**One Oldham Fund Micro Grants Programme**

**(Up to £1000) – Guidance Notes**

Oldham Council has allocated some of the Contain Outbreak Management Funding (COMF) that it received from the government to be used alongside a contribution from the Action Oldham Fund to establish a single grant investment fund for the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector (VCFSE) in Oldham.

In its first year this fund will focus on investment in the VCFSE sector’s resilience to deliver the ongoing Covid response, to contribute to the delivery of Oldham’s [Covid Recovery Strategy](https://www.actiontogether.org.uk/oldham-covid-recovery-strategy) priorities and to enable key VCFSE organisations to remain viable.

**What 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

Grants will be awarded to enable community groups and organisations to deliver their projects provided that:

* 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 - .[Volunteering Safely](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-volunteering) 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)
* The project includes ‘Mutual Aid’ or ‘Social Action’ activity
  + Mutual Aid is the term we use to describe people giving each other needed support in communities.
  + Social Action is the term we use to describe people coming together (physically or remotely) to help solve the problems that are important in their communities.

There is an expectation that this grant funding will be spent by no later no later than 31 March 2022.

**Who is the funding for?**

If your annual income is under £10,000 you can apply for a grant:

* Up to **£1,000** if you are:
  + a voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) group working in the borough of Oldham; ***and***
  + a member of Action Together (you can register for free to become a member [here](https://www.actiontogether.org.uk/become-member)) ***and***
  + you are formally constituted
* Up to **£200** if you do not have a constitution but you are involved in informal social action or mutual aid activity;

**Please Note:**

* To receive this funding, any outstanding monitoring information required by us, relating to other grant funding must have been completed.
* You may apply for a One Oldham Fund Micro Grant (up to £1000) up to three times in any calendar year provided it is for a different project or that you are able to demonstrate the need for us to support a continuing project
* You may also go on to apply for other grants within the One Oldham Fund Programme if you are eligible

**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 asked to provide a short report to us about your project when it has ended;
* offered further support from one of our community development workers throughout and beyond this project; and
* be offered the opportunity to participate in networks of groups and organisations to be able to share expertise and experience.

**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 number of words you are using – as a general guide however we are only looking for brief summary and 1 or 2 paragraphs for each answer should be enough for you to be able to tell us about your plans.
* If you have any queries about the application process or would like some support to complete the application form or become a member of Action Together, please contact a member of our team at [development@actiontogether.org.uk](mailto:development@actiontogether.org.uk) or call 0161 339 2345 and ask to speak to a member of the Oldham Development Team.
* Eligible applications will be considered by an online panel. We aim to notify you of the outcome of their decision by email within 10 working-days of receipt of your application.
* This fund operates on a rolling programme throughout 2020/2021 but will be paused when all available funding has been awarded.
* **Please e mail your application to** [**funding@actiontogether.org.uk**](mailto:funding@actiontogether.org.uk)