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**Sport England’s Tackling Inequalities Fund – Delivered by Disability Rights UK (DR UK)**

**Guidance Notes for Small and Micro Community Organisations**

1. **Introduction to the Tackling Inequalities Fund**

The Tackling Inequalities Fund (TIF) aims to reduce the negative impact of Covid-19 and any widening of inequalities in participation rates in sport and physical activity. Data from the Sport England commissioned Physical Activity attitudes and behaviours survey during Covid-19 shows widening gaps in activity levels across certain communities: people from Lower Socio-Economic Groups; Black, Asian Minority Ethnic Communities; Disabled People and People with Long-Term Health Conditions. Some of the emerging insight suggests Covid-19 may have a significant impact on the ability of these communities to be physically active. This has the potential to further widen existing gaps.

Higher than average mortality rates from Covid-19 can also create a culture of fear where people choose to stay indoors to keep safe. We also know disabled people and those with long term health conditions are likely to be self-isolating because of increased risk. For many, this will continue even as lockdown lifts. Furthermore, we can foresee a greater impact upon the financial status of people from these communities, which is the single greatest determinant of activity levels. Sport England wish to address the likely reduction in the capacity in more marginalised communities to drive sport and physical activity forwards through the loss of fragile, community bodies, coaches and volunteers.

1. **Disability Rights UK:**

Disability Rights UK (DR UK) is the leading national user-led pan-disability charity. We describe ourselves as ‘disabled people leading change’. The majority of our staff and trustees have lived experience of disability. Our charitable objectives include breaking the link between disability and poverty and enabling disabled people to achieve independence and control over our own lives.

The Get Yourself Active team at DR UK have worked with Sport England for over five years to achieve positive change in the way we access physical activity. We can therefore understand and advocate the benefits of disabled people and people with long term health conditions, getting and staying active.

We are acting as a National Partner of Sport England to deliver grant money from the Tackling Inequalities Fund to Disabled People’s User Led Organisations (DPULOs) and other local, community-based organisations. Through the Get Yourself Active programme DR UK supports the aim of reducing the inequalities in physical activity experienced by disabled people and people with long term health conditions, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic. We are keen to reduce the inequalities experienced by disabled people and those with long term health conditions from the BAME community and encourage applications that seek to redress the imbalance.

1. **Small and Micro Community Grants (SMCG)**

Small and Micro Community Grants of up to £3,000 are being offered as part of the fund. These grants are for small-scale project ideas which would involve small investment but could create big impact. Funding should be spent by recipient organisations as soon as possible, ideally by 31st October 2020 (31st December 2020 at the very latest), as the aim of the fund is to address the short-term negative impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, as opposed to funding longer-term projects. We know that there are organisations largely run by the goodwill and dedication of local volunteers and the passion of committed community leaders. We know that Community Micro-Enterprises like these often have creative and innovative ideas of how to have impact at a neighbourhood or street level and can make a small amount of money go a long way. The SMCG fund would open the doors to these organisations and bring Sport England more insight about community action and the 'small good stuff' which enriches people’s lives.

If your organisation does not ordinarily provide activities for disabled people and/or people with a long-term health condition as a priority group(s), please tell us in your application how you intend to reach out to include more disabled people/people with long term health conditions in your project; and approximately how many/what proportion of the group benefitting from the project you anticipate will be disabled/have a long term health condition.

1. **Eligibility criteria for funding:**

Please note the following important information from Sport England regrading groups/projects that cannot be funded, or where certain processes will need to be put in place to enable funding:

Sport England funding requires recipient bodies of small grants to have a recognised constitution in place. They won’t be able to fund:

a. Activities promoting religious or political beliefs

b. Individuals

c. Any private businesses or profit-making organisations unless they are a Social Enterprise or Community Interest Company

**Un-constituted groups:**

Sport England acknowledges that in some cases the ideas that you generate from within the community might come from individuals and/or un-constituted informal groups. Where this is the case the following options should be considered:

a. Can you help fast-track the organisation to become constituted (with support from you or your local Active Partnership?)

b. Could it use another Accountable Body such as a VCS to support it and act as the applicant/manage the funds for them?

**Football:**

Sport England are currently in dialogue with both the Football Association and Football Foundation to understand and support the needs of football during this period. If you are minded to target funding into local football organisations, please let us know early on. Sport England aim to update us as soon as they can on the discussions taking place so that you can take account of existing and any potential additional resources being provided to support football activity.

