

An aerial, black and white photograph of Bristol, England, showing the city's dense urban landscape and the River Avon winding through it. Two hot air balloons are visible in the sky. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green banner at the bottom containing text.

# **Bristol Impact Fund**

**Small grant funding – 2019-2021**

## **Introduction to the second Bristol Impact Fund (BIF) small grant programme**

### **Background**

BIF was first launched in 2016 and was co-designed by Bristol City Council (BCC) and our Voluntary Community Social Enterprise sector (VCSE) partners. The fund represented a shift in how the Council works with our VCSE sector and co-created a shared view of how to address the needs in our city, to address persistent challenges and to make Bristol a city of hope and aspiration, where everyone can share in its success. For a brief summary of the impact of the first year of BIF funded small grants, please see Appendix 1.

The Bristol Impact Fund was created because we know that disadvantaged people in our city face multiple, complex and often deep seated issues and that disadvantage impacts on individuals, geographic communities and communities of interest.

**Because of the success of the first round of BIF small grants programme Bristol City Council is inviting applications to a second round of grant funding. The total funding available will be £313,020 and grants will run from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019- 31<sup>st</sup> November 2021**

### **How the Bristol Impact Fund works:**

The Bristol Impact fund focuses on addressing **five main challenges** in the city specifically:

- Reducing financial, food and fuel poverty
- Tackling unemployment and underemployment
- Improving access to information, services and opportunities in the city and increasing digital inclusion
- Enabling influence and participation in the community
- Reducing social isolation and improving mental health and wellbeing

By focusing our funding on these challenges the fund aims to contribute to **three impacts**:

- reduced disadvantage and inequality
- Improved health and wellbeing
- Increased resilience

The Bristol Impact Fund prioritises VCS organisations that will work to make a difference locally and create the impacts using BIF's **four ways of working**:

- Giving the right help at the right time.
- Helping people to help themselves and each other.
- Building on the strengths of people and communities.
- Connecting people and organisations within and across communities.

For some people in Bristol



who are facing disadvantage:

Individuals    Geographic communities    Communities of interest

we are focusing on these Key Challenges



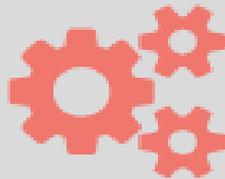
Reducing financial, food & fuel poverty  
Tackling unemployment & underemployment  
Improving access to information, services and opportunities in the city and increasing digital inclusion  
Enabling influence & participation in the community  
Reducing social isolation and improving mental health and wellbeing

and we ask VCS Organisations



To use their skills, experience and focus and to work sustainably

to make a difference & create change by



Giving the right help at the right time  
Helping people to help themselves and each other  
Building on the strengths of people and communities  
Connecting people and organisations within and across communities

that will deliver these Impacts



- Reduced disadvantage & inequality
- Improved health & wellbeing
- Increased resilience (people's ability to manage)

For more information about the Bristol Impact Fund and the 5 challenges please read the [VCS Grant prospectus](#)

## What are we funding?

**New projects:** This new round of Small Grant funding is open to organisations to apply for a two year grant of between £2,500 - £10,000 per annum.

Or

**Previous recipients of a BIF small grant:** Organisations and projects which were funded in the 2017-2019 BIF Small Grants round can apply either **for a significantly different/new project** or **for one further year of funding for their original BIF Small Grant project**. To be considered for a further one year of funding projects must show a clear, strong case that an extra year's funding will make their project sustainable.

BIF will continue to focus its funding on projects that work to meet its 5 challenges, creating change using our ways of working (see above).

The Bristol Impact Fund will also continue to focus funding on equalities communities and geographical communities that are disproportionately affected by disadvantage (see the [VCS Grant prospectus](#) for more details).

We would in particular encourage applications from organisations and groups with proposal for projects in South Bristol (Filwood, Hartcliffe and Withywood wards) as the 2017-2019 grants round delivered smaller benefits for people living in those wards.

**How to apply for a Small grant:** Applying for a small grant is a three-step process.

**Step 1** - Applicants fill in a short expression of interest form giving basic contact details, and confirming that they meet our basic eligibility criteria (One side of A4).

**Step 2** - Applicants will attend a 15 minute session to share their idea or proposal with a small, diverse panel. They can decide how to share their idea using a verbal or visual presentation, maybe a film, a round-table discussion or whatever suits them best.

