**ESF COMMUNITY GRANTS – GREATER MANCHESTER**

**2019-2021**

**Re-Connect Priority Grants Round**

The ESF Community Grant Programme is already helping many people in Greater Manchester who face additional barriers in the workplace to improve their employability and gain employment. Whilst the formal bidding rounds are currently closed, the Programme is launching a targeted Grant Programme in response to COVID 19.

This round is called Re-Connect and seeks applications from a wide range of voluntary organisations who are ready to reach out by using approaches which tackle the new and emerging barriers arising from the impact of COVID 19.

Small grants of up to £20,000 are available across Greater Manchester to eligible organisations in the VCSE sector

Projects should look to develop and maintain participant connections to learning experiences. Project activity should support, maintain and improve participant employability and resilience.

All project activity must be within the current government COVID restrictions, but should include flexibility to adapt as and when those restrictions change in future months

The funding can help ALL who are out of work or economically inactive but especially those that:

* Are homeless or at risk of being homeless
* Have low or no qualification
* Lack literacy and numeracy skills
* Are lone parents
* Have disabilities, learning difficulties or health conditions
* Are from ethnic minorities
* Are aged over 50
* Young NEET people [aged 16 and above]

This programme covers the 10 Greater Manchester boroughs, and all eligible participants must live in Greater Manchester .

To apply organisations must meet the organisational eligibility criteria below. Please note that these criteria differ from Rounds 1 to 3 of GM ESF Community Grants Programme

* Are you a Third sector organisation run on a not for profit basis, i.e

Constituted Voluntary / Community Group

Social Enterprise (Not For Profit)

Registered Charity

Community Interest Company (CIC)

Company Limited by Guarantee

Please note that Private Companies Ltd by Shares cannot apply – if you are not sure on your organisational status or your constitution/governing document please speak to the ESF Grants Team before submitting your application for further guidance.

* Do you have an annual turnover equal to or under £5,000,000
* Do you employ no more than 49 full time equivalent employees
* Has your organisation been in operation for a min of 12 months
* Does your organisation have a Governing Document/Constitution?
* Does your organisation have an Independent Bank Account into which the grant can be paid?
* Are you **not** already in direct receipt of funding from the European Social Fund, or other ESF co-financing with the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP), Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), or National Offender Management Service (NOMS).
* You do not have an active grant agreement for Rounds 1 , 2 or 3 of ESF Community Grants
* Are you applying for funding to work with unemployed & economically inactive people?
* Are the people you plan to work with at least 16 years old?
* Is your proposed activity taking place within Greater Manchester?

**PLEASE ALSO NOTE -** Project start date must be on or after 1st August 2020 and all activity must be completed by 31st May 2021.

If you can answer **YES** to all of the questions above, you may be eligible to apply for an Re-Connect ESF Community Grant. Please download the application form, guidance notes and FAQs from our Website

[**https://www.wea.org.uk/greater-manchester-esf-community-grants-2019-2021**](https://www.wea.org.uk/greater-manchester-esf-community-grants-2019-2021)

**ZOOM Workshops will be running in week commencing 18th May. Please e mail** **ESFGrantsGM@WEA.org.uk** **to receive an invite**

**Re- Connect - ESF for Greater Manchester opens on Monday 11th May 2020**

**DEADLINE for applications – Wednesday 3rd June 2020**

**For further information, please e mail** **ESFGrantsGM@WEA.org.uk**

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