COVID-19 is impacting everyone globally and in Hong Kong, but we see the disproportionate effect on already marginalized communities, including women, girls, and trans people. HER Fund is initiating community response grant to support our grantee partners, and by walking together with the marginalised communities, we face the adversities. The Community Response Grant not only will support immediate material and service support but also bolster the capacity of organisations and communities for better well-being, resilience, and sustainability through mid to long-term organisational and financial planning.

Women make up large parts of the health workforce, and most primary caregivers to children, the elderly, and the ill are women. Women are more likely to be engaged in the informal sector, which is the hardest hit economically by COVID-19. Overseas statistics also revealed domestic and intimate partner violence has surged since containment measures and compounded by the suspension of support services. At the same time, women experience increased risks of gender-based violence, including sexual exploitation.

As a community women’s fund in Hong Kong envisioning a society of gender equality, HER Fund is very concerned about the social impact of the COVID-19 on women, girls, and trans people. Over the decade, we strive to mobilise resources to grant-make and support the capacity building of grassroots organisations that work directly in their communities. We understand their needs, and we also see the structural gaps in assessing mainstream resources and support. During such challenging times of global pandemic, marginalised communities are even more vulnerable, and grassroots organisations are facing more significant difficulties. Hence, we hope that HER Response Grant could walk with our grantees and communities to administer and sustain their work when responding to the unprecedented epidemic outbreak.

**Eligible Group/ Organisation**

- HER Fund’s current grantee partners or received grant from HER Fund before since 2015;
- Registered organisations / groups based in Hong Kong (For example, Charitable status, Society registration, Trade union);**
- Target beneficiary are in Hong Kong.

**If you are an informal group, you may need to apply with a registered organization.**
**Selection Criteria**

We prioritize funding to organisations/ groups or initiatives that:

- Demonstrate understanding of feminism and analyse in gender perspective the situation of and the problems facing by women, girls, and trans people under COVID-19;
- Understand how organisation and community work can make changes to the situation of women, girls and trans people in response to COVID-19;
- Self-led by women, girls, and trans people. If the organisation/ group is not self-organizing, the decision-making structure and process should be driven by and/or involve their target communities;
- Less funded by mainstream agencies and/or at least resources;
- Focus on gender issues that are under-addressed and/or contested in response to COVID-19.

**Type of Support**

For HER Fund’s current grantee partners or received grant from HER Fund before since 2015

- Core support (e.g. administration, human resources, organisational development, technology, financial planning and resilience, well-being of women’s leader/ organizers);
- Project-based - for emerging needs in response to COVID-19 in Hong Kong AND also responding to HER Fund’s main grant focus (Freedom from violence, Freedom from discrimination, Freedom from poverty, and Advancement of Women’s Civil Participation, for more details: [https://www.herfund.org.hk/en/article/grant](https://www.herfund.org.hk/en/article/grant)).

For other’s organisations / groups

- Project-based - for emerging needs in response to COVID-19 in Hong Kong AND also responding to HER Fund’s main grant focus (Freedom from violence, Freedom from discrimination, Freedom from poverty, and Advancement of Women’s Civil Participation, for more details: [https://www.herfund.org.hk/en/article/grant](https://www.herfund.org.hk/en/article/grant)).

**Grant size and length**

At present, a total amount of HK$200,000 will be available for the Community Response Grant. Each grant application would be allocated between HK$1,000 – HK$30,000 and the project implementation period could be scheduled for a maximum of 9 months. (Within the period of 15th August 2020 – 14th May 2021)
Due to limited resources, applicants are recommended to precisely assess their needs and apply for what are needed in response to COVID-19, so as to allow more organisations/groups to be supported.

**Application and Grantmaking Process**

1. Submission of online application on or before 9th July 2020
   
   [https://airtable.com/shr0EcjDNfTobRvQW](https://airtable.com/shr0EcjDNfTobRvQW)
2. Confirmation of Receipt of Application
3. Follow up call from HER Fund for any necessary clarification
4. Assessment and approval by HER Fund’s Executive Committee
5. Grant announcement on or before 9th August 2020
6. Grant disbursement within one month after the project commenced

The grant will remain open depending on available funding and needs.

**Monitoring, Evaluation and Evaluation**

- During implementation, a progress update call will be made by HER Fund if necessary;
- After project completion (within 1 month),
  - Submit written report and financial report with template provided;
  - Follow up call / meeting with HER Fund for future development if necessary.

**Online briefing session**

For organisations/groups who are interested to know more about this grant or connect with other organisations, please join our online briefing session (Enrollment: [https://forms.gle/AaW6s3EYq9jayrvg7](https://forms.gle/AaW6s3EYq9jayrvg7))

9th June 2020 (Tue) 7:30pm – 9:00pm (In Cantonese)

For English speaker, please send your inquiry to jade.to@hefund.org.hk. We will answer your questions in email or by phone.

**Enquiry**

If you have any question about drafting the application form, you are welcome to contact our Project Co-ordinator Ms. Jade To by 2794-1100 or jade.to@herfund.org.hk for further information.