

COVID-19: ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR AWARDING INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING GRANTS

BASW wishes to support the international social work profession in the development and dissemination of social work responses to the Covid-19 pandemic. Pandemics create social and economic crises alongside the health crisis. Social workers are key workers in the response, especially facilitating the inclusion of vulnerable and marginalised groups in access to health care and basic human rights, including access to food and water during the pandemic. These grants are intended as an immediate response to support and learn from evolving social work practice.

This paper outlines the social work practice areas eligible for grants from the BASW International Development Fund (IDF) and the criteria for determining successful applications. It is a response to the decision by BASW Council to reassign a part of the IDF to fund COVID-19 projects. Funding decisions will be made by the IDF Panel, including the Chair of the Association, advised by the appropriate IFSW Regional Presidents.

Funding is available to support any form of social work practice including, for example (in no order of priority):

- Mental health
- Domestic abuse
- Safeguarding
- Young carers
- Physical and learning disability
- HIV/AIDS
- Children without family/friends carers
- Mental health
- Long-term health conditions
- Physical and learning disability
- Migration, refugees and asylum seekers
- Training, education and research
- Safeguarding
- Criminal justice
- Protection of human rights including access to food and water
- Community education about health and infection

Funding can be made available to national social work associations or groups of associations to help them develop support for their members delivering social work practice.

Criteria for awarding funding

The criteria for determining successful applications for funding are:

- supporting social workers directly or social work agencies or national associations of social workers responding to the COVID-19 pandemic
- outside the UK
- involve service users directly or in partnership
- while addressing the immediate issue of COVID-19, have regard to sustainability of project outputs
- address knowledge sharing
- increase community resilience to manage COVID-19
- Evidence of support (e.g. formal letter) from the national (or local) social work association in the relevant country.

Priority will be given to projects that are linked to BASW members. BASW members who sit on BASW committees must declare this. If they are one of the committee involved in the decision-making process they must not be involved in the decision making process for that application.

Decisions

The intention is to allocate funding as a matter of urgency. The total budget is £20,000. Grants from £500 up to a maximum of £5,000 will be considered. Projects will be considered as they are received and will involve discussion with the relevant Regional IFSW President. Payments will require an official organisational bank account.

The funding will be advertised through BASW website until the end of May. We will then consider wider advertising should this be needed.

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