



Cost of Living Crisis Greater Manchester Funding Programme

Funded by Eric Wright Charitable Trust

GUIDANCE

Summary

£5000 grants are available to help sustain the existing activities of medium-sized voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations across Greater Manchester, which are themselves financially struggling, and that support people most affected by the cost of living crisis.

Eric Wright Charitable Trust has provided thirty-six £5,000 grants for distribution across the ten localities of Greater Manchester on a proportionate basis. Macc is leading on programme delivery, working with 10GM and its other partner organisations.

The key eligibility requirements are:

- organisations must have an annual turnover between £50,000 and £250,000 and be based and operating in one of the ten localities of Greater Manchester
- organisations must already be delivering support activities within the chosen locality to people who tend to be most affected by social inequality and the cost of living crisis
- new project activities are not required, this funding aims to help sustain anti-poverty organisations that are themselves struggling to keep operating
- any typical organisation costs can be included in your grant application, e.g. salaries, expenses, overheads, consumables, equipment, administration, training, communications, etc.
- you must plan to have fully spent your grant by no later than October 2023
- by 31 October at the latest you must submit a grant monitoring form – **there can be no extensions**

For how much can you apply?

Organisations can apply once for £5000. Thirty-six grants are available totalling £180,000. The allocation of funding across Greater Manchester's ten localities is in proportion to the relative size of the VCSE sector in each area:

Localities	Approx. no. of VCSE orgs ¹	%age of all VCSE orgs in GM	No. of £5000 grants available	Total
Bolton	1,672	10%	Four	£20,000
Bury	1,249	7%	Two	£10,000
Manchester	3,871	22%	Eight	£40,000
Oldham	1,326	8%	Two	£10,000
Rochdale	1,239	7%	Two	£10,000

¹ [A Realist Evaluation of the State of the Greater Manchester Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector 2021](#) Centre for Social and Health Research, University of Salford (the detailed sub-report for each of the ten localities above can be found on the relevant sector support organisations' websites)

Localities	Approx. no. of VCSE orgs ¹	%age of all VCSE orgs in GM	No. of £5000 grants available	Total
Salford	1,665	10%	Four	£20,000
Stockport	1,672	10%	Four	£20,000
Tameside	1,223	7%	Two	£10,000
Trafford	1,622	9%	Four	£20,000
Wigan	1,732	10%	Four	£20,000
	17,271	100%	36 x £5,000	£180,000

Applications for exactly £5000 are invited. Our preference is for all final awards to be only for the full amount to help ensure we allocate all of the funding. Should there be the expected quantity of eligible bids requesting the full amount, applications for less than £5000 will be treated as a lower priority.

Who can apply?

Only VCSE organisations are eligible to apply, e.g.

- Charitable Incorporated Organisations
- Community Benefit Societies
- Community Interest Companies
- Companies Limited by Guarantee
- Registered Charities
- Organisations that are not constituted
- Unincorporated Associations

You must be based and operating in one of the ten localities of Greater Manchester, i.e.

- Bolton
- Bury
- Manchester
- Oldham
- Rochdale
- Salford
- Stockport
- Tameside
- Trafford
- Wigan

Grants are available to help fund the costs of your existing activities in that area of Greater Manchester. Unfortunately, we are not able to fund activity across localities or outside Greater Manchester.

The turnover limit for eligible organisations is £50,000 to £250,000.

The 2021 Greater Manchester State of the VCSE Sector report identifies organisations within the above income bracket as amongst those needing greatest levels of investment to maintain activities.

Organisations with annual turnovers greater or less than £50,000 to £250,000 are ineligible to apply. (Within the city of Manchester Macc is developing smaller funding opportunities for micro organisations.)

Your organisation must already provide support activities to vulnerable communities of people in your locality most affected by social inequalities who are struggling to cope with the worst of the cost of living crisis.

People that are the most adversely affected by the cost of living crisis may include:

- households, families and individuals with low incomes
- older or younger people
- users of foodbanks
- people with chronic long-term health issues including disabled people
- unpaid carers
- people from Black, Asian and other minoritised ethnicities
- people who are long-term unemployed or experiencing insecure employment or worklessness
- homeless people
- people who are refugees
- or any combination of these or other circumstances

We give the above as examples only. The grant application forms asks you to summarise in your own words the most common circumstances of the people you support.

