

COST-OF-LIVING **SUPPORT** GRANT

Introduction

Thank you for thinking about applying for the Cost-of-Living Support Grant.

We hope you find this guide easy to understand and that your questions are answered, however, if you need any more information then please either ring 01698 300390 and ask for fund support, or email funding@vaslan.org.uk.

Please read this guidance, and don't panic!

Particularly if you are a small "grass roots" groupS, VASLan are here to help, guide and support you through the process.

We are looking to hear about the support you need to create projects that will support local Neighbourhood community during these coming autumn/winter months.

There is no need for jargon or fashionable words, just plain simple language.

What's the money for?

This money is to fund groups to deliver new or expand existing services/activities that allows them to mitigate the impact of the cost-of-living crises in local communities.

Where has the fund come from?

VASLan (the third sector interface for South Lanarkshire) are acutely aware of the fact that the cost of everyday essentials like groceries and bills are rising faster than average household incomes.

The cost-of-living crisis may well be having an impact on your personal finances, as well as the state of the third sector locally.

At our VASLan Board Meeting on Friday 14th October, our Trustees approved a £30,000 investment from their unrestricted reserves to invest in the sector to help mitigate rising costs.



How much money is there?

Minimum £0 - Maximum £1,000

Applications open from **7th November – 22 December**

Who is overseeing the administration and allocation of funding?

VASLan have overall responsibility of administration of the fund, however a steering group will have overall responsibility of setting local priorities, decision making and setting local criteria.

How much can we apply for?

Up to £1,000 can be applied for with this specific Small Grant Fund.

However, if you require further funding then please let us know and we can support you to seek this.

What geographical areas can we apply for funding?

You need to be able to prove that you are delivering the activity locally within a community.

All areas of South Lanarkshire are eligible to apply.



Who can apply?

Only VASLan Members can apply.

VASLan membership is free, and organisations can apply for membership by sending an email to membership@vaslan.org.uk.

All groups and organisations no matter how small or inexperienced you are can apply. The only condition is that the award must be used to deliver the service in South Lanarkshire.

The fund is open to small grass root organisations providing the most benefit within local neighbourhood communities.

The range of organisations that can apply are:

- Registered Charities including Faith Organisations
- Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations (SCIO)
- Unincorporated Associations
- Trusts
- Not-for-profit company or asset locked company or Community Interest Companies (CIC)
- Cooperative and Community Benefit Societies
- Community councils

We are a small un-constituted group can we still apply?

Yes, you can apply as long as you agree to be supported by VASLan and do have a relationship with a constituted group that will hold your funds until you get a bank account.



What support can we get?

VASLan are here to support any groups/organisations with any questions and also practical support around applications, funding, volunteering, etc.

How long do we have to deliver the activity?

You must be able to start delivery of your activity/service by mid-November 2022 until the end of March 2023.

What can be funded?

- Utilities*
- Rent*
- Refreshments.
- Volunteer Expenses.
- Small equipment/ activity costs.
- Advertising/Leaflets.
- Transport.
- Evidence of costs proportionate to the activities being funded will be required for grants for.
- Utilities and rent.



What cannot be funded?

- Staff costs.
- Activities that are not open to the wider community unless your target group dictates a specific gender, age etc. Please contact us if you want to discuss your proposed activity.
- Political or religious campaigning.
- Profit-making/fundraising activities.
- VAT you can reclaim.
- Statutory services.
- Alcohol.
- Other costs not related to the delivery of the project.



The application processes

The fund will open on 7th November 2022 with a closing date of 16th December 2022 at noon.

During this period, you will have the opportunity to have a one-to-one discussion with VASLAN staff around your ideas and application support if required.

On submission of your completed application, you will also need to submit a copy of your governing document (Constitution, Articles of Association etc.), as well as a recent copy of a bank statement.



How to apply?

Contact Peter McGhee to discuss the grant:

Peter.mcghee@vaslan.org.uk

01698 300 390

If your group and project is eligible to apply, complete an application form which will be made available to you.

How do I show the difference I have made if I am successful?

All successful applicants will be required as part of the grant acceptance letter to evaluate the difference they have made to participants, VASLan can help you with this.

What support will I get if I am successful?

All successful applicants will be assigned a VASLan team member who will be your first point of contact if any support is required.

What support will I get if I am not successful?

VASLan will continue to support organisations that are not successful by carrying out funding searches, capacity building support, trustee training etc.



I have an idea but don't know where it fits, what should I do?

The VASLan team can help and support you with an idea and how it could fit. Please either call 01698300390 and ask for fund support or email funding@vaslan.org.uk.

Grant Overview, Criteria and Options

1. Provisions to people in immediate need.

The provision of winter warmer packs including but not limited to hats, scarfs, gloves, blankets, hot water bottles, flasks, etc.

2. Advice services to help people access housing, benefits, tax credits and other resources available to them.

3. Increased rent, utility bills and running costs.

We understand increased costs mean increasing rent for community groups who run services from community facilities, we can support your group by helping bridge the increase in your rent cost for halls and community facilities, we also understand that gas and electricity costs have increased, we can support you with these costs to help keep buildings open to the public.

The term Warm hubs has been used to support many people who may struggle to afford putting their home heating on. If your space is likely to open longer to help people and provide a warm welcoming environment, we will support these extra costs. We will also cover cost to reimburse volunteers for out-of-pocket expenses.

4. Increased food costs

Many communities will be struggling to cover food costs, this funding option enables groups to support those impacted most through the provision of meals, community cafes, food parcels, delivered meals, soup kitchen. etc.





CONTACT

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