**Launch of COVID-19 Emergency Fund**

Today we want to tell you about an emergency fund we have been building - and continue to build - to try to support groups facing immediate financial crisis.

This is a campaign in 2 parts:

1. The launch of an Emergency Fund Appeal
2. A fund set up by RDA, with significant contributions from all Regions, to enable us to provide immediate crisis relief to the Groups most in need. This fund opens today, 2 April

**Emergency Fund Appeal**

Today we are launching our public appeal to help boost our fund, so we can provide more support in the coming weeks and months. We are doing this by:

* Contacting existing warm donors
* Asking relevant organisations and networks to share our appeal with their members
* Writing to our existing database of contacts
* Encouraging media support

Because of the nature of our existing database, it is likely that at some point we will contact people associated with your own RDA group. Please understand we are not attempting to restrict your own fundraising efforts - in this exceptional circumstance, we need to explore every possible avenue for support. We are spreading our message as far as we possibly can to ensure the long-term health of the whole organisation.

**How to apply for the RDA UK Crisis Fund**

Please contact the relevant contact for your region (see table below) by Monday 6 April. They will handle the initial application and ask about your group’s specific situation.

Please recognise that we have a limited amount of funding so please only come forward if your group is in genuine need.

**Is my group eligible?**

To be eligible for support you will need to:

* provide your most recent accounts
* demonstrate how the crisis has had an immediate impact on your group’s chances of survival
* show that you have done all you can to cut or limit expenditure (including making use of the support schemes made available by government, where applicable)
* show which fixed costs you have that are causing concern

**What sort of thing can we get funding for?**

We will aim to fund specific costs and support to reduce the short/medium term financial burden. This might include (but is not limited to) rent and utility bills, other facility hire, costs of keeping horses or staff costs.

The funds cannot be used to make payments to associated private riding schools or livery yards that are not currently being used for RDA activities.

**How much can we ask for?**

We expect grants to be up to £10,000 maximum (but we may consider bigger amounts in extreme circumstances).

**Is this our only chance to apply?**

We may be able to offer further rounds of funding, depending on how the crisis develops and what new funds we can secure. By applying for this round, you will not be excluded from further rounds of funding, even if you are successful in this round.

**Who to contact in your region:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Region** | **Contact** | **Email** | **Phone** |
| South West | Sue Ingleby | sue@mschumacher.com | 01460 234 625 |
| Mid West | Rachel Vaughan-Johns | rvaughanjohns@icloud.com | 07887 875 683 |
| South | Frances Lochrane | flochrane@btinternet.com | 07798 941 229 |
| South East | Pauline Roestenburg | paulineroestenburg@hotmail.com | 07776 144 993 |
| London | Mike Locke | mike.locke@outlook.com |  |
| West Mercia | Anona White | anonamay@btinternet.com | 07718 912 255 |
| N Midlands | Dawn Whitmore-Kirby |  | 07860 245 675 |
| East | Gay Redman | redman.tessa@gmail.com | 01223 290 807 |
| N West | Gill Petty | gillpetty@hotmail.co.uk | 07725 113 599 |
| NE & S Yorkshire | Lady Pamela Hewitt | pmh@barnsley-chronicle.co.uk | 01653 696 557 |
| Yorkshire & Cleveland | John Chuter | jwchuter@aol.com | 07747 535 821 |
| North | Henri Carew or  Pauline Harrison | henriettaC@calvertlakes.org.uk  paulineharrison7@gmail.com | 07443 045 068  07703 342 674 |
| Edinburgh & Borders | Kim McCutcheon | kim.mccutcheon01@gmail.com | 01896 822 919 |
| W & C Scot | Kate Bennet | kate@tarandoun.co.uk | 07721 515 190 |
| Grampian & Highland | Barbara Manson | gandhrda@aim.com | 01651 872 458 |
| S Wales | Joan Lean or  Julie Humphry | swales.regchair@yahoo.com | 07714 615 956  07989 510 528 |
| N Wales | Alys Lewis-Jones | rdanwaleschair@outlook.com | 07752 110 825 |
| N Ireland | Lady Juliet Frazer | rdaniregion@yahoo.co.uk | 02825 88058 4 |