

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR 3RD SECTOR

As off 30 March there will be a one-off £10,000 small business grant to the ratepayers of properties with specified uses in receipt of the Small Business Bonus Scheme (SBBS) or Rural Relief, or eligible for SBBS but in receipt of Nursery Relief, Disabled Relief, the Business Growth Accelerator Relief or Fresh Start. Certain property uses are excluded each LA has been emailed guidance, **however while it is not clear if those 3rd sector groups delivering Social Enterprise activity, Nursery and Disability services etc will be included in this scheme or signposted to something else, the qualifying list, see below, indicates they can apply.**

Eligibility

Guidance states that each “ratepayer” may only claim one grant in Scotland, regardless of how many properties they have. The “ratepayer” is understood to be the ratepayer as at 17 March 2020 as per the local authority’s records, but councils may apply discretion, subject to being satisfied with the validity of individual cases, to ensure that the grant reaches those business ratepayers in need and directly affected by Covid-19.

Grants awarded in respect of a valid and legitimate application do **not** need to be refunded by the recipient.

3rd Sector properties that could pass the relief test include, Animal Welfare Centres, Bowling Clubs, Rugby Clubs, Sailing Clubs, Squash Clubs, Cricket Clubs, Football Grounds, Golf Clubs, Cycle tracks (All types including Karts and Motorcycles)
Community Centres, Activity Centres, Community Halls, Youth Clubs, Hostels,
Day Care Centres, Respite Centres, Pre-School Nurseries, Playgroups and Creches,
Community Libraries Cadet and TA Centres
Heritage Centres & Museums
Mountain Rescue and Outdoor Training Centres
Places of Worship and Church Halls

Where the Local Authority has reason to believe that the information that they hold about the ratepayer on the 17 March 2020 is inaccurate they may withhold or recover the grant and take reasonable steps to identify the correct ratepayer. Recipients of grants may be liable for recovery if they were not the ratepayer on the eligible day or provide false information.

Administration of these grants

Local authorities will administer the grants and will be responsible for delivering the funding to eligible businesses. The Scottish Government will fund local authorities to make these payments.

These grants require an application. Application forms will be available on individual council websites and must be filled in on-line and submitted through the council’s website (if available) or returned to councils by e-mail **only**. Applications can be made up to 31 March 2021.

Third Sector Resilience Funds

The £20m is part of a £350m package to support welfare and wellbeing in Scotland. It also includes, among others:

- a £70m Food Fund to help organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors address food insecurity

- a £50m Wellbeing Fund to help charities and others who require additional capacity to work with at-risk people including homeless people and those experiencing fuel poverty
- a £40m Supporting Communities Fund to support local efforts helping people at risk including older people, carers, homeless people or asylum seekers and signposting people to help
- £25m kept in reserve “to allow swift and flexible responses to rapidly changing circumstances”

The fund will be delivered by Firstport, Social Investment Scotland and the Corra Foundation and will provide grants between £5,000-£100,000.

In addition, there will be up to a further £5m available in fully flexible, zero per cent interest loans starting at £50,000.

Corra Foundation – corra.scot (for grants up to £25,000)

Firstport – Firstport.org.uk (for grants between £25,000-£100,000)

Social Investment Scotland – socialinvestmentscotland.com (for loans of £50,000 and above)

To be eligible, interested organisations must be a charity, social enterprise or voluntary organisation based in Scotland and/or primarily delivering services/activities in Scottish communities; already delivering those products or services prior to March 2020; and needing funding to stabilise cashflows directly as a result of the impact of COVID-19, as opposed to pre-existing financial difficulties.

Interested applicants are encouraged to read the fund’s guidance notes and FAQs prior to starting an application. See Appendix A for the application process.

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Appendix A

APPLICATION PROCESS

Step one: Applicants should complete the [eligibility checker](#), which will determine whether their organisation meets the criteria for funding. The checker will also ask about the level of support required in order to connect you to the appropriate next stage in the process.

Step two: Eligible organisations will complete a brief application form. This will ask for more details about the organisation structure and size, and the additional financial challenges expected as a result of the pandemic. In the application form you will be asked about your current financial position including cashflow, restricted funding and reserves. It will be important that you have this information available. You will also be asked to provide supporting documents – your most recent annual accounts and bank statement(s).

Grant application forms will also ask applicants to provide bank details to enable payments to be made as quickly as possible. We will use the uploaded copy of your most recent bank statement to verify these details.

In some circumstances we may need to contact you to discuss your application so please ensure the contact details you provide are for someone who is able to do this.

Step three: You will receive an automatic email acknowledging receipt of your application. We aim to assess all applications within 10 working days and issue a decision as soon as possible.

Step four: You will receive an email advising you of the decision. If successful, payments will be made direct to the bank account given in the application form.

Monitoring

Due to the nature of this support, if you are successful you will not be expected to spend valuable time and resources on lengthy reporting.

At a later date, depending on the level of funding an organisation has accessed, Firstport, Social Investment Scotland or the Corra Foundation will be in touch to request brief updates on how the organisation is doing. Confirmation will be sought that your organisation is still in operation and you may be asked for specific details such as number of staff in employment or monthly income levels.