**Step 3** - Applicants selected to go through to Step 3 may receive support from Voscur to complete a short application form confirming their proposals and an outline budget for the two years.

Assessment outline	Criteria
<b>Step 1</b>	
Simple Expression of Interest Form	Is the applicant organisation eligible to apply for grant <b>Yes or No</b>
<b>Step 2</b>	
Discussion Session (based on the questions in our Impact Model)	<b>Will the proposal address at least one of our key challenges?</b> <b>Will the organisation be able to adopt our 'Ways of Working'?</b> <b>Is there evidence that the proposal will work?</b> <b>Will the proposal positively contribute to our three impacts for people facing disadvantage?</b>
<b>Step 3</b>	
Application Form	<b>Does the proposal appear to offer value for money?</b> (degree of benefit, number of people who will benefit, cost of proposal) <b>How well does the proposal complement existing provision and policy direction?</b>

## Who is eligible to apply?

BIF small grants are available to organisations in the VCSE sector. The sector includes voluntary and community organisations, charities and not-for-profit companies.

We will prioritise local organisations (organisations which are registered in Bristol and have at least three trustees or directors who are Bristol residents) but we will consider applications from non-local organisations which meet all the criteria above and which bring specialist expertise to the city.

To be eligible to apply for grants from the Bristol Impact Fund organisations must already be based in or delivering services in Bristol and:

- Be non-governmental
- Be constituted
- Have a set of objectives that allows them to undertake the activities they are proposing
- Be value driven, for the social good
- Be no-party political
- Have at least three trustees or directors (who are not related to each other and are not paid shareholders)
- Reinvest any financial surpluses to further social, environmental and/or cultural objectives that bring a significant community benefit to Bristol
- Not distribute any of their surpluses or assets through share dividends to individuals or shareholders
- Have a bank account in the organisations name

- A registered charity
- A community Interest Company limited by guarantee
- A community interest company limited by share (schedule 2 with 100% asset lock only)
- A company limited by guarantee
- A community benefit company registered as an Industrial and Provident Society
- A Charitable Incorporated Organisation
- We will accept application from unincorporated organisations. However any organisation that is awarded a Bristol Impact Fund grant and is not incorporated will be strongly encouraged and supported to become incorporated in order to protect the trustees/directors.

## How do we get application forms?

All the application forms for each of the 3 Steps are published on our webpage at the following link:

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/impactfund>

## **Additional information for applicants**

### **Baseline Standards**

In addition to meeting the above criteria applicants will need to demonstrate how they meet the council's [baseline standards](#).

The purpose of these is to ensure that all grant funded organisations are well managed and provide good quality services. It is important that Baseline Standards are seen as central to a healthy and sustainable organisation.

Organisations will need to be able to demonstrate that the policies and procedures required are an 'active' part of the governance and running of the organisation and are reviewed regularly.

The BCC Baseline Standards cover governance, financial management, equalities, employment, insurance, service-user participation, complaints, information sharing, health, safety and wellbeing, safeguarding, monitoring& evaluation, environmental management and sustainability.

We may award funding to organisations without all baseline standards being met. However, we will do this on the basis of agreed targets for the organisation to develop these areas of practice.

### **Support available for organisations applying for grants**

Application guidance notes and application support will be available from [Voscur](#).

### **Briefing events**

If you wish to find out more before submitting your application we will be holding two briefing sessions

#### **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July – 17:30 – 19:00 @ City Hall**

To book tickets click here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bristol-impact-fund-small-grants-tickets-63765961708>

#### **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July – 16:00- 17:30 @ Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership**

To book tickets click here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bristol-impact-fund-small-grants-tickets-63765961708>

## Appendix 1:

### The Impact so far.

The first round of Bristol Impact Fund ran in 2017 and made **£313,020** available for small grants, offered for a 2 year period (July 2017 – June 2019) in sums of £2,500 - £10,000.

Twenty Small Grants were awarded to organisations working with equalities communities who experience discrimination as well as 'excluded communities' and Bristol's most deprived communities. Reports received from funded grant projects for the first year of delivery illustrated that outcomes contributed well to tackling the 5 BIF challenges. In total, 4,253 residents in the city experienced a benefit against one or more of the 5 BIF challenges, and the majority of funding successfully reached citizens from our most deprived communities and equalities groups.

Beyond that BIF funded small grant projects added a tremendous amount of added value to the delivery of the projects with the help of 64 regular volunteers and leveraging in an extra £209,000.

