**Sussex NHS Commissioners**

**COVID-19 Vaccination Programme**

Increasing COVID-19 Vaccination uptake

**Small Grants**

**Invitations for Expressions of Interest**

**Increasing COVID-19 vaccinations - small grants scheme**

**Background**

Since the start of the COVID-19 Vaccination programme across Sussex, over one million vaccinations have been delivered to our communities and health and care workforce. The roll out of this programme has been based on a co-ordinated approach, supported by effective communications to partners and the public.

Nationally the vaccination programme is being rolled out to:

* Everyone aged 18 and over
* People who are clinically extremely vulnerable eg cancer patients
* People with long term or underlying health conditions eg diabetes or a learning impairment
* Carers
* Health and social care workers

**Aim of the small grants scheme**

Data on vaccination uptake so far shows that there are some communities for whom the uptake of the vaccine is lower than average – please see **Targeted communities** below. This is for a variety of reasons, some of which can be mitigated and supported through targeted communications (including alternative formats), outreach to neighbourhoods and solution-focussed work with community members.

To help support the increase of vaccination uptake, small grants will be offered to assist with neighbourhood-based activity across communities of interest or relating to people particularly at risk of serious illness if they contract COVID-19.

The types of activities that could be eligible are (not exclusively):

* Development of community based conversations and / or communications
* Local buddying schemes to support people in accessing vaccinations
* Targeted work to increase awareness of facts about the vaccine and dispel myths
* Making community based leaflets or videos and distributing these appropriately

Please note the above activities are examples only – other / innovative approaches are welcomed.

**Targeted communities**

Applications are invited (not exclusively) from groups working to support any of the following communities:

* Ethnic minority and faith communities
* People living in identified areas of deprivation
* Young adults (18 and over)
* Adults with a physical, learning or sensory impairment
* The clinically vulnerable or those living with a long-term health need eg mental health need.

**Applications are also welcome for groups not included in the above list** -however you will be asked to provide some information or insight on these groups / communities having a lower than average uptake of vaccination.

**Financial details**

**Grants of up to £5,000 will be awarded**.

Applicants must be constituted organisations with a bank account, or with an agreed organisation to hold funding.

**Monitoring and oversight**

Those receiving grants will be asked to provide a short summary of activity and the impact this has had. Note that there will **not be a need for funded projects to demonstrate statistically** an increase in uptake or vaccination.

Oversight will be through a key contact in the CCGs’ Public Involvement Team.

**Timescales**

Applications are invited until the end of July 2021.

**Application**

**We can only accept applications from fully constituted VCS organisations; however we would encourage smaller un-constituted groups to work in partnership with larger groups, recognising the value that smaller groups can bring to this work, or to agree an appropriate organisation to hold funds.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Which neighbourhood / area or community do you work with? ( Up to 200 words)** |  |
| **How do you know that your group or community have low vaccine uptake? (Up to 300 words)** |  |
| **What is your proposal? (Up to 750 words)** |  |
| **What information and/or support might you need to make your project successful? (Up to 200 words)** |  |
| **How will you know you have been successful? (Up to 300 words)** |  |
| **How much money do you want to apply for? Please provide a breakdown of costs.**  **Will this be held by your organisation?** |  |

If you have any questions, please contact Jaishree Dholakia, Public Involvement Lead, Covid-19 Vaccination Programme, Email: [Jaishree.dholakia1@nhs.net](mailto:Jaishree.dholakia1@nhs.net), Mobile: 07956 298246.

Please send your completed application form to Jaishree Dholakia, as above. All applications must be received by 31st July 2021.

Funding will be allocated on a rolling basis, as applications are received and agreed.