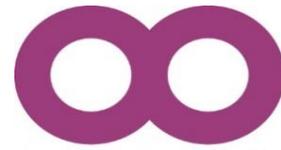




Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government



Housing Justice



homeless link

## MHCLG – Homelessness Winter Transformation Fund for faith, community and voluntary sector organisations

### Application Guidance

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has announced £2 million of transformation funding for the homelessness, faith, community and voluntary sector to bring forward single room and COVID-19 secure accommodation this winter.

Homeless Link will be distributing the Fund in partnership with Housing Justice on the Ministry's behalf to facilitate this much needed support to the sector at a time when many services are at risk due to the ongoing impact of the pandemic.

The Homelessness Winter Transformation Fund opened on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020, and funding will be allocated by 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020. We will fund frontline organisations directly working with people experiencing homelessness and where more than 50 per cent of beneficiaries are people experiencing homelessness.

### Objective of the project

- To ensure that faith and community groups who provide winter accommodation can provide single room COVID-19 secure accommodation this winter; and
- To support services that prevent rough sleeping and support rough sleepers in innovative ways building on proven approaches such as hosting, shared houses, support work and accessing the private rented sector.

### Criteria for applicants

The grants are open to registered charities, Charitable Incorporated Organisations, Community Benefit Societies and Community Interest Companies (with an asset lock) in England working to support those rough sleeping or experiencing homelessness through the COVID-19 crisis.

Your organisation must be a small to medium sized organisation (up to £5 million annual turnover), that currently works **directly** with people experiencing homelessness and where more than 50 per cent of beneficiaries are people experiencing homelessness. Organisations with a higher turnover may apply if they are the only winter shelter provider in a particular area.

Please see below for details of activities that can be funded.

In the event that we receive a very high number of applications, we may look to forecasted cash reserves in order to prioritise funding, so please do provide this information in your application form.

Successful applicants will be required to report to Homeless Link on how grant funding has been used through a mid-project update in January 2021 and, a monitoring report at the end of the grant period.

We want to know that you will work with Local Authorities and partners towards delivery of agreed strategic plans to meet the needs of those rough sleeping and experiencing homelessness. We strongly encourage applicants to submit the relevant local authority's endorsement, by letter or email, to ensure that bids complement (and do not duplicate) the council's work. Supporting letters from an elected member/councillor will not be considered and so should not be submitted.

**MHCLG has recently published Operating Principles for night shelters, please ensure you read this guidance and adhere to these principles if relevant to your service offer:** <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-provision-of-night-shelters>

Only organisations meeting these criteria to be eligible for the project:

- Incorporated registered charity, CIO, Community Benefit Society or CIC
- Based in and operating in England
- Organisation is already working to end homelessness and rough sleeping.
- Proposed activity is in line with the organisation's charitable mission/purpose
- Full accounts (audited or independently examined) are submitted
- A bank statement from the last 3 months is submitted

## Proposal Guidance

The Homelessness Winter Transformation Fund will provide grants to be spent on organisational activities that ensure winter provision is COVID-19 secure, single room accommodation and, will support innovative models for support and move on.

**Grants must be for one or both of two purposes:**

- To ensure that faith and community groups who provide winter accommodation can provide single room COVID-19 secure accommodation this winter; and
- To support services that prevent rough sleeping and support rough sleepers in innovative ways building on proven approaches such as hosting, shared houses, support work and accessing the private rented sector.

Please note this fund is not designed to provide 'emergency' funding for supplies and equipment, but to mitigate the financial impact of the COVID -19 crisis on your charity.

We want to know if you will be providing support for specific groups such as, BAME people, vulnerable women, LGBTQ people, or couples.

### Grant amounts

The Fund will award grants of between £10,000 and £100,000. Grants up to £150,000 will be considered in exceptional cases where there is a strong case for funding of a higher amount.

Please note: If the amount of grant applied for is high in relation to an organisation's turnover, the application may be subject to further due diligence.

**All grants must be spent by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

**Grants can be used to fund:**

- Investments in systems
- Investments in people
- Investments in infrastructure (but excluding purchases of buildings or land)
- Dedicated capacity development
- Staff salaries

- Project activities
- Running costs
- Small-scale refurbishment (but excluding refurbishments which significantly improve existing land or building assets)
- Equipment
- Organisational development
- Contributions to fixed costs

**Grants cannot be used to fund the following types of activities:**

- Activities of a political or exclusively religious nature;
- Lobbying or activity intended to influence or attempt to influence Parliament, Government or political parties;
- Using grant funding to petition for additional funding;
- Input VAT reclaimable by you from HMRC;
- Goods or services that you have a statutory duty to provide;
- Payments reimbursed or to be reimbursed by other public or private sector grants;
- Contributions in Kind (i.e. a contribution in good or services, as opposed to money);
- Depreciation, amortisation or impairment of fixed assets by you;
- The acquisition or improvement of fixed assets by you;
- Interest payments (including service charge payments for finance leases);
- Gifts to individuals and promotional items;
- Entertaining (entertaining for this purpose means anything that would be a taxable benefit; to the person being entertained, according to current UK tax regulations);
- Statutory fines, criminal fines or penalties;
- Liabilities incurred before the issue of this funding agreement unless agreed in writing by us;
- Use in respect of costs reimbursed or to be reimbursed by funding from any other source;
- Use to cover interest payments (including service charge payments for finance leases); and
- Use to purchase buildings or land.

**Application process and timetable**

To apply, please complete our online application form.

**Application Timetable**

Grant application window open	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2020
Grant deadline for PANEL 1	1pm, Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2020
Grants PANEL 1	Thursday, 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2020
FINAL GRANT DEADLINE – PANEL 2	1pm, Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2020
Grants PANEL 2	Thursday, 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2020

Applications received by 1pm on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020 will be considered at the first grants panel and successful applicants can expect to receive the funds during December 2020.

If you have an enquiry that is not covered in our guidance materials you can send your enquiry to [fund@homelesslink.org.uk](mailto:fund@homelesslink.org.uk) or [j.quagliozi@HousingJustice.org.uk](mailto:j.quagliozi@HousingJustice.org.uk). Please insert 'MHCLG Homelessness Winter Transformation Fund enquiry' as your email subject and provide your organisation and contact name.

We are a small team working remotely from home right now, so we cannot provide a telephone number for you to call. If you wish to speak to someone on the phone, please email us with your contact name and number and we will arrange a call back. We aim to respond to all enquiries within 2 working days.