**Section A: Funding Guidance**

**A.1 Fund Purpose, Beneficiaries and Priorities**

**A.1.1 Purpose**

Contribute to:

* improved mental health and wellbeing
* reduction in mental health inequalities
* reduction in mental health inequalities caused by the cost-of-living crisis
* reduction in stigma around mental health and illness

for “at risk” groups in North Lanarkshire through community-based support provided by the community and voluntary sector (CVS).

**A.1.2 Beneficiary (“at risk”) Groups**

Projects supported through this fund must benefit people over the age of 16 living in North Lanarkshire in one or more of the following “at risk” groups.

* Women (including women experiencing gender-based violence)
* People with a long-term health condition or disability
* People from a Minority Ethnic background
* Refugees and those with no recourse to public funds
* People facing socio-economic disadvantage
* People experiencing severe and multiple disadvantage
* People with diagnosed mental illness
* People affected by psychological trauma (including adverse childhood experiences)
* People who have experienced bereavement or loss
* People disadvantaged by geographical location (particularly remote and rural areas)
* Older people
* People with neurological conditions or learning difficulties, and from neurodiverse communities
* Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ+) communities

**A.1.3 Priority Activities**

**A.1.3.1** Promoting and supporting the social, economic, and environmental conditions for good mental health and wellbeing which also help to reduce the risk of mental health problems. For example:

* activities which support development of supportive and trusted relationships; improve social inclusion and connection; reduce isolation and loneliness
* healthy living support such as:
  + Environmental supports such as access to leisure services and green spaces
  + Physical supports such as housing, physical health supports and supports for financial security
  + Cultural supports
  + Occupational supports such as employment advice
  + Intellectual supports such as training and developmental supports

**A.1.3.2** Providing accessible signposting to help, advice and support on mental health.

**A.1.3.3** Providing rapid and easily accessible support to those in distress, including people:

* who are bereaved
* who are at risk of suicide or self-harm through use of non-clinical supports

**A.1.3.4** Providing support to people living with mental illness to improve quality of life and support recovery.

**A.1.3.5** Supporting increased public awareness and understanding of mental health and illness, including protective and risk factors; sources of support.

**A.1.4 Community Solutions Programme Outcomes**

Projects supported through this fund must support one or more of the Community Solutions programme outcomes, these include:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Group** | **No.** | **Outcome** |
| Adults | 1 | People feel more connected, included and safe |
| 2 | Improved health and wellbeing |
| 3 | People feel more informed and aware |
| Carers | 4 | Carers feel more informed and aware |
| 5 | Carers health and wellbeing are improved |
| 6 | Carers are more able to have a life outside of caring |
| Children, Young People & Families | 7 | Health and wellbeing improved |
| 8 | Family relationships are strengthened |
| 9 | Children, young people and families become more resilient |

**A.2 Applicant Guidance**

**A.2.1** **Who Can Apply**

Any community and voluntary organisation serving the people of North Lanarkshire can apply for this fund as long as they demonstrate in their application how their project would comply with the purpose, beneficiaries and priorities of the fund.

Multiple organisations can collaboratively apply for funding in one application however the maximum amount of funding for this application will remain £50,000.

Organisations can apply for funding for one or more projects, with a separate application for each project. However, given the high number of applicants to this fund, only one project can be approved for funding per organisation.

**A. 2.2 Types of organisations that can apply for this fund:**

* Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations (SCIO)
* Unincorporated Associations
* Companies Limited by Guarantee
* Trusts
* Not-for-profit company or asset locked company or Community Interest Companies (CIC)
* Cooperative and Community Benefit Societies
* Community councils

**A.2.3 Multiple Applications**

Where an organisation is making multiple applications, please note that they should be coordinated, and organisations should prioritise which one they would prefer funding for.

**A.2.4 Funding Options for Applicants**

In Phase 4 of the Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund, there are three separate but complementary funding streams. Individual supporting guidance for each of these streams can be found on the [Community Solutions website.](https://www.communitysolutionsnl.org.uk/applications-and-guidance/)

**A.2.4.1 Existing Projects (Application A.)**

Projects which are currently in receipt of funding from Phase 3 of the Fund (that is being delivered during 2024/5) can apply for a total of £10k - £50k for one or both of the following.

