

FAQs for MGS's Recovery and Resilience Fund

Can I get pre-application advice?

Yes we will be happy to answer any queries you have or discuss your application ideas with you. We are expecting quite a high volume of contacts so please do follow the instructions below to help us respond to you as quickly as possible;

- If we have already contacted you by phone regarding this fund, you will have been given the name of a specific member of MGS staff who you should contact to discuss an application. They will be expecting your call so please do get in touch with them directly, if you don't have contact details for them, you will be able to find them on our website [here](#).
- Please do not phone our grants number directly with enquiries about this fund. If you have not been given a contact name please email us at grants@museumsgalleriesScotland.org.uk and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

I previously applied to MGS's Urgent Response Fund and received a grant. Am I allowed to also apply to this new fund?

Yes. Our Urgent Response Fund was designed to cover up to 3 months of urgent costs, this new fund is designed to support museums through the next phase of dealing with the impact of Covid-19. Please do make sure that you do not have any outstanding reports due on your Urgent Response grant when you submit your application to the Recovery and Resilience Fund.

I previously applied to MGS's Urgent Response Fund but was not successful. Will I be eligible for this new fund?

The criteria for the Recovery and Resilience Fund are different from the Urgent Response Fund so the fact that you did not meet the criteria for funding for the Urgent Response Fund does not mean that you will not meet the criteria for the new fund.

When do I have to use this funding by?

All funds must be spent by 31 March 2021. Applicants should apply for funds that will support them to use the time between now and the end of March 2021 to implement changes that will help them to achieve some level of financial sustainability by that point. Grantees will be required to keep MGS up to date on how this is going on at least a quarterly basis from the time of award.

How do I prove that my organisation was 'financially viable' or not an 'undertaking in difficulty' before Covid-19?

You will be asked to provide information about your income and expenditure for the previous four years and provide at least one year's full independently examined financial statements.

Do I need match funding?

No, there is no requirement for match funding for this fund. However, we will want to hear about other Covid-19 response funding that you have explored and secured. We will assess the financial need of your organisation when considering your application.

Will having match funding make my application more likely to be accepted?

No.

Can I apply to reimburse lost income?

You can apply for reimbursement of lost income that is essential to your financial viability but you cannot apply for losses that are not a result of Covid-19.

We have unrestricted reserves, can we apply for funding?

Yes, we do not expect organisations to have to deplete their reserves below the level of 12 weeks' of operating costs (this will apply to most organisations but there may be some exceptions). It is important for good financial management to retain a reserve that will allow you to maintain cashflow, cover unexpected costs and the cost of winding up your organisation in the unfortunate event that that becomes necessary. When we are assessing your financial need, we will look at the level of reserves your organisation has.

It will also be permissible to apply for funds to restore your reserves to up to 12 weeks' of operating costs if they have been depleted below this level as a direct result of Covid-19.

How are decisions being made?

Your application will be assessed against our assessment criteria based on the information you supply us with.

You must ensure that you submit all stipulated information with your application, we will not be able to assess incomplete applications.

However, if we require clarification on any of the information you have provided, we will get in touch with you using the telephone or email details provided in your application. Please make sure that the telephone number supplied in your application is one that is being answered between 9am and 5pm – if your museum is closed and there is no one there to answer the phone as your staff are working from home, please do not give the museum telephone number, give one that can be answered. We will only call the number you supply during office hours. If we cannot get a response from you within three working days, we may not be able to assess your application within our target four weeks, or possibly at all.

When will I hear if I have been successful?

We will assess applications as we receive them and will endeavour to notify applications of our decision within 4 weeks of receiving your application. We will notify you if the decision is going to take longer than that.

If I am awarded funding, when will the award be paid out?

Most awards will be paid in two instalments, the first 75% when you complete the forms required to formally accept your award and the remaining 25% upon receipt of a satisfactory first quarterly report. Alternative arrangements may be possible if you are experiencing issues with your cash flow. All grant recipients will be required to complete a report no later than 30 June 2021 confirming how the funding has been spent and the impact it has had.

Is there a list of funding that counts as state aid under the Covid-19 Temporary Framework for UK Authorities?

This list was correct as of June, so some schemes may be missing. Some will not be relevant in Scotland:

1. Statutory Sic Pay Rebate
2. Creative, Tourism & Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund
3. Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CLBILS)
4. Aquaculture Hardship Fund
5. Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund
6. Orkney CORONAVIRUS – EMERGENCY LOAN SCHEME
7. Covid-19 Support Grant (CSG) for Bus Operators in Scotland
8. Coronavirus Community Support Fund
9. Edinburgh Fringe Festival Society Loan
10. Highlands and Islands Enterprise COVID support
11. South Ayrshire COVID-19 Strategic Enterprise Programme
12. Bounceback loans
13. Dom and Lowe machinery advance
14. Coronavirus (COVID19) support scheme for tourism destination and sector organisations –VisitScotland