

# CVO East Ayrshire



COUNCIL OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS  
(East Ayrshire) Ltd

## Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund

Guidance for Applicants – November 2021



The Scottish  
Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

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This Guidance can be found on our dedicated webpage  
<http://cvoea.co.uk/communities-health-wellbeing-fund/>

## Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund

### Background

In February 2021, an additional £120million was announced for a Recovery and Renewal Fund to ensure delivery of the commitments set out in the [Mental Health Transition and Recovery Plan](#). This funding has been set up in response to the mental health need arising from the pandemic and is also intended to deliver benefit across the full agenda for mental health and wellbeing in line with the four areas of need set out in the plan.

As part of the Recovery and Renewal Fund, the Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care announced a new Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for adults on 15 October 2021 with £15 million being made available during 2021 - 22.

Building on the focus on wellbeing and prevention in the Mental Health Transition and Recovery Plan, the Fund will provide significant investment into community support for adults. This investment complements the children and young people's community wellbeing supports currently being rolled out across Scotland.

This guidance outlines in more detail what the Fund is about, who can apply and how to do this.

### Fund Outcomes

The intended outcome of the Fund is to develop a culture of mental wellbeing and prevention within local communities and across Scotland with improved awareness of how we can all stay well and help ourselves and others.

The Fund seeks to contribute to the four key areas of focus from the Mental Health Transition and Recovery Plan: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/mental-health-scotlands-transition-recovery/>

- Promoting and supporting the conditions for good mental health and wellbeing at population level.
- Providing accessible signposting to help, advice and support.
- Providing a rapid and easily accessible response to those in distress.
- Ensuring safe, effective treatment and care of people living with mental illness.

The Fund also seeks to contribute to the following national outcomes from the National Performance Framework:

- We are healthy and active.
- We will live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe.
- We tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally.

## Fund aims and priorities

In line with the long-term outcomes for mental health in communities this Fund intends to provide stable investment for:

- Fostering a **strategic and preventative approach** to improving community mental health.
- Supporting the **resilience of communities** and investing in their capacity to develop their own solutions, including through strong local partnerships.
- Tackling the **social determinants of mental health** by targeting resources and collaborating with other initiatives to tackle poverty and inequality.

The overarching aim of the Fund is to support community-based initiatives that promote and develop good mental health and wellbeing and/or mitigate and protect against the impact of distress and mental ill health within the adult population with a particular focus in 2021/22 on:

1. Tackling priority issues within the **Transition and Recovery Plan** such as suicide prevention, social isolation and loneliness, prevention and early intervention.
2. Addressing the mental health **inequalities exacerbated by the pandemic** and the needs of a range of 'at risk' groups<sup>1</sup> locally.
3. Supporting **small 'grass roots' community groups** and organisations to deliver such activities.
4. Providing **opportunities for people to connect** with each other, build trusted relationships and revitalise communities.
5. Supporting **recovery and creativity** locally by building on what is already there what was achieved through the pandemic, and by investing in creative solutions

## Fund Criteria

### Who can apply?

The ambition of this Fund is to support initiatives which promote mental health and wellbeing at a small scale, grass roots, community level. It should be accessible to all groups, no matter how small or inexperienced they are. It can support both new and existing groups or projects. Groups do not need to have mental health and wellbeing as their main focus, but their application does have to clearly demonstrate benefit for the mental wellbeing of people in their community. While we anticipate the majority of applications will come from organisations with a turnover of less than £500,000 per annum we will consider submissions from larger organisations where they can demonstrate their project has a clear focus on East Ayrshire and our priorities.

Applications will be accepted from a range of voluntary, 'not for profit' organisations, associations, groups and clubs or consortiums/partnerships which have a strong community focus for their activities. The range of organisations that can apply are:

<b>Table 1: Large Grants</b>	
<b>Constituted Groups</b>	
▪	Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations (SCIO)
▪	Unincorporated Associations
▪	Companies Limited by Guarantee
▪	Trusts
▪	Not-for-profit company or asset locked company or Community Interest Companies (CIC)
▪	Cooperative and Community Benefit Societies
▪	Community councils

<b>Table 2: Small Grants</b>	
<b>Un-constituted Groups</b>	
These organisations have no formal constitution documents	

CVO East Ayrshire (East Ayrshire TSI) as grant giver would require to be satisfied with arrangements in term of assurance around monitoring and accountability of spend.

### **Type of projects we can support**

The focus of the Fund is on the adult population and on projects which help whole communities and/or community groups, in turn making a difference to the lives of individuals. For the purposes of this fund the adult population is those 16 years of age and over.