* Continue their currently funded project beyond its previously agreed end date, with proposed activities delivered between six and twelve months between **1st April 2025 and March 31st, 2026**.

and/or

* + Change/develop their project’s work as a result of learning and/or relevant stakeholder feedback. Activities will be delivered for between six and twelve months between **1st April 2025 and March 31st, 2026**.

This also applies to projects which were funded in Phase 1 or 2 which organisations wish to request funding for under the two above options.

**A.2.4.2 New Projects (Application B.)**

CVS organisations can apply for a new project which has not received funding from this fund in either Phases 1, 2 or 3, with a cost of between £10k-50k.

New projects can run for between six and twelve months, delivered between **1st April 2025 and March 31st 2026**.

**A.2.4.3 Under Represented Groups (Application C.)**

CVS organisations can apply for between £10k-50k to deliver capacity building, engagement work or direct service delivery to improve mental health support for one or more of the following groups:

* + Additional Support Needs (ASN),
  + Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic (BAME)
  + Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer + (LGBTQ+)
  + Refugees with no recourse to public funds
  + Women (particularly young women and women of all ages affected by domestic abuse)

Applicants who wish to apply for the under-represented funding stream should show evidence of prior engagement with one or more of these groups. Applications should cater to the specific needs of the groups and an understanding should be well evidenced.

These projects can run for between six and twelve months, delivered between **1st April 2025 and March 31st 2026**.

**A.2.5 Eligible Expenditure**

* You can apply for funding to cover the following types of expenditure:
* staff and volunteer costs, including pay, training and travel expenses
* office costs
* equipment and safety provision
* events
* capital spend of up to £5,000
* You cannot apply for funding to cover expenditure on the following:
  + alcohol
  + contingency costs, loans, endowments or interest
  + electricity generation and feed-in tariff payment
  + political or religious campaigning
  + profit-making/fundraising activities
  + any Value Added Tax (VAT) reclaimable by the Grantee
  + statutory activities
  + overseas travel.
* The Fund must not be seen as a way to replace other funding streams. Granting funds to projects previously funded through statutory bodies is at the discretion of the funding panel, however projects must demonstrate value added relative to statutory provision. This will allow projects that meet the fund’s objectives to be considered, but only granted funding if they can demonstrate clear additionality.

**A.2.6 Fair Work Requirements**

Applicants must:

* pay the [real living wage](https://www.livingwage.org.uk/what-real-living-wage) to all staff they employ and any sub-contractors they use
* state their commitment to other Fair Work practices and that provide information about current or planned measures to support these (for more information see the [Scottish Government’s Fair Work First Guidance](https://www.gov.scot/publications/fair-work-first-guidance-2/pages/2/))

**A.2.7 Funding Application**

* Organisations must apply using the fund’s [application forms available online here.](https://www.communitysolutionsnl.org.uk/applications-and-guidance/) There are separate forms for the three funding streams described above so please ensure that you submit the correct form.

**A.2.8 Word Count**

It is important to note that if you do not include a sufficient word count, you will likely get scored down. Likewise, if you exceed the word count by too much, then the purpose of the application may be lost.

**A.2.9 Sustainability**

Applications should demonstrate sustainability beyond their requested funding.

Examples of sustainability can include:

* Adding charges to services
* Encouraging donations
* Negotiating with statutory partners for mainstream funding using the impact of the initial project
* Securing sponsorship

If you have any queries regarding your application, please contact Gordon Watson on [gordon.watson@vanl.co.uk](mailto:gordon.watson@vanl.co.uk) or Marta Szczepanska on [marta.szczepanska@vanl.co.uk](mailto:marta.szczepanska@vanl.co.uk) at Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire (VANL)

Please submit your application to [cmhw@vanl.co.uk](mailto:cmhw@vanl.co.uk). **Applications may be submitted at any time before 5pm on Friday 15th November 2024. No applications can be accepted after this point.**

Applicants will receive an auto-response email confirming receipt of their application. If you don’t receive this, please contact [marta.szczepanska@vanl.co.uk](mailto:marta.szczepanska@vanl.co.uk) immediately.

