

Press Release: 7 December 2021

Immediate Release: £2.4bn Covid grants data reveals UK grantmaking trends

New research published by 360Giving on UK grantmaking during the pandemic

360Giving has brought together and analysed over 66,000 grants to identify to 'who' and 'what' funding has been distributed since the beginning of the Covid pandemic.

Data shared by 174 grantmakers on their relief and recovery funding - covering 66,000 grants worth almost £2.4 billion - has been analysed and summarised by 360Giving in newly-published interactive research.

You can read the research and explore the data here at:

<https://covidresearch.threesixtygiving.org/>.

Key findings:

- The majority of grants were small. 67% of grants in the dataset were for £10,000 or less with a further 29% for between £10,000 and £100,000.
- Most grants to registered charities went to medium-sized organisations with an income between £100,000 and £1 million.
- Funders recognised the need for money to be distributed quickly, with 42% of grants awarded in, or before, June 2020.
- Around half of all registered charities (48%) received more than one grant in the dataset, including 26% which received three or more grants. This showed that needs changed and developed as the pandemic unfolded, with several funders having multiple Covid relief and recovery grant rounds since March 2020.
- 15% of charities in England and Wales that are registered to work with people of a particular ethnic or racial origin received a grant¹ - a larger proportion than for other groups of service users. This reflects efforts by funders to target and reach communities disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

¹ Based on Charity Commission terminology and definitions

- At least 26% of grant recipients had not previously received funding from the grantmakers featured in the report, suggesting increased outreach and more accessible and flexible funding programmes from funders to reach new organisations.

Grantmakers acted quickly and responsively

The data shows that grantmakers acted quickly and responsively, and adapted approaches to reach communities disproportionately affected by the pandemic. The increase in collaborations and distribution through funding partners and specialist organisations where the data is not available means that the true impact is likely to be much larger than the available data suggests.

In addition, more than half the grantmakers increased the scale of their funding during the period, with some making significant increases to the amounts distributed.

Understanding the data

The 360Giving team is working with others in the sector to understand the geographical distribution of grants, and the journey of funding flows through regranting. The pandemic has highlighted the importance of embedding better ways of capturing and analysing grantmaking data, to help the sector to do more than we can with the information currently available.

Overall, 360Giving is keen for people to use and understand the Covid grants data. With more funders sharing and increasing the quality of their data, it can support effective collaborations and decision-making across the sector.

Tania Cohen, Chief Executive of 360Giving, said:

"Thanks to the funders sharing their data we are able to see the collective picture of grantmaking. We hope that the visualisations and tools support users to engage with the data, and allows funders see their own part in the wider eco-system"

Notes for Editors:

1. **About 360Giving:** At 360Giving, we help funders publish open data about their grants, and empower people to use this data to improve charitable giving. Our vision is for grantmaking in the UK to be more informed, effective and strategic. Find out more at <https://www.threesixtygiving.org>.
2. **Existing Publishers:** A full list of funding organisations sharing data in the 360Giving Data Standard is available at <http://data.threesixtygiving.org>.
3. **GrantNav:** You can search, download and explore grants data at <https://grantnav.threesixtygiving.org>.

4. **COVID-19 Grants Tracker:** Funders have shared data on grants made in response to the COVID-19 crisis, worth over £175m to date. Explore them at <https://covidtracker.threesixtygiving.org>.
5. **360Giving Data Standard:** More information about the 360Giving Data Standard referenced in the report is available at: <https://www.threesixtygiving.org/support/standard>.

Contacts

Geraldine Tovey, Policy and Engagement Manager, 360Giving, comms@threesixtygiving.org, 020 7812 3773, Twitter: @360Giving