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**Voice and Influence Partnership (VIP) Faith Community Fund**

**Application Information and Guidance**

We are pleased to announce the new funding from the Voice and Influence Partnership (VIP) Faith Community Fund. It is available to Bristol based faith focussed community groups.

Four individual grants of £250 and four individual grants of £500 are available to be used to help address needs and issues that are currently impacting or affecting the communities you work with. This could be through a one-off piece of work, be part funding for a new project, or to support work you are already undertaking. Please note, the £250 grants may be applied for by one faith community; the £500 grants can only be applied for by two or more faith communities working together.

Applications open on Monday 23 November 2020 and you need to have submitted your application by the closing deadline 5pm Monday 11 January 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

 Your group has lost funding or has a shortfall and a grant will help you continue to provide a service to your community.

 Due to COVID-19 you needed to change the way you work, for example moving activities or services online.

 You have identified a need in your community and wish to start a new service or activity and the grant will help you meet this.

 You have an idea you feel will benefit your community and the grant will help you develop this idea.

**Before you apply please read the criteria below.**

 Your project or group must serve one or more faith community and be based in Bristol.

 The Voice and Influence Partnership supports people 18+ so your proposal should be one that is open to people in this age group. It can also include younger people but we are not able to fund projects only open to ages 17 and under.

 You do not need to be a constituted group or be formally registered with Companies House to apply. You do however need to be able to show us evidence that your project exists, what work/events/activities it has undertaken and who it is aimed at.

 The piece of work or project the grant will be used for, will need to be completed or close to completion by the end of April 2021 or if part of an ongoing project you will need to be able to provide evidence of the finding’s impact so far.

**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.ammerdown.org 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 also be sending out an evaluation form asking about your experience of the application process in order to improve the way we do things in the future.

We will let you know if your application is successful or not by Friday 22nd January 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 grant 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 VIP, where appropriate, as part of the work being funded.

**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 23 November 2020.

 Application deadline: 5pm Monday 11 January December 2021.

 Successful applicants will be notified: by Friday 22 January 2021.

 Grant awards will be distributed by: the end of January 2021.

 The piece of work or project the grant will be used for, will need to be completed or close to completion by the end of April 2021 or if part of an ongoing project you will need to be able to provide evidence of the funding’s impact so far.

**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.ammerdown.org](http://www.ammerdown.org) 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: interfaith@ammerdown.org

Phone: 01761 433 709

Post: Christine Clinch, The Ammerdown Centre, Ammerdown Park, Radstock BA3 5SW

**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](http://www.voiceandinfluence.org.uk)