**Oldham Community Champions - Phase 2 Grants Programme – Guidance Notes**

Oldham Council has been awarded funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government’s (MHCLG) Community Champions Programme.

MHCLG’s stated purpose of the funding is ‘to support people shown to be most at risk from Coronavirus (COVID-19) including those from an ethnic minority background, disabled people and others to follow safer behaviours and reduce the impact of the virus on themselves and those around them’.

For phase 2 of the programme, Oldham Community champions are extending this health focus into recovery, mitigating the impact of inequality and ‘pastoral’ support for communities. This is based on feedback from existing Community Champions as to the pressing concerns for the communities they are supporting in this later phase of the pandemic, and as the method through which we can best reach those for whom public health messages are still falling flat.

**Aims & Objectives**

The aims in Oldham for this funding are to support those Communities of Focus in which Coronavirus has most exacerbated inequalities:

* Roma families,
* African communities,
* People with learning disabilities and autism,
* Young people,
* People facing multiple disadvantages

Additionally, for the second phase, grants will be available for Communities of Place to extend the impact of the initial phase to all parts of the borough:

* North (Royton, Shaw and Crompton)
* East (Saddleworth, Lees, Greenacres, Clarksfield, Waterhead and St James)
* Central (St Mary’s, Alexandra and Coldhurst)
* South (Failsworth, Hollinwood and Medlock Vale)
* West (Chadderton and Werneth)

Three types of grants will be available to **members of Action Together** who are locally rooted and active in Oldham. If you are not yet a member of Action Together you can apply [here](https://www.actiontogether.org.uk/become-member)

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| **Grant Type** | **Available to** |
| **Anchor Fund -** grants of up to £10,000 for Anchor Organisations or partners to lead each Community of Focus and Community of Place. It is expected around 10 awards will be made. | Existing Community Anchors that have completed monitoring for Phase 1 wishing to extend their activities until end March 2021 or new partners for new Communities of Focus or Place |
| **Champion Fund** - grants of up to £5000 for supporting community organisations’ capacity in achieving the health and recovery focused objectives. It is expected that around 20 awards will be made. | Any eligible community organisation |
| **Idea Fund –** grants of up to £1000 for costs of additional activities, projects and ideas emerging from Communities of Focus or Place | All Anchors and Champions participating in the Communities of Focus or Place |

VCFSE groups have trusted relationships within their communities and a deep understanding of the issues that impact community members. The Community Champions Programme is designed to support these groups engagement with communities facing inequalities and at most risk from coronavirus, so they can be better informed and supported around issues including:

* increasing virus rates,
* changes to national and local guidance,
* health protection and infection control messages,
* promotion and information around vaccination and testing and
* the local support offer.

An important objective of Community Champions is to capture and understand insight from the communities at most risk from Covid-19 about their experiences of living through the pandemic, in order that Oldham’s Covid response and recovery strategy is informed and shaped to mitigate the impact of inequalities for those most at risk.

**What can the funding be used for?**

The grant funding can be used by the group / organisation as needed to support their capacity but must be used for community benefit and / or in line with the group or organisation’s charitable objectives. There is an expectation that this grant funding will be spent by no later no later than **31 March 2022**.

**What will be expected of recipients?**

In agreeing to receive a Community Champions grant the group or organisation will agree to the following activities:

If you receive Anchor funding:

* Facilitate Action Groups for your Community of Focus or of Place, bringing together other relevant partners to share insight and progress activity which supports health or recovery for that community.
* Attend the monthly Community Champions Steering Group to input into the direction of the overall Community Champions Programme if selected as a representative by the Community Champions Network
* Attend [Community Explorers](https://www.actiontogether.org.uk/node/4551) forums for your relevant area (Community of Place only)
* Gather insights from your Community of Focus or of Place as relevant to key actions or initiatives affecting the whole borough

If you receive Champion funding:

* Participate in the relevant Community of Focus or Community of Place Action Group to work in partnership with others working with the same community
* Share insights from your community with the Anchor for your Community of Focus or of Place

All recipients:

* Share public health messages with your community and develop responses relevant to them based on the health information and training you are provided with.
* Organise activities and support for your community to aide their recovery from COVID with respect to poverty, employment or social interaction
* Participate in Community Champions Network Meetings and training sessions to share information with other Communities of Focus or of Place
* Complete a brief report at the end of your project

**Please Note:**

* All groups or organisations applying for this fund must comply with the most recent Public Health Guidance and Government directives relating to Covid 19 to ensure that their projects are carried out safely. For further guidance please check <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> and Action Together’s [Advice and Guidance for Community Groups during Covid](https://www.actiontogether.org.uk/covid-advice)
* To receive this funding, any outstanding monitoring information required by us relating to this programme or relating to other grant funding must have been completed.
* 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**

* This grant funding and the agreed support by your group / organisation is provided for the period until 31 March 2021. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis before that date until the funding available has been exhausted.
* Please ensure that **ALL** parts of the application form are completed.
* Submit your application online to funding@actiontogether.org.uk
* Eligible applications will be considered and awarded by representatives from the Oldham Community Champions Steering Group, which meets fortnightly. We aim to notify you of the outcome by e mail within 2 working-days of the Steering Group Meetings.

If you have any queries about the application process, or would like support to complete the application form please contact a member of the Oldham Community Development team on funding@actiontogether.org.uk or 0161 339 2345.