What we can fund

All funded activity must take place within one locality of Greater Manchester and you must fully complete it and have completed a monitoring form no later than 31 October 2023.

We are deliberately not providing examples of the kinds of activities VCSE groups need to be providing to struggling communities. We want you to tell us what it is that you do that achieves the best outcomes for end beneficiaries.

Any kind of usual organisation costs can be included in your grant application as long as your activities centre on the support of communities that are struggling the most. Costs can include salaries, expenses, overheads, consumables, equipment, administration, training, communications, etc.

The grant application form will ask you to summarise the costs you need most help with to keep providing your services.

Please be realistic and thorough in estimating your eligible costs as the external panel will be looking at this when assessing your application. Where possible you should base your proposed costs on actual previous amounts disbursed.

Successful applicants must keep **full** records of all costs funded by this programme. However, we will not ask you to provide evidence of expenditure unless adverse issues emerge in the delivery of your funded activities.

What we cannot fund

We cannot fund:

- any organisation or activity not based in one locality of Greater Manchester
- groups not working for the sole benefit of struggling communities there
- costs that you do not plan to incur by October 2023
- any political organisations nor activities involving evangelism

We will prioritise applicants that plan to use the full £5000 grant available.

Due diligence checks

Before we pay funding to successful applicants, you will need to assist us in carrying out due diligence checks. We will ask you to provide copies of the following information about your group:

- most recent signed annual accounts (or a Treasurer-signed income and expenditure statement for the last twelve-months if annual accounts are not available)
- a recent bank statement (it must cover at least a one-month period with an end-date of November 2022 or later)
- the home addresses of two trustees

Please have the above info ready to send us if your bid is approved. The information is required as part of our standard due diligence checks to ensure recipients of charitable funding are currently active locally and financially solvent. Macc is obliged to collect this and other information in its appointed role as fund administrator on behalf of the Eric Wright Charitable Trust.

In strict accordance with The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018, Macc will store all personal and financial information confidentially. Our Information Commissioner's Office reference is Z9595019 and we re-register annually on 10 September. Upon request, Macc can provide our data protection and information security policies. If you require information that is more detailed please let us know.

If your project involves working with children or vulnerable adults, you may need to provide a copy of your safeguarding policy.

How and when to apply

Please read in full this guidance document and the application form to ensure your proposal meets the criteria. Organisations that wish to apply will need to complete the MS Word application form provided. Your completed application can be in MS Word or Open Document Text format (no PDFs please) and emailed to grants@macc.org.uk.

The fund will close to applications at **12 noon on Friday 13 January 2023**.

If you have not received an email acknowledging receipt within two working days of submission please contact 0161 834 9823 at Macc and ask for Oliver Cranfield.

How will we assess your applications?

The grants selection process will involve two panels of five VCSE sector representatives. Each panel is responsible for assessing all applications on a “west” and “east” basis, i.e.

- “West” (Bolton, Bury, Salford, Trafford and Wigan)
- “East” (Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Stockport and Tameside)

Each panel will be responsible for allocating 18 grants totalling £90,000.

When we will tell you the outcome

We will inform all applicants about the outcome of their bid by email no later than Monday 6 February 2023. We will provide brief feedback from the assessment panel to unsuccessful applicants.

If successful, when will you receive the grant?

On receipt of an offer letter from Macc, organisations will need to complete and return an ‘Acceptance of Grant Form’ together with the due diligence information requested (see previous page). Subject to your providing the requested information quickly, we aim to transfer approved funding no later than March 2023.

How long will you have to spend the grant?

You must have fully spent your grant and completed a short monitoring form as soon as possible but no later than 31 October 2023. There can be no extensions.

How will Macc evaluate your project?

We will provide a monitoring form for use at the end of your grant in which you will need to provide the following:

- confirmation of the actual costs that were covered by the grant (*you must keep full records of the expenses funded by this programme although you will not be asked to provide financial records or other evidence of expenditure at this time*)
- 200 word commentary on what your organisation has done during the period the funding was used
- Anonymised 300 word case study about actual people who have been supported by your organisation during the funding period

We are considering an online interim meeting of grant holders later in June 2023 as an opportunity to share learning and experiences of supporting people most affected by the cost of living crisis.

