



# OCF response to Coronavirus

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*Press Release – Tuesday 24 March 2020*

## **Coronavirus: OCF launches new Community Resilience Fund for Oxfordshire**

### **Unlocking the power of our community to respond better and recover stronger during this crisis.**

Oxfordshire Community Foundation (OCF) today announced a new fund and package of support available to help community and voluntary organisations meet the new needs and challenges created by the Coronavirus. OCF's new Community Resilience Fund has been kick-started with an inspiring donation from the [Indigo Trust](#) and has already reached more than £500,000.

At a time when they have never been more needed, many charities and voluntary organisations are at risk, with little or no working capital, thus anticipating significant cashflow problems. "We want our new fund to unlock the power of our community," OCF CEO Jayne Woodley commented, "This is a time when their services have such potential to provide the essential lifeline so needed by those who are most vulnerable and at risk in our communities."

The fund will help organisations like [SOFEA](#), who can scale up their efforts to distribute food to vulnerable people across Oxfordshire. It is working together with existing volunteer hubs, such as Oxford Together and Citizens Advice Banbury, to ensure support for those who need to self-isolate. This means renting additional vans, buying more fuel, cleaning materials and redeploying staff. SOFEA have committed to this even as their cashflow is reaching a critical point. Restrictions on educational activities are reducing SOFEA's income.

The speed with which the fund has been set up means that SOFEA has already received an emergency cash injection of £10,000. CEO Richard Kennell said, "Support from this new fund is vital for us. It enables us to focus on meeting the urgent needs of the crisis and gives us confidence that SOFEA will still be here when the crisis is over."

Jayne Woodley added, "OCF has the infrastructure, governance and networks to distribute funds raised effectively and ethically, which is why we have launched our Coronavirus: Community Resilience Fund for Oxfordshire. We will also pool resources with any additional monies received via [The National Emergencies Trust](#) to continue to help local charities overcome the challenges presented by this ongoing emergency.

These are extraordinary times calling for extraordinary responses and our priority is to act swiftly yet responsibly to ensure the support, sustainability and development of community infrastructure, enabling charities to not only respond better but also recover stronger.

We cannot thank the Indigo Trust enough for an unbelievably generous gift and we hope that such philanthropic leadership will inspire others to add their support too."

To donate to this fund please go to [oxfordshire.org/donate](https://oxfordshire.org/donate).

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Notes:

#### About Oxfordshire Community Foundation

Oxfordshire Community Foundation (OCF) is an independent charity that brings together organisations and people to improve the lives of the most disadvantaged people in the county. Using expertise and insights, we support innovative and sustainable solutions that deliver evidence-based outcomes and drive systemic change. We believe in the power of community, developing partnerships that share our vision for Oxfordshire - a kinder place where people feel more connected to those around them.

Contact For any initial media enquiries, including interview requests, please contact: Jayne Woodley CEO at OCF.

Email: [jayne@oxfordshire.org](mailto:jayne@oxfordshire.org) Mobile: 07775 625942

<https://oxfordshire.org/giving/donate-now/>

#### About SOFEA

SOFEA works with young people to build their employability, whilst providing nutritious food for those in need.

[www.sofea.uk.com](http://www.sofea.uk.com)

#### About the Indigo Trust

The Indigo Trust is a UK-based grant-making foundation that is part of the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts.

<https://indigotrust.org.uk/>

#### About the National Emergencies Trust

The National Emergencies Trust (NET) work with local charities and distribution partners to ensure that financial support is delivered to those that need it the most.

<https://nationalemergenciestrust.org.uk/>