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| |  | | --- | |  | | |  | | --- | | **News from Streetlife Trust** a Frontline Network Partner  Hello everyone and we hope that this update finds you all as safe and well as possible?  [Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde Frontline Network](https://wearestreetlife.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5c56524dfdec316af6b7c616b&id=5f0cb568d4&e=be520bb543) will now be aiming to send out weekly e-letters to keep us all updated on the constantly evolving COVID-19 situation and we would like to welcome you to contribute any service changes, new provisions or anything that you feel could support frontline workers during such unprecedented circumstances.  As always, if you would like to share any information that would help frontline workers in Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde, have any questions or would like to receive these updates, but don't already do so, please email: [donna.willison@wearestreetlife.org](mailto:donna.willison@wearestreetlife.org).   Additionally, if there is anything that you feel would be useful to be shared on Frontline Network's Website in our [Community](https://wearestreetlife.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5c56524dfdec316af6b7c616b&id=262cc33630&e=be520bb543) or [News and Views](https://wearestreetlife.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5c56524dfdec316af6b7c616b&id=b9685eaa5f&e=be520bb543) Sections  please email: [marcus.loney-evans@stmartinscharity.org.uk](mailto:marcus.loney-evans@stmartinscharity.org.uk) | | |  | | --- | |  | |

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| |  | | --- | | **How Could BW&F Frontline Network Support You Best During COVID-19?**  As we are all aware, the current COVID-19 situation has meant that we all have had to change the way that we work and communicate. We hope to understand your views and would like to ask you [four questions](https://wearestreetlife.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5c56524dfdec316af6b7c616b&id=ff42f68396&e=be520bb543) on how you would like this to happen within our network. To ensure that BW&F Frontline Network can be as valuable resource as possible to you in such challenging circumstances, could you please take 5 minutes to complete this short [survey](https://wearestreetlife.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5c56524dfdec316af6b7c616b&id=f51ff2b66e&e=be520bb543) which will help shape where and how we direct our focus.   We will analyse your responses to this [survey](https://wearestreetlife.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5c56524dfdec316af6b7c616b&id=e0bb1c9852&e=be520bb543), feedback to you and will adapt and direct our communication methods and content wherever possible.  **VRF - Emergency Fund**    Our priority is supporting people experiencing homelessness. In response to COVID-19 we have developed an emergency fund that is designed to offer flexibility in what you apply for as the full impact of the COVID-19 pandemic unfolds. The fund is informed by feedback from over 950 frontline workers who responded to our [Emergency Fund Survey](https://wearestreetlife.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5c56524dfdec316af6b7c616b&id=f68d50c920&e=be520bb543) in the first few weeks of the crisis.  To ensure that we continue to adapt as the needs of people experiencing homelessness change over the course of the COVID-19 crisis, we are keeping our survey [open](https://wearestreetlife.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5c56524dfdec316af6b7c616b&id=1797bdf555&e=be520bb543) and would encourage you to complete it as you see needs shift. We will in turn do our best to ensure that the fund remains useful throughout this time.  **What can I apply for?**  The VRF Emergency Fund has three broad categories: Basic Essential Need; Overcoming Barriers to Support; and Securing Accommodation.  We are not prescriptive in what you can apply for under each category, so please choose the category which you think best reflects the need you are asking for a grant for. However, examples of what might be included under each category are:  **Basic Essential Need** – eg, food, hygiene packs, utility bills  **Overcoming Barriers to Support** – eg, mobile phone, laptop, tablet, wifi or data access  **Securing Accommodation** – eg, a deposit to access accommodation, a deposit to secure accommodation suitable for self-isolation, rent arrears where there is an imminent risk of eviction  For further information please see our grant category and evidence [list here](https://wearestreetlife.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5c56524dfdec316af6b7c616b&id=644dae7ea9&e=be520bb543).  **Who can apply?**  We only accept applications from paid frontline workers who provide support to people experiencing homelessness or whose accommodation might be at risk. Frontline workers include staff working in the voluntary, statutory and public sectors. For example: Resettlement or Outreach workers, CAB advisers, Supported Housing Officers, Mental Health Workers, Drug and Alcohol Support, GPs, Probation Officers, Social Workers, Prison in-reach workers, Police, Health Professionals.  (Update 6th April: Please note that over the next couple of weeks we will be exploring the possibility of volunteers being able to make applications. If you are a volunteer – please check back here in a couple of weeks for an update, and in the meantime, sign up to our enews to stay up to date with the latest news about resources from the Frontline Network)  **How much can I apply for?**  Most of the grants we provide are small one-off grants – the amount is decided based on your current need so please give as much detail as you can on the application form. As a guide, we would usually expect to receive applications for amounts no more than:  £150 for Basic Essential Needs  £400 for Overcoming Barriers to Support  £1000 for Securing Accommodation  However, in exceptional circumstances we will consider more.  **How do I apply?**  Applicants need to [register](https://wearestreetlife.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5c56524dfdec316af6b7c616b&id=51b875335d&e=be520bb543) on our Flexi-Grant system with a valid work email address before making an application.  If you’re already a registered user, [log in here](https://wearestreetlife.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5c56524dfdec316af6b7c616b&id=59f35235b5&e=be520bb543).  **Who can the payment be made to?**  We can make BACS payments to organisations or landlords. In exceptional circumstances we may be able to make a payment direct to the individual.  **Consent**  To reflect the current challenges posed by COVID-19 we understand that it is unlikely you will be able to get consent in writing from your client. Where this is possible, please do, but if you are only able to get verbal consent we have adapted our consent form which can be [found here](https://wearestreetlife.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5c56524dfdec316af6b7c616b&id=44d11a21ec&e=be520bb543).  **Evidence**  We ask that you provide evidence of spend and where possible, also evidence of the outcome of the grant.  You can find examples of the evidence that you will need to [provide here](https://wearestreetlife.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5c56524dfdec316af6b7c616b&id=d664ff17db&e=be520bb543).  **Contact**   * Email: [vrf@stmartinscharity.org.uk](mailto:vrf@stmartinscharity.org.uk) * Phone: 020 3795 5746 (voicemail only)     **Join the C-19 Support Forum Today**  The "[C-19 Frontline Worker Support Forum](https://wearestreetlife.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5c56524dfdec316af6b7c616b&id=79936780af&e=be520bb543)" is a space dedicated to sharing frontline worker information, guidance and solutions relating to COVID-19.   Anyone who is a frontline worker supporting people experiencing homelessness can utilise this vital resource.  You can ask a question, share information, or highlight best practice on how to best support people experiencing homelessness at this time.  We hope the C-19 Forum will highlight good practice and what works, but also be honest about the challenges faced.  Frontline workers are required to [register to the Frontline Network](https://wearestreetlife.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5c56524dfdec316af6b7c616b&id=211d740ff8&e=be520bb543), in order to access the C-19 Forum, however we will shortly be making it free to access for all Frontline Workers.      and lastly...    Many thanks for reading and we hope that you have a relaxing and safe weekend | |

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