

COVID-19 Briefing #57

Accessing new volunteers & #FundAlerts

Short regular briefing from Community Impact Bucks

21st July 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

Are you looking for volunteers to help on existing or new services you have in the pipeline? Below you will find details on how to access a new pool of student volunteers through The University of Buckingham, or alternatively you can get in touch with us to help find the people you need through the Buckinghamshire Volunteer Matching Service – all you need to do is fill in the [volunteer request form](#).

COVID-19 impact survey: many thanks to everyone who has completed our survey; if you haven't taken part in the survey yet, we would really appreciate five minutes of your time to help us understand what difference our information sharing has made to your organisation. To give your feedback, go to [COVID-19 impact survey](#).

COULD YOU BENEFIT FROM INVOLVING STUDENT VOLUNTEERS?

[The University of Buckingham](#) is looking to support its students to get involved in voluntary action. Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, [first and second year medical students volunteered with Buckinghamshire Council's Aylesbury Support Hub](#) to make regular 'check-in' phone calls to local elderly and vulnerable residents who were shielding from COVID-19.

The student population is very diverse, including many international students, and have a broad range of skills and interests that they're developing through their studies which include courses in accounting, economics, education, medicine, psychology, law and computing.

If you have a project or activity that you think could benefit from involving student volunteers, contact [Dean Jones](#). If you would like some support to develop suitable volunteer activities, contact volunteering@communityimpactbucks.org.uk

#FundAlerts

To keep up-to-date with the latest announcements and for support on all aspects of funding, visit our [COVID-19 Funding webpages](#) and our [top ten tips on how to write a successful funding application](#).

Below are five new funding opportunities:

- **Grants for organisations supporting NHS' COVID-19 vulnerable populations:** MSD's UK COVID-19 Grants programme is offering grants up to £20,000 or 20% of the charity's annual turnover (whichever is the lowest amount) to registered charities which support patients, their families or vulnerable populations as listed in the NHS's COVID-19 vulnerable populations list. The closing date for applications is 31st July; for more information, go to [Merck Sharp & Dohme \(MSD\)](#).
- **Funding for COVID-19 community-led organisations:** grants of up to £100,000 are available to community organisations which are facing financial difficulties caused by COVID-19. Opening on 28th July, the COVID-19 Community-Led Organisations Recovery Scheme is aimed at organisations delivering services in their local community to support people who are at high risk from COVID-19, with an emphasis on BAME-led or BAME- supporting business. To find out more about the fund, join the [free webinar](#) on Thursday 23 July (15:30-17:00) and visit [Power to Change](#).
- **Funding for local grassroots organisations responding to the pandemic:** grants of £4,000 for project delivery and £1000 for capacity building is available through Comic Relief's COVID-19 Community Fund to local grassroots organisations responding to the needs of vulnerable individuals, families and communities during the COVID-19 crisis, and to recover from the impact that the crisis has had on their services. Comic Relief is particularly interested in receiving applications from charities that support BAME and LGBTQ communities which have been disproportionately affected. For more information, visit [Comic Relief COVID-19 Community Grant](#).
- **Funding for programmes supporting social change:** Funding of between £150,000 and £600,000 is available for 3-5 year proposals which will make lasting change within the social change themes of homelessness, forced migration, gender justice, mental health, and early childhood development in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Comic Relief's Change Makers funding will cover core costs as well as project delivery costs with proposed work finding new ways of developing new partnerships, advocacy and campaigning work. Pre-application information sessions are being held in July and August with an expression of interest deadline of 28 August. For more information, visit [Comic Relief Change Makers Funding](#).
- **Funding for projects helping vulnerable young people:** funding is available through The 7 Stars Foundation for projects and longer-term running costs which support young people who are challenged by abuse and addiction, those who are young carers, and those without safe homes. For more information, visit [The 7 Stars Foundation](#).

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