

# Comic Relief Community Support Programme

Funded by ...



The *elle*  
Community  
Foundation

Connecting people who care  
with causes that matter

# Purpose of Session

1. Provide Information on Background to the Programme
2. Expand on Focus Areas which are open for applications
3. Expand on Additional Requirements/Criteria in this Grant Plus Programme
4. Provide additional information as to what would be required in the application form
5. Introduce the Programme's Support Organisation
6. Provide Opportunities for Questions/Clarifications
7. Ultimately for CFNI to receive high quality applications that #No-OneLeftBehind - #BuildsBackBetter and #ShiftsThePower

# Background to the Programme

- Comic Relief and Children in Need Big Night In – Friday 23rd April
- Money Raised added to by Department Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
- CFNI as Comic Relief Intermediary Funder in Northern Ireland awarded £800,000 – New Needs Fund and Community Support Programme
- CFNI re-aligned current Comic Relief Programme into Community Support Programme
- Fund of circa £700,000 for the Community Support Programme
- Mixture of open call and solicited/targeted approaches.



# Focus Areas for Applications

Context – all need to align to Comic Relief 4 Strategic Areas

1. Children Surviving and Thriving
2. Global Mental Health Matters:
3. Fighting for Gender Justice
4. Safe Place To Be

# Focus Areas for Applications – Community Based Responses

**Child Food Poverty:** Healthy nutrition that plays a part in providing good health contributing to enhanced early years development – Focus on pre-school and primary school children. We want to support community based responses to this issue that have the potential to be built upon longer term. One-off responses are unlikely to be supported. (open)

**Child Digital Poverty:** The digital divide will further increase educational inequalities, limiting the potential of children to maximise their skills and talents. We want to support community based responses that will reduce these inequalities in a way where resources can be shared both within a home and/or a wider community setting. Preference will be towards applications that can demonstrate both a home and wider community setting and benefit (open)

**Gender Based Domestic Violence:** It is well documented that increased incidents of domestic violence against women and men has been evident during lockdown. The Programme seeks to support community based responses to domestic violence across genders, ethnicity, sexual orientation and age and which take account of all forms of abuse whether physical, sexual, financial, emotional, coercive, digital or honour based. We want to support women, men and children in their respective recovery journeys in a way that builds confidence, safety, security resilience, self-worth and value. (open/targeted)

# Focus Areas for Applications – Community Based Responses

**Taking Care of Returning Back to School:** The return to school will be different this year and areas that need to be taken into account include many of the issues detailed in the following linked document:

<https://www.seainclusion.co.uk/post/the-many-problems-of-returning-to-school>

The Programme seeks to support community based responses that assist in this return to school experience in a way that supports children, parents/guardians and staff to rebuild relationships which provides the best educational environment and experience for children. *Please note that schools are not eligible to apply but can be involved as partners in a project led by a local community/voluntary sector organisation* (open/targeted)

**Responding to Loss and Grief:** Common to all communities in Northern Ireland throughout COVID 19 has been the inability to support people to grieve the loss of a loved one. As restrictions ease the Programme would like to support actions that provide opportunities for communities to come together to acknowledge the loss and grief experienced by all within the community which may or may not be directly as a result of Covid-19 (open)

# Focus Areas for Applications – Community Based Responses

**LGBTQ+ Community:** The Programme seeks to support community based responses that initially identify the inequalities that have been compounded by the crisis and initiate actions that seek to actively address these issues for the LGBTQ+ community in NI (open)

**Refugees and Asylum Seekers:** As one of the most vulnerable and potentially invisible sectors in our community the impact of Covid-19 in terms of being able to avail of face to face support, access to digital technology, food and services has further added to this vulnerability, invisibility and inequality. The Programme seeks to support communities in supporting refugees and asylum seekers tackle these issues so that they can play a part in building a Northern Ireland that is more welcoming, caring and inclusive. (open/targeted)