**Sole Traders:**

At present, lottery funding cannot be distributed to sole traders therefore this funding cannot be used for this purpose. Partners may be able to support this group in other ways e.g. alternative local sources of funding, training to enable online provision, support to redefine offers.

**Religious groups and lottery funding:**

Sport England are aware that some local religious groups will not be able to receive lottery funding due to the link with gambling. They are aware of this barrier. If groups cannot accept National Lottery funding for religious reasons, Sport England do have some very limited scope to fund organisations. Please speak to us of this is the case.

**Please consider the following questions when writing your application, as this is what Sport England ask DR UK to consider when assessing applications. Can you answer yes to each of the following?**

1. Will this investment impact upon disabled people and/or people with a long-term health condition?
2. Is there a real 'here and now' requirement to support this audience (now to March 2021)?
3. Has the requirement arisen as a direct result of this community group or audience being adversely affected as a result of COVID-19?
4. Will this investment help a community group that focusses on disabled people/people with a long-term health condition that needs funding to continue to survive, and/or connect to disabled people/people with a long-term health condition “audiences” at this time, to keep them active?
5. Is there a clear ‘line of sight’ from this investment to physical activity taking place either now, or in the immediate future (now to March 2021)?
6. **What we anticipate the fund will achieve**

Overall, the outcomes we expect to see from the fund are:

* Disabled people to return to/maintain pre-lockdown levels of fitness;
* Disabled people to keep physically well and therefore reduce the likelihood of other illnesses;
* Improvements in people’s mental health, confidence and overall well being;
* Reduction in social isolation, enabling connectivity with others through exercising together e.g. online group class or, a Personal Trainer/Personal Assistant supporting with 1:1 exercises;
* Opportunity to try new forms of exercise;
* Opening up exercise to people who didn't participate before e.g. found leisure centre inaccessible/too difficult to attend/expensive, or just “didn't know where to start”;
* Improved relationships between community organisations and the sports sector;
* Some community groups and sports providers to be given a “new lease of life” and potentially able to benefit from new ways of providing support or a service;
* Disabled people to be seen as innovators, turning a negative situation into something positive.
1. **The Application process:**

We have designed the application process to be as quick and efficient as possible. Please let us know if any reasonable adjustments are required at any stage of the process and we would be delighted to assist or to provide an alternative. Your application will proceed as follows:

* Complete the Tackling Inequalities Fund Application Form and submit via email to: tacklinginequalities@disabilityrightsuk.org Community Catalysts are available to support you with this if you require any assistance at this stage.
* Disability Rights UK will check your responses and let you know if any information is incomplete or needs to be clarified.
* Once complete, Disability Rights UK will send a summary of your application to Sport England. This will be taken from your application form and include basic information about your organisation and its reach, how much grant money you are applying for, how you intend to spend it and the impact you expect it to have.
* Sport England will make the decision on your request. This is because grant money is awarded by them.
* We will let you know the outcome of Sport England’s decision. If successful, we will draw up an informal partnership agreement between us, to share learning and insights from the project.

We expect the above steps to take no longer than two weeks.

1. **Next Steps:**

**Grant money**

Following approval, we will ask you to submit an invoice and will aim to pay your grant money within two weeks of receipt. Further details of the information we need will be given to you if your application is successful. We advise you to keep receipts of all spend related to the award, as our auditors may ask us to see these, even at a later date.

**Capturing impact / Partnership Agreement**

Disability Rights UK would like to work with you to monitor the reach and the impact of funding, particularly in view of the fund’s aim of reducing the growing inequalities during the Covid-19 pandemic. We would therefore like you to capture outcomes and impacts of the funding, in a way that suits your organisation and beneficiaries. We will offer email and phone support to project leads as and when necessary as well as receive learning and insights as stated in the partnership agreement. We may also ask project leads to take part in learning sessions with other organisations to share knowledge and insights on project delivery. We would also welcome any opportunities to facilitate peer support between organisations.

We will ask for a short end of grant reflection from each project. This could be in the form of a report, a series of case studies/stories, a video blog etc. Our evaluation partner Traverse will approach a handpicked selection of projects to conduct interviews or run focus groups with to gain insight into the value of the partnership approach developed with DR UK. We will also be interested in keeping in touch regarding future plans to build on the learning from the funding.

1. **Further Information and submitting your application form:**

If you would like any further information about the Tackling Inequalities Fund, please contact:

Anna Denham at Disability Rights UK:

e-mail: tacklinginequalities@disabilityrightsuk.org

Telephone: 0203 687 0784

  

 