

# **Recovery and Renewal Fund**

## **Background**

The creation of a Recovery and Renewal Fund is one of Standing Committee's responses to provide assistance to dioceses and charges following the Covid-19 pandemic and its aftermath. It is designed to work in conjunction with two of the other actions taken by the Committee and the Task Group it created to address such issues. The agreed Quota reduction was designed to provide dioceses a degree of flexibility in their own finances. Members of the Task Group are currently working in areas that will identify sources of training and other resources that could be made available to dioceses and charges to assist them developing a range of skills associated with creating and maintaining an effective online presence and ministry. Depending on the nature of the training and resources identified, it is possible that one of the uses of the Fund would be to provide grant assistance to enable dioceses and charges to access the resources and training. (More information will be provided in due course.) The provincial Communications Team is also looking into the possibility of creating a library of samples of online services to assist charges wishing to develop their online ministry.

## **Objective of the Recovery and Renewal Fund**

In establishing the Fund Standing Committee recognised that whilst the pandemic had forced the curtailment of some forms of mission and ministry it had also created a number of new opportunities. The objective of the Fund is to help dioceses and charges finance the costs of adapting and changing to meet the challenges and opportunities created by Covid-19 and its aftermath. It is hoped that that it will assist in the development of new initiatives.

## **Funds available**

Funding is available for one year. Total funds available to be allocated - £250,000.

No specific limit on grants to individual diocese or charges – but, given overall total funding available, it is considered unlikely that grants to individual charges will exceed £5,000.

## **Application process and timetable**

Standing Committee will consider applications to the Fund at its meeting on 16 September.

Dioceses should submit applications to the Provincial Treasurer no later than 19 August 2021.

There is no specific application form. Dioceses are asked to submit an application detailing the funding requested on behalf of the Diocese and its charges. Dioceses

are free to determine the extent to which they involve charges in collating the information required for the application.

In framing their applications dioceses should provide information regarding the general assistance, resources and funding that they have been able to provide to their charges during the pandemic to assist in their sustainability, recovery and renewal. Dioceses should also state how the requested grants will further their mission and ministry. (Ideally, applications should be set within the context of a Diocesan mission strategy or future plan.) Applications should be mindful of the overall objective of the Fund.

The detailed information for each grant will vary depending on the nature of the project and size of grant requested but might include:

- Nature of project
- Category of project (see below)
- Anticipated total cost (with evidence of cost)
- Other anticipated sources of funding
- Details of any other provincial grant funding requested / awarded for project
- Sustainability of project – if seed corn funding requested how ongoing funding be provided.

### **Reporting on use of grant funds**

Standing Committee wishes to be able to report to General Synod 2022 on the impact of the Fund. Dioceses are therefore required to provide a written report on the use of the funds they have received indicating the benefit that they have provided to mission and ministry. Reports should be submitted by 31 March 2022 for consideration by Standing Committee at its April 2022 meeting.

### **What can the Fund be used for?**

Generally, priority will be given to applications for projects where no other provincial grant funding is available. Grant funding is available for e.g. the Church in Society Committee's general and Child Poverty Project grants, the Building Grants Fund and Mission and Ministry Support Grants.

It is recognised that some charges may wish to initiate projects related to General Synod's commitment to working toward net zero carbon emissions by 2030. Given the size of the task in meeting that objective it is likely that Synod will, in due course, be required to commit specific funding to it. Whilst such projects, if they fall within the general objective of the Fund, are not specifically excluded, given that other grant funds are likely to become available priority will be given to other applications.

Applications should relate to the following general categories:

- Recovery & Renewal of 'pre-pandemic' ministry
- Online presence post pandemic
- Social Action & Community Development in Post Pandemic

- Care for clergy and other church leaders

Examples of the possible type of expenditure in each category include:

### ***Recovery & Renewal of 'pre-pandemic' ministry***

- Training: Cost of appropriately identified training courses and materials – e.g. mission and evangelism confidence building; theological education; grant application; fundraising.
- Growth/stability project – e.g. enhancement/promotion of hall or other source of income; improved signage
- One off support for paid posts (cannot pay ongoing stipend etc.)  
e.g. advertising costs for youth worker; towards interim ministry costs for project to develop mission plan; recruitment costs of diocesan support staff for charges.
- Diocesan digital communications support – e.g. new charge website costs, cost of IT firm to audit/advise charges on online presence, pay for diocesan online strategy plan.
- Financial support for diocesan conferences / gatherings to re-establish connections.

### ***Online presence post pandemic***

- Training such as:
  - Operating and installation of video/audio equipment
  - Presentation and editing of online worship/content – livestream or recorded
  - Effective social media presence
  - Effective online meetings
- Improved connection –
  - Purchase hardware and set up costs for internet in churches/places of worship. (Bulk buy for diocese?)
  - Kit and technical support for digitally excluded members (tablets, MiFi, DVD players etc.
  - Zoom Pro licence support – one year for charges to get started.
- Packages of installation guidance/contractor support for (depending on level of skill in specific church)

- Costs to develop library of samples and standards for online services. (The provincial Communications Team is investigating the possibility of coordinating the creation of such a library.)

### ***Social Action and Community Development in Post Pandemic Context***

- Church and Community Enhancement – e.g., one off grants for post lockdown trips/activities for excluded/vulnerable members;
- Inclusion/Poverty grants – one off donations to existing projects working on e.g. food, fuel, inclusion, women’s aid, prisons, addiction, mental health (bearing in mind availability of Church in Society Committee grants for such projects.)

### ***Care of clergy and church leaders***

- Funding of counselling and other forms of wellbeing support following lockdown experience and adjusting to new roles and expectations.

### **What can the Fund not be used for?**

The Fund is not to be used to subsidise ministry costs for charges. It is recognised that the pandemic might have accelerated the decline of a number of charges that were already in financial difficulty. It is not intended that the Fund should be used to subsidise such charges which should be supported/guided to achieve sustainable long-term ministry by their dioceses (using MMSG or diocesan funds for this purpose, for example).

Routine operational costs e.g. utilities, insurance etc. This fund is to support one-off projects/ideas to assist in recovery from the pandemic.

Contributing to the funding of new or continuing permanent posts. This is a short-term funding scheme, so it would not be appropriate for this funding to be in this way. Again, MMSG can be used, at diocesan discretion, for such purposes.