

Communities Mental Health  
and Wellbeing Fund

# FAQ'S

#1

**Q:** Will there be any continuation or recurring funding?

**A:**

It should be noted that funding will be time-limited and, therefore, applications to the fund should be sought for time-limited projects and tests of change.

It is hoped that a subsequent round of funding will be available in 2024-25, however, this will depend on any announcement of budget allocation from the Scottish Government.

#2

**Q:** What size of organisation can apply for the fund?

**A:**

The Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund was established to provide grants to small, grassroots community groups and organisations (i.e., voluntary or community organisations; registered charities; groups or clubs; or Community Interest Companies, and Community Councils).

We would expect most grants to be awarded to small and medium-sized groups/organisations – with incomes ranging from under £25,000 per annum up to £1 million per annum.

#3

**Q:** What size of grant can be awarded to applicants?

**A:**

- Micro Grants - £0-£2,000 for un-constituted groups
- Small Grants Program £2,001 - £7,500
- Main Grant £7,501 - £20,000
- Partnership projects £ £20,001 - £50,000

We would expect the majority of funding to go towards small scale community projects, amounts of less than £10,000. The reporting expectations will be proportionate – for example, a partnership project would require further detail rather one for £500

#4

**Q:** When will we receive the money?

**A:**

The application assessment can take up to a minimum of four weeks. If successful, you will receive an offer of grant no later than four weeks after submission.

The grant offer will ask you to provide banking details and will include a Condition of Grant contract. Payment can be processed when we receive this information and the transfer should take 2-3 business days.

#5

**Q:** When does the funding have to be spent?

**A:**

This Fund covers the financial year 2023-24. In practice, this means a TSI must have dispersed the funding to agreed projects as soon as possible and by 31 March 2024.

Successful applicants will have 18 months from the date of the Condition of Grant to spend the allocation.

#6

**Q:** Does the funding have to be used for new projects, or can it be used for expanding projects or continuing existing projects?

**A:**

We will accept applications from new and existing projects.

Whilst the Fund can support the expansion of existing activities, it is intended to provide additionality, not replacement funding.

#7

**Q:** Can projects that were funded in year one or two of the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund apply?

**A:** We may fund projects that received funding in year one and two if it is an extension of the project.

Organisations must clearly explain why the additional funds are needed, what aims the project has met so far, and how their target audience changed. Reporting from previous years must be up to date. Organisations will be asked for further information if enough has not been given in their initial application.

#8

**Q:** What can the Fund be used for - i.e., rent, equipment, staff costs, materials, etc.?

**A:** The Fund is primarily focused on supporting operational and revenue costs – e.g., volunteer, and one-off fixed term staff costs, expenses, equipment, etc – to fulfil the activity small capital spend up to £10,000 is eligible.

This year, to encourage participation and engagement, applicants can request funding up to £5,000 for capital expenditures such as the construction, refurbishment and/or purchase of buildings, amenities, or vehicles.

At VASLan, we are aware that the lack of community transport is posing a challenge throughout the sector, therefore, we welcome and encourage applications that will proactively increase access to community transport and befriending services.

#9

**Q:** How will the Fund be monitored?

**A:** VASLan requires interim and year-end reports on the Fund's progress. Further information regarding monitoring requirements will follow if your application is successful – we will make this as simple as possible.

#10

**Q:** Will the Fund support family wellbeing projects?

**A :** The fund is targeted to support **adults over the age of 16**, however, if your project supports families your application must state how the projects will support the adults in the family specifically.

#11

**Q:** Can Counselling and/or other therapeutic services be supported by the fund?

**A :** The Fund is aimed at projects that are “support” and holistically focused within the community. While projects involving therapeutic treatments can be funded, the Fund is not aimed at projects that are primarily “treatment” focused and is not meant to replace funding for direct therapeutic interventions in the community, such as counselling, or CBT. Instead, it aims to provide a range of broader community supports that can complement clinical care.

- There are other funding streams that can support counselling services in various realms (for example, the Scottish Government Survivors of Childhood Abuse Support Fund and Perinatal and Infant Mental Health Fund)

#12

**Q:** Promotion of religion is ruled out, does this prevent churches and other religious bodies from applying?

**A :** Churches and religious bodies CAN apply to the Fund; however, the activity must be consistent with the aims of the fund and CANNOT be used to fund religious or campaigning activities.

A:

#13

**Q:** What is Partnership Working?

**A:** Partnership working refers to a broad range of actions and can be defined as two or more groups coming together to achieve a common purpose.

#14

**Q:** How can I get more support?

**A:** If you have any questions or require support in your application, please get in touch with us here at VASLan. You can reach us via email at [funding@vaslan.org.uk](mailto:funding@vaslan.org.uk), or phone at 01698 300390.

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