



Application information and guidance – please read before applying

Voice and Influence Partnership (VIP) BME Community Fund

The second round of the Voice and Influence Partnership BME Community Fund is now open for applications from Bristol based projects, community groups or individuals working with Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities in the city.

Six individual grants of £500 are available to help address the needs and issues affecting the communities you work with.

We have kept the requirements and application process simple so that applying is quick and easy.

You just need to be able to explain what you plan to do with your grant, how it will benefit the people you work with, and provide some evidence so we can be confident you will be able to do what you have said you will.

You can use the money for a one-off piece of work, as part funding for a new project, or to help support work you are already doing.

The deadline for applications is 9 am Monday 25 January 2021.

You need to be able to meet the following criteria to apply:

- Your project or group needs to work with or support one or more BME community and be based in Bristol.
- The Voice and Influence Partnership supports people aged 18+ so your proposal should be one that works with or supports people in this age group. We are not able to fund projects that are mainly for ages 17 and younger.
- You do not need to be a constituted or formally registered with Companies House to apply.
- You do need to be able to show us evidence that your project exists, what work/events/activities it has undertaken and who the project/group is aimed at.
- You will need to have either completed the proposed work/spent your grant on what was agreed, or be able to evidence that you have started the funded work by Monday 10 May 2021.

Below are some examples of why you might want to apply to the fund, your application doesn't need to directly relate to any of them – as long as you feel you have a good reason to apply you can put in an application.

Examples of why you might apply

- You have identified a need in your community and wish to start a new service or develop an existing one and the grant will help you do this.
- Due to COVID-19 your group has lost funding or needs some extra funding to help you continue to provide a service to your community.
- You needed to change the way you work, for example moving activities or services online. Or you have identified a piece of equipment or technology that will make a difference to the work you do or the number of people you could reach.
- You have an idea you feel will benefit your community and the grant will help you develop this idea.

How to apply

You can apply by completing our [simple online application form](#), or by filling in and sending back a paper or electronic application form either by post or email.

If you do not have a copy of the application form you can download one from www.voiceandinfluence.org.uk or contact us to request one using the contact details at the end of this document.

We recommend reading the application form all the way through before filling it in. We are only able to accept completed forms.

If you need information in a different format, need support in completing the application form, or have any questions please contact us using the details at the end of this document.

We will let you know if your application is successful by Friday 5 February 2021. If you are not successful and would like feedback please contact us and we can provide this.

If you are successful and are awarded a grant

- We will contact you to arrange a meeting to discuss how we can support your work. We will explain what we will need from you as well as any reporting and forms we may need you to complete.
- You will be asked to sign a Grant Funding Agreement and we will then be able to transfer the funds to you.
- We will check in with you regularly during the period your grant covers to see how things are going and to provide support for you and help promote the work you are doing where possible.
- We will also talk to you about how to promote The Voice and Influence Partnership and our work, where appropriate, as part of the funding.

What we would like from you at the end of the project;

- A short statement about the impact of the grant funding – this could include what you were able to achieve, how many activities or individuals you were able to help/support, what the outcomes/impact of the work was for your community.
- A case study highlighting the impact of the funding – this can be written, filmed or a voice recording.
- We will arrange an end of funding meeting to talk about how the project went. We will also talk to you about any future plans you may have to develop your group or activities that have been inspired as a result the project or activity.

Deadlines

- Applications open on: **Monday 21 December 2020.**
- Application deadline: **9am Monday 25 January 2021.**
- Successful applicants will be notified: **by Friday 5 February 2021.**
- Grant awards will be distributed by: the **end of February 2021.**
- You will need to have either completed the proposed work/spent your grant on what was agreed, or be able to evidence that you have started the funded work by **Monday 10 May 2021.**

Apply by

- [Completing our simple online application form.](#)
- Filling in and sending back a paper or electronic application form either by post or email using the details below.

If you do not have a copy of the application form you can download one from www.voiceandinfluence.org.uk or contact us to request one.

Contact details

Please use these to submit your application if you are not using the online form, or to get in touch if you have any questions.

Email: VIPadmin@thecareforum.org.uk

Phone: 0756 8235 598

Post: VIP BME Community Fund, The Care Forum, The Vassall Centre, Gill Avenue, Fishponds, Bristol, BS16 2QQ

About the Voice and Influence Partnership

The [Voice and Influence Partnership](#) is made up of leading equalities organisations and community champions from across Bristol. We work together to make sure our diverse communities are part of local decision making.

The partnership is for people who are: from a black, Asian or minority ethnic group, disabled, a member of a faith group, LGBTQ+ or over 55.

The Partnership is made up of Lead Partner [The Care Forum](#). Delivery Partners [The Ammerdown Centre](#), [Bristol Older People's Forum](#), [OTR Freedom](#) and [WECIL](#). Advisory Partners [Centre for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People](#), [SARI](#) and [VOSCUR](#). The partnership is funded by Bristol City Council.

You can find out more about the Partnership by visiting our webpage www.voiceandinfluence.org.uk