As outlined in the fund aims, it should fund community-based initiatives that promote and develop good mental health and wellbeing and/or mitigate and protect against the impact of distress and mental ill health within the adult population

Projects should also have a specific community focus rather than providing regional or national coverage. Therefore, where organisations cover more than one local authority area their application will only be considered in relation to activities within East Ayrshire and must specify what these activities will be.

## What we can fund

Table 3	
We will fund	We cannot fund
Equipment	Contingency costs, loans, endowments, or interest
One- off events	Electricity generation and feed-in tariff payment
Hall hire for community spaces	Political or religious campaigning
Small capital spends up to £10,000 (i.e. Land or building projects – see details here <sup>1</sup> )	Profit-making/fundraising activities
Staff costs (noting this is a 2 year fund therefore one off or fixed term)	VAT you can reclaim
Training cost	Statutory activities
Transport	Overseas travel
Utilities/running costs	Alcohol
Volunteer Expenses	
Helping people to stay safe (PPE for small gatherings/group activity)	

<sup>1</sup>If you are applying for capital funding please make sure you own the land or building, have a lease that can't be ended for five years or have a letter from the owner saying the land or building will be leased to you for at least five years. You should also have an official letter from the owner or landlord stating you are allowed to do work on the building. You should also think about getting planning permission for the work too.

## How much can your organisation apply for

### Un-constituted groups

Un-constituted groups can apply for small grants of between £500 and £2,000. If your group does not have a bank account a larger local organisation will be asked to hold the funding on their behalf.

### All other groups (see table 1)

All other groups can apply for larger grants between £2,000 and £25,000.

## Accompanying Documents

**If you are applying for a large grant, please include the following documents:**

- signed copy of your governing document
- signed copy of your latest accounts or if in your first year an income and expenditure sheet
- most recent bank statement

## Monitoring and evaluation

All project activity and monitoring reports must be completed on a quarterly basis from the date of the funding award.

## Equalities considerations and at-risk groups

Evidence shows that the pandemic has exacerbated existing mental health inequalities and has had a disproportionate impact on the mental wellbeing of a range

of groups in society. We are looking to ensure a focus on initiatives which are inclusive of the following priority 'at risk' groups:

- Woman (particularly young women and women and young women affected by male sexual violence).
- People with long term health condition or disability; people who are or have been on highest risk (previously shielding) list.
- People from Ethnic Minority background; refugees and those with no recourse to public funds; people facing socio-economic disadvantage; people experiencing severe and multiple disadvantage; people with diagnosed mental illness.
- People affected by psychological trauma (including adverse childhood experiences).
- People who have experienced bereavement or loss.
- People disadvantaged by geographical location (particularly remote and rural areas).
- Older people; and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) communities.

## Important Dates

Fund Opens Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021

Submission deadline Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Successful applicants notified of outcome Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022

Awards made by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022

## Application Packs and Information

Application Packs can be downloaded from our website by clicking the following link <http://cvoea.co.uk/communities-health-wellbeing-fund/>

Request a pack by email [wellbeingfund@cvoea.co.uk](mailto:wellbeingfund@cvoea.co.uk)

Hard copies can be collected from Open Doors Community Hub, 11 -1 5 Old Irvine Road, Kilmarnock, KA1 2BD

If you would like any more information please email [wellbeingfund@cvoea.co.uk](mailto:wellbeingfund@cvoea.co.uk)

Or

Register for one of our online information sessions on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021 between 2pm and 3pm and Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021 between 10am and 11am. To register please click on the following link: <https://communitiesmental-health-and-wellbeing-fund.eventbrite.co.uk>

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q1: Can I only submit one application?**

An organisation can apply more than once for different activities – but we are seeking to ensure that awards and spread are proportionate.

### **Q2: Will you consider applications for partnerships?**

We encourage partnership applications – particularly where there is evidence that outcomes will be better because of the partnership approach.

### **Q3: Is there a cap on annual turnover?**

We are seeking applications from organisations with a turnover below £500,000 per annum however, we will consider submissions from larger organisations where they can demonstrate their project has a clear focus on East Ayrshire and our priorities.

### **Q4: When will I know if my group has been successful in applying for funding?**

Deadline for applications is Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022 – as the application form is ‘light touch’ we may occasionally seek further information from the applicant prior to making a funding decision. All applicants will receive confirmation of the outcome of their application by Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022.

### **Q5: Can the fund be used for expanding existing projects, or does the project have to be new?**

This fund can be used for both new projects and the expansion of existing projects however it must be used to provide additionality and not to replace funding which is already in place. You may have more questions – CVO East Ayrshire will endeavour to answer any additional questions you may have.



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Please email your questions to [wellbeingfund@cvoea.co.uk](mailto:wellbeingfund@cvoea.co.uk) or phone 01563 574000 and leave your name and phone number and we will call you back

## East Ayrshire Partners