**A.2.10 Assessment and Decision**

An Assessment Panel involving representatives from NHS Lanarkshire; North Lanarkshire Council; the community voluntary sector (CVS), specifically members of the NL mental health and wellbeing network, and VANL will assess all applications and agree the projects to be awarded funding. You will be advised of the outcome in early February 2025, with funding award letters and payments issued to successful applicants by March 31st 2025.

**If you don’t receive this information by the dates above, please contact gordon.watson@vanl.co.uk.**

**A.2.11 Evaluation and Reporting Requirements for Successful Applicants**

A.2.11.1 Successful applicants will be provided with guidance and support to evaluate and report on their project’s progress, successes, challenges and learning through a 3 month check in, mid- point and at the end of the project. These requirements will be proportionate to the funding amount received.

A.2.11.2 It is important that evaluation and learning is undertaken and shared to help our sector evidence our contribution to community mental health and wellbeing and improve our sector’s capacity to contribute more in the future and secure further funding more readily. VANL will be actively supporting learning with funded projects and the wider North Lanarkshire CVS. VANL will also participate in a national network to share our learning and share learning from others beyond North Lanarkshire.

A.2.11.3 Please find below links for the resources listed in question 2.5.5:

The following resources can be used by funded projects to support the evaluation of their project.

**Service Users Feedback Survey**

Funded projects can give the Service Users Feedback Survey to service users to gather feedback about the support they received. The feedback from this survey will support funded projects to complete their evaluation forms returned to VANL. The survey is available as a word document or as a JotForm link. VANL will summarise responses to the Jotform link and share the feedback with each project.

* [Service Users' Feedback Survey (Word Copy)](https://www.communitysolutionsnl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Service-Users-Feedback-Survey-for-Funded-Projects.docx)
* [Service Users' Feedback Survey (Online Survey)](https://form.jotform.com/232543369589066)

**Guidance for Funded Projects**

VANL provides guidance on preparing case studies and personal stories which can be shared with VANL via evaluation forms.

* [Guidance for Funded Projects on Preparing Case Studies](https://www.communitysolutionsnl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/VANL-Guidance-for-Funded-Projects-on-Preparing-Case-Studies.docx)
* [Guidance for Funded Projects on Preparing Personal Stories](https://www.communitysolutionsnl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/VANL-Guidance-for-Funded-Projects-on-Preparing-Personal-Stories.docx)

**Section B: Background**

B.1.This funding is provided by the Scottish Government as part of its [Mental Health Transition and Recovery Plan.](https://www.gov.scot/publications/mental-health-scotlands-transition-recovery/) through [Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire](http://www.voluntaryactionnorthlanarkshire.org/) (VANL), supported by our [Health and Social Care North Lanarkshire’s](https://hscnl.org.uk/) successful and respected partnership [Community Solutions Programme](https://www.communitysolutionsnl.org.uk/), which is hosted by VANL.

B.1.2 The total funding for Phase 4 of the CMHWB Fund in North Lanarkshire is £955,000 which must be awarded to North Lanarkshire Community and Voluntary Sector (NL CVS) organisations by the end of March 2025. Our funding is part of a larger national fund which is being distributed across Scotland through our sister “Third Sector Interfaces” in each of the 32 local authority areas.

B.1.3 This funding complements separate, additional funding awarded to local councils by the Scottish Govt. to support children and young people’s mental health and wellbeing across Scotland, including in North Lanarkshire. In 2023-4, VANL is also managing distribution of a further £449,649 to the NL CVS to support children and young people’s mental health, building on previous phases which saw £465,000 distributed. You can find out more about this fund [here](https://www.communitysolutionsnl.org.uk/children-young-people-families-phase-4/).

(Document ends)