) Individuals supporting communities.

If you have previously received an Action Together, Community Response Fund grant or Places of Worship and Multipurpose Community Venues reopening fund or Care Packages fund you CAN also apply for this fund. Please not we will only accept applications from organisations who have completed monitoring for previous funds received.  If you have any queries about monitoring please email grants@actiontogether.org.uk

**Please note:**

* Individuals can only apply for £200 and if offered a grant we will require an additional signatory (who we may request a conversation with) to verify your application.
* Organisations offered a grant must be Action Together members before receiving the grant. You can become a member [here](https://www.actiontogether.org.uk/become-member).
* If your application involves bringing people together then we require you to submit a Covid Risk Assessment. For further support and guidance to complete your Covid Risk Assessment, please click [here.](https://www.actiontogether.org.uk/covid-resources#risk)

**Funding Panel Process**

Funding applications are reviewed and scored by a volunteer panel made up of citizens, volunteers from voluntary community faith and social enterprise sector organisations and statutory partners. We collate these comments and scores and use these to make a decision on your application, sometime this decision is made by Action Together and sometimes it includes input from the funder.

**If you are successful** you will receive an email notifying you of your success and asked to complete a grant agreement. We will also request details of a bank account in organisation’s name with at least two unrelated signatories, a copy of your governing document, insurance details and your safeguarding policy. Once all documents have been received you will receive payment within two weeks. Once your project has completed you will be asked to submit monitoring for your project which is a condition of the grant.

**If you are unsuccessful** we will offer feedback and either invite you to review, noting feedback and resubmit or meet with our development team and we will support you to develop your application or help you find appropriate funds or offer support to develop your organisation.

**Completing the application form**

* Please ensure that ALL boxes on the application form are completed.
* Submit your application online to laura.augustine@actiontogether.org.uk
* You will receive a funding decision within four weeks.
* If you have any queries about the application form or application process, please contact Laura Augustine on 0161 339 2345.