

Preparing the club's committee to apply for funding - hints and tips

Overview

Sport England have announced a £195 million package to help sport and physical activity through Coronavirus (Click here for the article). This package consists of:

- A new £20 million Community Emergency Fund, which is open now for local club and community organisations to bid for grants between £300 and £10,000.
- A new £5 million fund for existing Sport England partners facing specific and immediate financial difficulty.
- £55 million put aside to support the sector during an ongoing period of restrictions; to fund new and innovative ways to keep people active and then, when it is over, to help organisations get back to business and adjust to a different environment.
- A £115 million rollover of current funding into 2021/22 to give certainty to over 100 well established partners who play a vital role in the delivery of sport and physical activity in England, and whose current funding agreements with Sport England run out in March 2021.

This guide will support you and your club in accessing the Community emergency fund which aims to deliver immediate funding to those most in need. It's specifically targeted at organisations, including those not currently supported by Sport England, who have a role in supporting the nation to be active but who are experiencing short term financial hardship or the ceasing of operations due to the ongoing crisis.

Who will be funded?

- Local sports clubs
- Voluntary and community sector organisations
- Small charitable trusts
- Regional or county level organisations

What will be funded?

- Rent
- Utility costs
- Insurances
- Facility of equipment hire
- Core staffing costs
- Retrospective losses (from 1st March 2020)

How much can be funded?

Awards between £300 and £10,000, over £10,000 in exceptional circumstances

Practical examples

1. A Taekwondo club pay for their facility (utility bills etc. when no activity is taking place)
2. Support a local Korfbal club who have paid for equipment to run a competition and is now cancelled so will now not receive the money the competitors would have paid
3. Loss of membership from members of a Cricket club who will not be participating in the summer season as planning

Who will not be funded?

- Local authorities
- Schools, colleges or universities
- Commercial sport/physical activity providers
- Leisure operators
- Individuals who are employed or self-employed within the physical activity sector

Who will not be funded?

- Activities or costs which are already covered by other government funding pots
- New activities or events
- Capital works
- Costs beyond July 2020

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Club membership

What advice would you give to club/coaches who are waiting to renew membership to save money?

There are a few different options here for clubs, where possible we would recommend for you to speak to your club members about what they would be willing to pay through the period of closure. Great examples include reduced membership or creative membership packages that include training sessions being delivered virtually.

What is the stimulation fund?

This fund will support community delivery later on in the year, the stimulation fund is a great fit! An additional £55 million to support our sector during an ongoing period of restrictions, to fund new and innovative ways to keep people active and, when the period of restrictions is over, to help organisations get back to business and adjust to a different environment.

Does being vacant invalidate insurance?

The best thing to do would be to contact your insurance provider and see what their policies are with this, particularly at this time. Some have different requirements about how often you need to have visited the facilities as part of the policy.

What if you have a reserve?

That is fine, we recommend that you just need to explain what they are for/why they can't be used at this moment in time.

What will be funded next?

The current fund is around emergency hardship at this time but we are aware there will be a future fund for support to get things going. We are looking at what the options are for how we can support community delivery later on in the year.

What local funding is available?

Our satellite club funding programme is currently open, so contact County Durham sport for more info

If unsuccessful, what next?

This really depends on why the club has been declined. If they purely do not fit the criteria then it would be difficult for them to reapply and with the demand on the fund it may be worth looking into some of the other funding options.

Can you apply for other support?

Yes, clubs that have received other support for example on business rates are still eligible for the emergency hardship fund!

Funding for current projects?

A £115 million rollover of current funding into 2021/22 to give long term certainty to over 100 well established partners who play a vital role in the delivery of sport and physical activity in England.

1. Audience/reach

- Deliver activity in a hard to reach area
- Works with one of the following groups: women and girls, disabled people, lower socio-economic groups, Black, Asian and BAME, LGBT+, older people or those with long term health conditions
- Organisations that are maintaining an element of self-employed workforce not covered by other funding

2. The role you play

Actively delivered/enabled community sport and/or physical activity in the last 12 months and is proactively staying in touch with participants through this period,

3. Financial need

Can demonstrate clear financial need as a result of the current situation.

4. Impact of not receiving funding

Organisation demonstrates the impact of not receiving funding and how this has an impact on the organisations ability to deliver sport and physical activity.

Are applications on a first come first served basis?

Sport England are trying to distribute funding as soon as possible to those that needed, therefore the sooner you can get your application in the better!

When will I be informed?

You will be informed within 10 working days of your submission.

Other support available:

- Business interruption loan scheme
- Job retention scheme
- Income support scheme
- Larger business interruption loan scheme
- Business rates
- Cash grants
- Small business grant funding
- SSP rebate
- Support for businesses paying tax
- VAT deferral
- Deferral of self-assessment payment

Information on these additional schemes can be found at: <https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/coronavirus-business-support/>

Top tips:

- > Your committee is in place to provide leadership and make decisions about the strategic direction of the club. They should be involved in this funding bid.
- > Think about decisions and activities that must take place and those that can be deferred – ensure you are prioritising effectively.
- > Be inventive about which other funding you can access, or how you can think creatively to work through this time through raising funds independently e.g. through fundraising or support from donations.
- > Move quickly, the funding is being managed on a 'first come first served' basis so get the right people together and divide tasks effectively.

How do I apply?

Click here:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ewSqyG8WVUuIQ6rirnYctHeNADy2BaQFLm6jyo6JjhDBUMEFQMUZHTFpGUKIFUzRPMEZHSjdVTEUwRy4u>



Government support available

This tool developed by Sage is helpful for understanding what you could be eligible for:

<http://desktophelp.sage.co.uk/coronavirus-funding/assessment.html>

Business Rates relief—check if you are eligible here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-your-nursery-is-eligible-for-business-rates-relief-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19>

Business support grant funds—check if you are eligible here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-business-support-grant-funding-guidance-for-businesses>

Support for the self-employed

[Claim a grant through the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Self-employment Income Support Scheme](#)

Support for small or medium businesses

[Apply for the coronavirus Future Fund](#)

[Apply for the coronavirus Future Fund](#)

[Apply for the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme](#)

Support for large businesses

Boost Businesses (including CICs), can be directed to the Boost Helpline or Website for support resources.

Have you considered fundraising?

Virgin Money

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/giving/>

Go fund me

<https://www.gofundme.com/>

Tips:

- Define a goal
- Choose a platform
- Tell your story honestly
- Create a strategy for sharing
- Show your donors appreciation

For the latest information on other grants available please follow this link:

<https://www.grantfinder.co.uk/coronavirus>

References:

<https://fundraising.co.uk/2010/04/20/top-ten-tips-writing-funding-bids/>
<https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/our-funds/community-emergency-fund>
<https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/coronavirus-business-support/>

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