

DEAS Network Plus Covid-19 Charity Sector Projects 2020 FAQs

Application process questions

What is the deadline for applications?

19th June, 17.00

How are applications submitted?

Applications should be emailed to Frances Lumbers: F.Lumbers@exeter.ac.uk

Where is the application form?

The application form can be found on the DEAS website (<https://www.deas.ac.uk/post/covid19-call-for-proposals>)

Must my university approve my application?

Yes, all proposals must be signed off by your university before we will accept them for submission. Your own University processes will determine who at your university should sign off on the application.

Questions relating to assessment

How will the proposals be scored?

Marks will be allocated to proposals based on the degree to which they meet each of the criteria. Marks will be amalgamated to form a prioritised list with the highest ranked projects funded subject to available funds and quality criteria having been met.

Will there be an interview as part of the application process? If so, on video call?

There will be no interview. Members of the DEAS review panel will also conduct reviews dependent on their expertise. Marks will be allocated to proposals based on the degree to which they meet each of the criteria. Marks will be amalgamated to form a prioritised list with the highest ranked projects funded subject to available funds and quality criteria having been met. Each application will receive 2-3 reviews.

Questions relating to finances

What can I use the funds for?

The funding call follows EPSRC guidelines. So, funding can be used for e.g., staff time, and travel and subsistence (where appropriate). If the award was to fund new staff salaries it would be advisable prior to submitting your application, to consult with your university's HR team to understand the process of recruitment and expected timescale. Only the salaries of UK based academics can be considered.

We will not fund new sensors. If any data is being used from IoT devices, it is expected those IoT devices are already in place.

Does my university need to approve the financial request for funding as part of the application?

Yes. All costings should be confirmed with your university finance team. Applications must also be signed off by your organisation. We would especially like applicants to discuss with their research finance office that those successful applicants will be awarded 80% FEC.

Questions relating to scope

How does DEAS apply to charities?

We are looking at how charities are innovating their business models and value proposition with the use of innovative technologies to deliver improved outcomes considering the disruption caused by COVID-19.

What are DEAS?

DEAS use innovative digital technologies to innovate business models and the value proposition. Rather than focus on the product or service that is delivered Digitally Enhanced Advanced Services (DEAS) focus on how the product or service is used. This is a major change in how firms earn money and is being enabled by transformative digital technologies that allows for example, payment per use or availability or outcome. The impact of these changes is in firm productivity. The traditional focus of productivity (outputs/inputs) is on internal efficiency. However, digital technologies can also transform the value of the output (payment for use, availability or outcome).

What type of projects would be suitable?

We welcome any projects that show the potential positive impact DEAS principles could have on the charity/voluntary sector. Projects could be conceptual, a case study, an economic study, or exploratory.

What is the relevance of the Covid-19 angle?

Proposals should focus on how DEAS could have a positive impact on organisations within the charity/voluntary sector. Possible questions that could be addressed include: how has the lockdown affected them, how has a reduced in available staff affected them, how to address revenue shortfalls, how can recipients continue to access surveys.

What do you expect to get in the proposals?

Projects must cover the application of DEAS principles to the charitable and voluntary sector and be related to reducing the impact of Covid-19 in the short to medium term, with the potential for longer term impact on society.

Do you wish for novel digital tools to be investigated or look at how changes to delivery of services have been received and used to deliver a charity's work?

Both of these could be suitable projects as long as the relation to DEAS was made clear.

I am unsure if my project relates to DEAS. How can I find out?

If you are unsure if your project is in scope please email Frances Lumbers:

F.Lumbers@exeter.ac.uk

Questions relating to supporting companies

Is it compulsory to join/collaborate with a charity on the project?

It could be advantageous, especially in helping to ensure impact, but it is not a requirement of the call.

Could it be the emerging /charity that arose during COVID (e.g., PPE equipment)?

Yes.

Are SMEs (non-charities) are eligible?

Projects can include SMEs that are non-charities. However, projects must be specific to the voluntary and charity sector to be funded.

Other questions

Does the project need to be multi-disciplinary?

The call does not require proposals to be multidisciplinary but proposals could be if your project needs it.

Will there be future funding?

There are no current plans for future funding from the network, but we would work with successful applicants to help identify future funding sources.

What do you mean by impact?

Research that is impactful should demonstrate the contribution that it makes to society and the economy. We would advise that you look at EPSRC website for examples and their impact framework.

Could you please share the email address, whom I could contact?

Please direct any queries to Frances Lumbers: F.Lumbers@exeter.ac.uk

Where on your website are details about previous projects that you have funded?

Please look at the News and Events section: <https://www.deas.ac.uk/news-events>

How many applications are you planning to fund?

We expect to fund up to 4 proposals, subject to available funds and quality criteria having been met.