# Focus Areas for Applications – Community Based Responses

**Racism – Community Based Responses:** The Programme seeks to support community based responses that seek to address issues of prejudice, hatred and bigotry fuelled by racism in a way which develops respect, inclusion, understanding and harnesses the potential of community diversity to build a new society. (open/targeted)

**Racism – Supporting Structural Change:** The Foundation acknowledges our role in leading by example, exploring our role in tackling racism and seeks to work with a number of organisations who wish to be involved in this work. The aim of this part of the Community Support Programme is to leave a legacy which sees a shift in fundamental structures across the charity sector, where our sector, leaders and decision-makers reflect the communities that we work with. This aspect of the Community Support Programme will be managed by the Foundation. If interested contact [mhughes@communityfoundationni.org](mailto:mhughes@communityfoundationni.org)



# Who can apply?

- Constituted organisations with charitable purposes operating within Northern Ireland
- Organisations whose income is £500,000 or below. Please note that should the Programme be oversubscribed preference for support will be given to organisations with an income level of £250,000 or below.
- Priority will be for activities and programmes delivered on the ground which **MUST** make up at least 50% of the grant being requested.
- Organisations supported must factor in the NI Executive Pathway to Recovery plan and updated guidance that is given. The Foundation acknowledges that future proofing the project with Covid-19 lens will be challenging but groups are asked to consider this when putting together the application

# Additional Requirements/Criteria

All successful applicants will be required to commit to engaging in a wider Programme of learning, reflection and evaluation which will include the following:

- Two peer learning/reflection events with other organisations who have been funded under the particular theme (this could be either via zoom or if circumstances permit via face to face meeting)
- Working with the support organisation to draw out impact and learning from the programme supported that contributes to Practice to Policy documents
- Host if selected a good practice – Seeing is Believing event for Foundation trustees and/or other Programme grantees
- Profiling the support from Comic Relief and the Foundation in highlighting the work the group has undertaken with the grant as part of Red Nose Day 2021
- Participating in a final Programme learning and celebration event

# Additional Requirements/Criteria

- Grant awards of between £5,000 and £20,000 are available. Applicants should note the following:
- **Closing date for applications:** 1.00pm Friday 18th September
- Two thirds of the grant awarded **MUST** be spent and verified by 31st March 2021 (applicable only to awards over £10,000)
- Project **MUST** be completed within 12 months of the date of issue of the Grant Aid Agreement by the Foundation
- Operational costs to assist in the delivery costs may include contribution to salaries, small capital items and general running costs

We will prioritise:

- Initiatives that involve and empower those with lived experience #ShiftThePower
- Initiatives that involve locally based community organisations
- Initiatives that have a clear social impact
- Organisations who have fewer live grants, ie: less than four live grants (with the Community Foundation), at any one time



# Grant Plus Approach

As part of the Foundation's commitment to a Grant Plus process, This Comic Relief Programme will offer pre application support via webinars and for grantees wider programmatic support which will focus on impact, shared learning, story-telling and policy influence.

# What the application form requires – specific to the Comic Relief Community Support Programme

Detail the project: (maximum of 300 words)

Indicate what theme or themes will your project address: Table of the themes group asked to tick one or more boxes

Detail how the project will address the theme(s) indicated (maximum of 200 words)

Detail how the group has involved those with the lived experience of the issues to be addressed in the design of this project (maximum of 200 words)

How will the project make a contribution to your community being more inclusive and equitable? (maximum of 200 words)

Please detail how the group will ensure that there will be equality of access to and benefit from the work across religious and political beliefs in your community. (maximum of 200 words)

# Purpose of the session

- Introduce the Programmes Support Organisation  
JMS Consulting & BM Kent Consulting
- Questions/Clarifications
- Additional Queries and/or Clarifications can be emailed to  
**[mhughes@communityfoundationni.org](mailto:mhughes@communityfoundationni.org)**