**One Oldham Fund Medium Grants Programme**

**(Up to £25,000) – Guidance Notes**

The One Oldham Fund is a strategic single investment fund that uses pooled resources for the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector in Oldham.

This investment will support the sector’s resilience to enable VCFSE organisations that are locally rooted and active in Oldham to remain viable, to continue to deliver the ongoing Covid 19 response and to contribute to the delivery of Oldham’s Covid Recovery Strategy priorities.

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

Applications should be for projects that meet one or more of the following priorities:

**1. Driving Equality**

* Enabling those adversely impacted by COVID-19 to access the help they need
* Reducing inequality and building resilience across Oldham’s communities
* Reducing poverty and helping people get back on their feet

**2. Promoting Health and Wellbeing and Supporting the Most Vulnerable**

* Continuing to contain the spread of COVID-19 in Oldham
* Working with residents and communities to improve health and wellbeing, preventing illness and premature death
* Safeguarding and supporting our most vulnerable residents

**Key Dates**

* **Deadline for applications**  - midnight on Sunday 22 May 2022
* **Project conversations with applicants** – 25,26,27 May 2022
* **Panel meeting** – on or around 13 June 2022
* **Deadline for delivery of Project** – any funding must be spent and funded activities delivered by no later than 31 March 2023.

**Who is the funding for?**

You can apply for a grant of more than **£10,000** and up to **£25,000.00** if:

* you are a **Community Anchor Organisation** based in Oldham; ***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)); ***and***
* you have at least two people on your board or committee who are not related

Our Oldham definition for a **Community Anchor Organisation** is an organisation that has **all** of the following features:

* not for Profit (VCFSE)
* incorporated - registered at either Companies House or Charity Commission
* community led and run
* based at and occupying a community building that is rooted in a sense of place or firmly rooted in the community of identity that they serve.
* multiple functions
* unparalleled local knowledge and well established networks and connections into the community they are either physically based in or their community of identity
* a mission to improve the whole of the community and not just a part

You may not apply for a grant if you are an organisation that can pay profits to directors, shareholders or members.

**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 and activities are carried out safely. Although many of the Covid 19 restrictions have been lifted they still may change from time to time. 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 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)
* You may only apply for a One Oldham Fund Medium Grant once
* You may not go on to apply for other grants within our One Oldham Fund Programme if you are awarded a medium grant
* You may apply for a medium grant if you have already received a One Oldham Fund Micro or Small grant provided it is for a different project or activities or able to demonstrate the need for us to support a continuing project or activities.

**What can you spend the money on?**

**We can fund:**

* Your organisation’s running costs
* Small land or refurbishment projects (but make sure you own or lease the land or building or have permission from the owner or landlord that says you're allowed to do work on the building). You may also need planning permission for the work too.
* Equipment
* One-off events
* Staff costs
* Training costs
* Transport
* Volunteer expenses

**We cannot fund:**

* Contingency costs, loans, endowments or interest
* Paying someone to write your bid for you
* Profit making or fundraising activities
* VAT you can reclaim
* Statutory activities
* The reimbursement of money that has been spent
* Projects that have already been started

This list is not exhaustive, so if you are not sure please contact us at development@actiontogether.org.uk

**Completing the application form**

* Please ensure that **ALL** parts of the application form are completed.
* We have not included word count limits in the application form as we want you to be able to tell us about your ideas without having to worry about the amount of words you are using – as a general guide however we are only looking for brief summary and 2 or 3 paragraphs for each answer should be enough for you to be able to tell us about your plans. You may also wish to send us photos or videos to illustrate your ideas.
* If you have any queries about the application process or would like support to complete the application form or become a member of Action Together, please contact a member of the team at development@actiontogether.org.uk or call 0161 339 2345 and ask to speak to a member of the Oldham Development Team.
* This fund operates on a rolling programme but will be paused when all available funding has been awarded. We expect to make up to 10 awards.
* **Please e mail your application by no later than midnight on Sunday 22 May 2022 to** **funding@actiontogether.org.uk**

**What happens after your application had been submitted?**

* The application form is the first stage of the application process:
	+ We may come back to you and ask you for more detailed information about your project once we are satisfied that you are eligible to apply for this Fund.
	+ The nature of the information requested will be dependent on the nature of your project and activities but may include copies of quotes for larger items of expenditure, evidence of ownership of a building or building owner’s consent and copy planning consent (where necessary) if building works are being carried out.
* We will also contact you to arrange an informal discussion with you and your Action Together community development worker on 25,26 or 27 May 2022 to discuss the proposed changes or differences that your project will make to those who are involved, any questions that we may have about your project and the additional support that Action Together can offer you as an organisation
* Eligible applications will be reviewed and decisions made by a panel which includes a range representatives from the funder and partners from the VCFSE sector on or around 13 June 2022. We aim to notify you of the outcome by email within 2 working-days of the panel’s decision

**If you are successful**

We understand that planning a project in such challenging times is difficult and that your plans may need to change to respond to factors such as new government guidance and the impact of Covid-19 on your group, organisation or community. If you feel at any point that you are unable to deliver your project as originally planned then please contact us so that we can discuss any changes that you may wish to make.

To help us understand the impact of this funding, successful applicants will:

* be offered support from one of our community development workers throughout and beyond the project,
* be asked to provide a report to Action Together at the end of their project. You will receive an example of the questions that we will be asking with your grant agreement so that you can plan how to capture the story of your project as soon as it starts ;
* be expected to participate in our Community Anchors Network; and
* be offered the opportunity to participate in other networks of groups and organisations in order to be able to share expertise and experience.

If you do not already have an up to date [Quality in Action Award](https://www.actiontogether.org.uk/proving-your-impact) from Action Together you will be asked to work towards receiving one with our support as a condition of your grant

Depending on the nature of the project or activities, grant payments may be made in stages and you will be asked to provide a brief report for each payment period before further payments can be made.

* **Please e mail your application by no later than midnight on Sunday 22 May 2022 to** **funding@actiontogether.org.uk**