What support is available to applicants?

For general queries about the grants programme, please email grants@macc.org.uk.

Local VCSE sector support organisations can provide free advice on completing a grant application, subject to their capacity, through their usual referral processes.

Contact details are below. If you require assistance, please be sure to contact the relevant organisation as early as possible before the bid deadline.

Bolton phone Bolton CVS on 01204 546010 or email info@boltoncvs.org.uk

Bury email Bury Voluntary Community & Faith Alliance via funding@buryvcfa.org.uk

Manchester phone Macc on 0333 321 3021 or email info@mcrcommunitycentral.org

Oldham phone Action Together on 0161 339 2345 or email funding@actiontogether.org.uk

Rochdale phone Action Together on 0161 339 2345 or email funding@actiontogether.org.uk

Salford phone Salford CVS on 0161 787 7795 or email office@salfordcvs.co.uk

Stockport email Sector 3 on info@sector3sk.org

Tameside phone Action Together on 0161 339 2345 or email funding@actiontogether.org.uk

Trafford phone Thrive on 0330 123 9766 or email info@thrivetrafford.org.uk

Wigan phone Wigan and Leigh Community Charity on 01942 732022 or email enquiries@wlcommunity.org.uk

Background information

Basis for the fund

The cost of living crisis started in 2021. Prices for many essential goods began increasing faster than household incomes, resulting in a fall in real incomes. This was caused in part by a rise in inflation in the UK, the coronavirus, the economic impact of foreign issues such as the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine and Brexit. While all communities are affected by rising prices, it most substantially affects people on low-incomes particularly those already affected by social inequalities.

“VCSE sector income is in decline and many organisations have needed to use their reserves in order to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, whilst simultaneously weathering uncertainty about the long term future of the contracts and grants that enable them to do their vital work. Over time, this will inevitably reduce their ability to bear risk, to respond to demand and to adapt to further change. As has been seen across the country, fundraising has been significantly disrupted and many charitable funders have invested in responses to the pandemic, with longer-term project funding deprioritised. There are significant opportunities and benefits in supporting a thriving local

VCSE sector and equally significant risks of losing much valued and needed activity if no action is taken.”²

A “squeezed middle” within Greater Manchester’s VCSE sector, organisations with turnovers between £50,000 and £250,000 that provide consistent more complex support in their local communities, need greater levels of investment to keep going.

The pandemic is receding and attempts to get back to some new level of normality are underway. However, like the communities it supports the VCSE sector has been hit hard by the cost of living crisis and continuation of vital services locally is threatened. Existing grants opportunities tend to be very small and mostly benefit smaller less-experienced organisations.

The impacts of COVID-19, uncertainties of Brexit, increasing costs of living and the fetter of racial inequalities and discrimination disproportionately affect those communities that struggle the most socially and economically.

About the fund’s partner organisations

Eric Wright Charitable Trust is funding this grants programme. The Trust is the sole owner of the Eric Wright Group, a long-established property and construction company, and works with a broad range of charities, primarily in the North West of England.

<https://www.ericwright.co.uk/charitable-trust/>

Macc is the VCSE sector support organisation for the city of Manchester. We encourage, support and develop VCSE organisations and local people to have a real influence over the places and communities in which they live. <https://macc.org.uk/>

10GM is a joint venture to support the VCSE sector in Greater Manchester. The founding members are [Action Together](#), [Bolton CVS](#), Macc and [Salford CVS](#). We are local infrastructure organisations operating strategically and collaboratively. Our shared purpose is to champion local voluntary and community action and social enterprise across the city-region in order to improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of Greater Manchester’s people and communities.

<http://www.10gm.org.uk/>

Also the VCSE sector support organisations in Bury, Stockport, Trafford and Wigan have strategic relationships with 10GM:

- Bury Voluntary Community & Faith Alliance <http://www.buryvcfa.org.uk/>
- Thrive Trafford <http://www.thrivetrafford.org.uk/>
- Sector 3 (Stockport) <https://www.sector3sk.org/>
- Wigan and Leigh Community Charity <https://wlcommunity.org.uk/>

² [State of the VCSE Sector 2021 Greater Manchester State of the Sector Briefing Note](#) Centre for Social and Health Research, University of Salford, p3