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**Covid-19 Response Grants FAQs**

**Updated July 2020**

1. **What will you fund?**

We will fund voluntary or community organisations (registered charities or incorporated social enterprises) in England and Wales who support people in prison, leaving prison, under license in the community, or serving a community sentence, to continue to work in the context of the Covid-19 crisis or to make adaptations for their long-term work that are necessary due to the effects of Covid-19.

This includes (but is not limited to):

* + Activities or services in direct response to needs created by the Covid-19 crisis
	+ Adaptations to activities or services to allow organisations to continue working during the Covid-19 crisis
	+ Resources to allow organisations to make long-term or permanent adaptations to their work to adapt to a ‘new normal’. This could include, but is not limited to, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), electronic or office equipment, and the development of written materials to replace or complement face-to-face work.

Organisations must have existing relationships/referral pathways and previous delivery within the criminal justice system. Services should not duplicate existing services, but can complement them or support users to access them if this is more difficult due to Covid-19.

1. **What does ‘existing relationships’ mean?**

Organisations must have an existing relationship with the relevant prisons/probation services/community services you would be working with. This doesn’t mean you must have a current formal grant or contract, but it does mean that you must have the necessary access and knowledge to be able to provide the service without creating extra workload or requiring an unreasonable amount of resource from them. We recommend that you speak to the relevant services before submitting an application, and we may also wish to speak to them if this is in any doubt.

1. **What won’t you fund?**

We are unable to fund:

* + Organisations who do not hold existing relationships with the relevant prisons/probation services/community services. Services are currently under a great deal of pressure due to the ongoing situation, and do not have the capacity to safely implement new services.
	+ Services that are expected to be provided by Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs). For more information about what CRCs are delivering in the context of Covid-19, check out our [blog on Through the Gate support](https://www.clinks.org/community/blog-posts/through-gate-covid-19-early-release) in the context of Covid-19.

Services for under-18s who are not in custody, and services for families of an individual in the criminal justice system which do not also offer direct support to the individual.

1. **How much is available, and how much can I apply for?**

The total amount available between 25th May - 30th November is £275,000\*. No organisation will be granted more than £20,000, but we expect the average grant size to be £3,000-£5,000. If applying for more than this, we recommend demonstrating what could be delivered if the full grant requested isn’t possible. There is no minimum for applications.

1. **When can I apply?**

 Applications are being accepted immediately, and the deadline for applications is Monday 17th August at 9am. We encourage you to send applications early to allow our panel time to consider all applications over the application period.

1. **Do I have to be a Clinks member?**

**No**, you do not have to be a Clinks member to apply for funding, and membership of Clinks will have no bearing on applications. You should, however, have an up-to-date listing on Clinks’ Directory of Offender Services for the activities supported under this programme. Find out how to do this [here](https://www.clinks.org/how-update-your-directory-offender-services-profile)

1. **I have also applied to run services via the HMPPS/Clinks Third Sector Mobilisation Protocol - am I still eligible?**

**Yes!** We are running both of these programmes simultaneously, and an application for one, whether successful or unsuccessful, will not directly affect the other. If you have been unsuccessful in applying through the Third Sector Mobilisation Protocol, we recommend getting in touch with Clinks before applying to discuss your suitability for this grants programme (see contact details for Emily Giles, Q11).

1. **I have previously applied for this funding, can I apply again?**

If you have previously applied, whether successfully or not, you may submit another application only if:

* + You can demonstrate a clear change in circumstances which affects your proposal, such as a particular establishment easing some restrictions in line with the National Frameworks for Prisons or Probation Services (link), or that different adaptations are necessary due to some change in Covid-19 restrictions or guidelines. Proof of this change in circumstances will be requested in the application form,
	+ OR you are applying to adapt your activities or services to move into the ‘recovery’ phase following the height of the crisis, or to adapt in the long-term to a ‘new normal’,
	+ OR (for successful previous applicants only) you can show positive outcomes for the activities already funded, and are applying to develop this further or deliver more to meet changing circumstances

Organisations which have previously applied and which do not meet one of the three criteria above will not be considered.

1. **Will I need to provide an evaluation of services delivered?**

Yes, Clinks will ask you to complete a short evaluation of services delivered with this grant. This will be provided alongside your grant agreement.

1. **How will decisions be made?**

All eligible applications will be considered anonymously by a panel of Clinks, HMPPS and a philanthropic funder. Applications will be marked against fixed criteria focused on how well the service meets a need, and how feasible it is to deliver within the current crisis. Attention will also be paid to ensuring that grants are allocated to meet the needs of specific groups of service users, in different regions, and to organisations of different sizes.

1. **How can I get support with my application?**

Clinks has appointed a dedicated individual to field enquiries, provide support to applicants, and to manage applications. You can contact Emily Giles at covid19@clinks.org (we aim to respond within 24 hours) or on 02081 442551. We are expecting a high level of interest and enquiries, but if you are unable to get through we will get back to you as soon as possible.

***\*HMPPS has provided £300k for this grants programme. Clinks requires £25k to administer the programme but we are seeking to raise this from elsewhere and if successful we will grant the full £300k to the sector.***