

Winter Support and Recovery Fund

Application criteria and guidance

The Winter Support and Recovery Fund is a new source of funding for East and West Sussex in response to the current needs and impact on the voluntary sector in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic.

This funding offers support across three identified themes of Mental health and Well-being Support; Reconnecting People and Communities, and Reducing Health Inequalities.

This funding is particularly aimed at supporting people who experience social, economic and health inequalities. This includes (but is not limited to) people with a protected characteristic defined under the Equalities Act of 2010, people who are homeless or insecurely housed and people on low incomes and/or living in areas of high deprivation and poor health outcomes.

For organisations working in Brighton and Hove under the mental health and well-being theme, funding is available through Brighton and Hove City Council. [Please visit here for more information.](#)

What can you apply for?

Grants of up to £10,000 are available to not for profit organisations delivering projects and services under the themes identified. Applications can be made in addition to grants secured through the Sussex Crisis Fund providing new applications are for the expansion of services or delivery of new services and where previous grants have been fully allocated. First-time applicants are also welcomed.

A total of £720,000 is being made available. Funding is from our partners at East and West Sussex County Councils and the Sussex Health and Care Partnership Mental Health Programme.

Whilst this funding is aimed at smaller organisations operating across Sussex, we are allowing applications from voluntary groups and charities with an annual income from last year of up to £2 million, providing they can demonstrate a strong presence within Sussex and the local area in which they are working.

Service areas/project examples and ideas:

1 Mental health and well-being support

- Counselling and therapeutic services
- Support groups and befriending services
- Projects that promote and raise awareness of positive mental health and well-being, including nature-based therapy and outdoor activities
- Mental health training and support for staff and volunteers

2 Reconnecting people and communities

- Projects supporting people to reconnect with services and their local communities
- Projects to help tackle social isolation and loneliness
- Events and participatory activities (such as cooking, gardening, digital skills, cultural celebrations)
- Projects to help tackle digital exclusion
- Projects to improve access to training and skills development
- Support for people to improve English skills for people where English is not their first language

3 Reducing health inequalities:

- Projects providing health and well-being support
- Initiatives which promote healthy behaviour e.g. healthy eating, reducing alcohol use, smoking cessation, and support wellbeing e.g. five ways to wellbeing
- Projects to encourage more active and healthy lifestyles such as sports and recreational pursuits and those with a focus on healthy eating
- Activities that encourage greater use of parks and green spaces, improve access to healthy and sustainable food or participation in community development projects
- Peer support groups for people with physical, sensory or learning disabilities and/or long term health conditions

What we are unable to fund

- Organisations not currently able to provide services due to ongoing covid restrictions
- Statutory services including schools, social care and environmental health
- Organisations or activities based outside of Sussex unless there is strong evidence that beneficiaries will be Sussex communities
- Organisations that discriminate based on ethnic origin, race, religion, national origin, disability, age, or sexual orientation
- Organisations where the service provided is used as a vehicle or means to promote religious beliefs
- Political activities
- Projects which only benefit animals
- Retrospective funding for activities or projects that have already taken place

Application process

Applications should be submitted on our [online application form](#). Applications will be assessed on a rolling deadline basis, with decisions expected within three-four weeks of submission.

ⁱ Health inequalities are defined by Public Health England as: “Health inequalities are the preventable, unfair and unjust differences in health status between groups, populations or individuals that arise from the unequal distribution of social, environmental and economic conditions within societies, which determine the risk of people getting ill, their ability to prevent sickness, or opportunities to take action and access treatment when ill health occurs.”