



Ministry  
of Defence

# COVID-19 IMPACT PROGRAMME

Emergency funding for frontline  
Forces charities

**Frequently Asked Questions**



Cabinet Office



**THE ARMED FORCES  
COVENANT FUND TRUST**

### **What do you mean by ‘worked extensively with Armed Forces communities’?**

If you are not a full member of Cobseo, or specifically refer to working with people from Armed Forces communities within your constitution, or articles of association, then you must be able to show us that you have previously worked with people from the Armed Forces community in a substantial way. This might mean that you can tell us about significant projects that you have run. You must also be able to show us that you are running services now that fit the other criteria of this programme, and that people from Armed Forces communities are accessing these services.

If we award you a grant, you can only spend this on services to support people from Armed Forces communities.

### **How do we know whether we should apply for over £60,000?**

We expect that most of the grants we award will be for £60,000 or less.

Grants of £125,000 or more will only be made in exceptional circumstances.

Exceptional need would be:

- where you can show there has been a very significant increase in the demand for the service that you offer as a result of Covid-19; or
- where the people you support are *exceptionally vulnerable*, and you have no other resources to enable you to provide support to them.

You will need to tell us in the application form why you have exceptional need and want to apply for more than £60,000.

### **What is the largest amount that you will fund through this programme?**

If you are applying for more than £60,000, then you must explain within your organisation about the significant upscaling of service that you need to provide due to Covid-19; or explain why the people you are supporting are exceptionally vulnerable.

If £125,000 would not meet your needs in providing urgently needed services, and you have no other way of resourcing the urgent service, then you must explain why and tell us how much you need.

### **Can I apply and add the letter from our Chair, Treasurer or Accountant later?**

The letter forms part of your application and would be incomplete without this. Once you have set up your account on the application portal, you can work on a draft of your application, save it and return later. You must not submit your application without your letter.

**We are delivering services in more than one category. Can we apply for a grant in each category?**

You can only apply for one grant for your organisation. You should choose the category that is the strongest fit for the work that you are applying for support with.

**We have applied for funding from another government programme that makes grants to charities impacted by Covid-19. Can we apply to this fund?**

You can apply, but you must tell us about any other funding programmes you have applied to which use public funds (including grants from Lottery distributors) that have been set up specifically to provide emergency help as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

New government grant schemes are being setup and administered quickly in response to the COVID-19 emergency. This has necessitated payments to be made quickly to support businesses, the self-employed and charities. More information will be made available by other funders over the coming weeks and we will consider applications against the information known at the time of decision.

Below is a non-exhaustive list of schemes and circumstances, which could result in duplicate payments being made.

- Support for businesses through the coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.
- Support through the self-employed Income Support Scheme.
- Support for businesses who are paying sick pay to employees.
- Continued payment under existing government funded grant schemes, where staff costs are covered by the grant; and/ or
- Payments made incorrectly by government departments, under any Covid-19 scheme.

You must tell us what you have applied for and outline why this is, in your view, not duplicate funding.

**Could we use the grant to bring a member of staff back from furlough?**

Furloughed staff cannot volunteer for their employer or another business associated or linked with their employer if the aim is to provide services or generate revenue (in most cases, the activity will aim to achieve either or both of these).

If there's a clear role for staff, then they shouldn't be furloughed. The fund cannot be used to bump up a furloughed worker's pay to 100% to put them back to work. They need to be taken off furlough, which is issued in three-week periods, so they would be able to resume work whenever that three-week period ends.

If furloughed staff cannot return to work (e.g. for health reasons) then organisations can backfill a role or recruit additional people, however the easiest approach is likely to be to just take existing staff off furlough where possible.

**Would an application to, or a grant from, the Armed Forces Covenant Fund's Veterans Should Not Be Forgotten programme exclude us from this programme?**

You can still apply to this programme, but you will need to tell us about your application. A grant award under Veterans Should Not be Forgotten will not exclude you from this programme, but the Panel may take into account the other resources that an organisation has if the programme is oversubscribed.

**Why would we need to spend our grant by 31 October 2020?**

The Covid-19 Impact Programme is designed to provide short-term funding for Armed Forces charities that have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. There are particular restrictions on when this funding can be used in line with government expenditure protocols.