

£4000 Cost of Living Crisis Partnership Grants

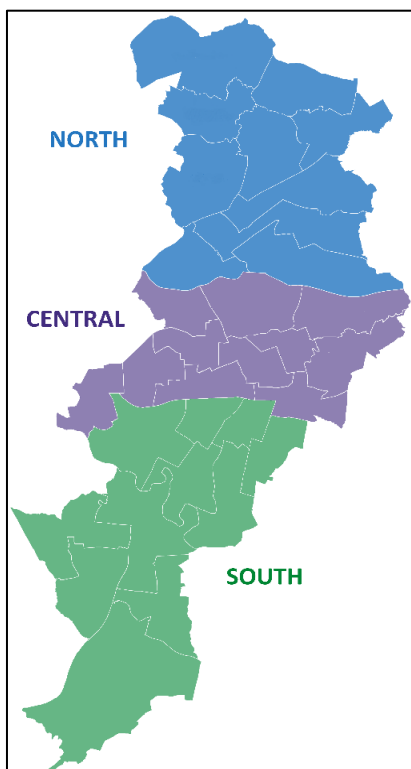
VCSE Covid Recovery Fund

Request for Expressions of Interest

Three £4000 development grants are available, for which we are inviting expressions of interest from established partnerships of mainly voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations that are working to relieve the effect of the cost of living crisis for people in Manchester. There is one £4000 grant each for **north**, **central** and **south** areas of the city, £12,000 in all.

We are inviting expressions from partnerships already delivering anti-poverty measures to people struggling the most during the cost of living crisis. **Unfortunately, newly established partnerships – those that have existed for less than 12 months – are not eligible.**

We want to help sustain, encourage, develop and strengthen partnerships that have a history of successfully working together. This funding seeks to support existing organisational or capacity building costs - **not** new projects, and we want you to tell us what kinds of costs these are.



Please submit an expression form if yours is a partnership that:

- consists of two or more VCSE organisations working together
- has been working together and delivering any kind of cost of living crisis-related activities for at least 12 months (and could provide evidence of this if asked at a later date)
- works somewhere within the north or central or south areas of Manchester city (due to funding limitations monies are available only within those areas, unfortunately there can be no overlap)

We are particularly keen to hear from:

- partnerships led (at least in part) by representatives of marginalised communities supported by the partnership
- culturally relevant and diverse community partnerships serving marginalised communities
- partnerships that include the involvement of smaller-sized VCSE organisations

Using the expression form provided, we need you to tell us about your partnership. This is to help us build a picture of what anti-poverty partnerships there are in north, central and south Manchester. A single VCSE organisation should submit a completed form on behalf of the partnership¹, for which you must have the consent of all member organisations.

Partnerships that can submit an Expression of Interest

Both formal partnerships and informal networks of organisations are encouraged to express interest. A majority of the partnership's members, including the organisation submitting the form, must be VCSE organisations, e.g.:

- Charitable Incorporated Organisations
- Community Benefit Societies

¹ Note: the organisation submitting the form **MUST** be a fully constituted registered VCSE organisation.

- Community Interest Companies (limited by guarantee)
- Registered Charities
- Unincorporated Associations

The partnership must be based and operating to some extent within north, central or south Manchester. Though it need not be operating everywhere in that area. We will not be able to fund activity across areas or outside of the city.

No eligibility restriction is set for the size of individual organisations' incomes or collective partnership incomes. However should there be a large amount of interest in this funding, we will prioritise:

- partnerships led (at least in part) by representatives of marginalised communities that the partnership supports
- culturally appropriate and diverse partnerships serving marginalised communities
- partnerships containing smaller-sized organisations (potentially including those that are not constituted)

Your partnership must already be supporting vulnerable communities of people who are the most affected by social inequalities and 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
- users of foodbanks
- people from Black, Asian and other minoritised ethnicities
- people with chronic long-term health issues including disabled people
- unpaid carers
- people who are long-term unemployed or experiencing insecure employment or worklessness
- older or younger people
- homeless people
- people who are refugees or asylum seekers
- people living in Manchester because of migration
- or any combination of these or other circumstances

These are examples only. The expression of interest form asks you to summarise in your own words typical circumstances of the people you support. We want you to tell us what your partnership does in the chosen area of the city that achieves the best outcomes for the people who are struggling.

What we can fund

This funding aims to help build the capacity or otherwise sustain and strengthen partnership activities to continue and do more good work together.

All funded activity must take place within the north or central or south area of Manchester, though it need not cover the entirety of that area. Once we have reviewed submissions and agreed the process for releasing funding, we will specify a period of 4-6 months in which each £4000 grant must be spent.

We need to know about the kinds of shared partnership costs a £4000 grant could help support. For example, we could fund:

- staffing/expenses
- consumables/overheads

- resources or equipment
- consultancy support
- administration, training, travel, marketing, communications, etc.

Monitoring requirements - at the end of the funded activity, we will ask grant holders to complete a short monitoring form. In it, you will need to confirm what you spent the money on, provide a narrative of what it helped the partnership achieve and how, supported by a case study.

What we cannot fund

Unfortunately, we will not be able to fund:

- new partnerships (i.e. those less than 12-months old)
- costs that can't be incurred within a 4-6 month period
- any activity not based in one area of Manchester (i.e. north or central or south)
- any public or private organisations that may be members of the partnership
- direct payments to clients
- activities that promote a particular religion
- entirely new projects
- political organisations

Queries about the expression of interest process

For general queries about this process, please email Oliver Cranfield at Macc via grants@macc.org.uk.

Submitting your form

Please read this guidance document and the expression form in full before completing it. Email it in Microsoft Word or Open Document Text format (no PDFs please) to grants@macc.org.uk by **12 noon on Thursday 4 July 2024**.

What happens after the expression of interest deadline closes?

Macc will assess the information received and then get in touch with all partnerships that have expressed interest. We will offer the three funding awards to one partnership in each area of Manchester.

Subsequent to standard basic due diligence checks, we aim for chosen partnerships to have received their money by summer 2024. They must spend it by no later than March 2025, though preferably sooner.

Background

Young Manchester and formerly Manchester Health and Care Commissioning provided this funding, which is leftover from the Covid Recovery Fund (CRF) programme they delivered in 2021-2023 with the help of Manchester City Council and One Manchester. CRF supported VCSE organisations to work together to help to strengthen their support to people across the city during the pandemic.

Subsequently, the difficulties of the pandemic turned into the cost of living crisis. The adverse effects of Covid and the cost of living crisis on our communities has increased demand for VCSE services, the maintenance of which has been seriously challenged in the last three-years. CRF reached out across the city and funded VCSE organisations to work together collaboratively.

Now we are using monies remaining from CRF to provide three £4000 grants, one each for north, central and south Manchester, available to existing partnerships operating in those areas. Macc² is running this programme on behalf of the funders.

² <https://macc.org.uk/> Macc is the VCSE sector support organisation for the city of Manchester