

NHSVR Accessibility Grants Scheme

Guidance Notes

Overview

Royal Voluntary Service are one of the delivery partners for the NHS Volunteer Responders programme (NHSVR). NHSVR has been set up by NHS England and NHS Improvement, working with Royal Voluntary Service and the GoodSAM app as part of its response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

A clear focus of the NHSVR programme is reducing the inequalities across ethnic minority communities as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Recent research has shown that many communities have suffered disproportionately, and further actions are needed at a community level as we start to recover from the pandemic.

What is the objective?

It is recognised that local organisations and communities understand best what support is needed in their area. The objective of the accessibility grants programme is to offer funding to local organisations to identify and provide the practical and signposting support needed in the post-pandemic recovery that paves the way for longer-term rebuilding of local community resilience and reducing the inequalities exacerbated by Covid-19.

We are encouraging applications for grants of £10,000 available for charities, CICs and (constituted) not-for-profit organisations of all kinds working at a community scale, to offer six-month projects which meet the criteria outlined below and ensure improved accessibility to service provision for people from ethnic minority backgrounds.

The kinds of initiatives/projects which would we consider funding are:

- Providing practical support for individuals with tasks such as shopping or collecting prescriptions.
- Increasing capacity of local food banks.
- Community Transport
- Social activities/groups which facilitate peer support and help reduce loneliness and isolation.

The above list is not exhaustive, and we welcome applications for any initiatives which address the needs of ethnic minority communities as we start to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Organisations must deliver impact within one of the following local authority areas:

- Brent
- Slough
- Ealing
- Leeds
- Waltham Forest
- Harrow
- Newham
- Hounslow
- Leicester
- Bradford

Eligibility Criteria

Projects should be able to demonstrate how they will fulfil all of the following criteria:

- Initiatives must support the Covid-19 recovery effort at community level within one of the 10 Local Authority areas detailed above.
- Initiatives must ensure improved accessibility to service provision for people from ethnic minority backgrounds.
- Initiatives must be able demonstrate how their offer starts to support the longer-term rebuilding of community resilience and reducing the inequalities exacerbated by Covid-19.
- Projects should have clear and measurable outcomes within a specified timescale.

There will be a requirement for recipients to submit an end of project report which outlines the impact of the grant for beneficiaries.

Funding will not be provided to support:

- Expenditure previously incurred or committed.
- Projects occurring outside the boundaries of project area.
- Activities that do not meet the priorities of local residents.
- Any activity that discriminates on the basis of race, religion or belief, gender, gender reassignment, nationality, disability, age, sex or sexual orientation, marriage or civil partnership.
- Any activities which do not fall within the terms of the Grant and the charitable purposes of Royal Voluntary Service or activities which are political or religious in nature.

If you have any questions on the eligibility criteria or wish to discuss your proposed project with our team, please contact Gillian Clarke or Frances Johnston via

NHSVRgrants@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk.

Please note that this grant scheme is being administered by Royal Voluntary Service and queries should **not** be directed to either GoodSAM or NHS England and NHS Improvement. Royal Voluntary Service reserves the right to withdraw this grant scheme or not to award any grants.

What are the timescales?

Applications must be submitted by 5pm on Friday 30th April 2021, with successful bidders being informed within 3 weeks of the application deadline. Projects must be ready to start by 31st May 2021.