



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities



North West RSMP Hong Kong BN(O)s Welcome Grant Scheme

KEY INFORMATION:

Grants available: Up to £5,000 per bid. Please note organisations can only bid once (unless their first bid is unsuccessful).

Beneficiaries: Beneficiaries of the projects must be Hong Kong BN(O) visa holders settled in the North West (Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Cheshire and Warrington, Liverpool City Region).

Who can apply: Groups as outlined below.

Opening dates (for applications): Round 1: 5 January - 31 January; Round 2: 5 March- 31 March.

Decisions made: Decisions will be made in February and April.

Start date for activity: To commence ASAP once the grant agreement has been signed.

Monitoring date(s): All projects must end by 30 June and submit their final reports by 15 July.

Key contact: Aleksandra Bardon.

HK BN(O) visa route

From January 2021, Hong Kong British Nationals (Overseas) status holders can apply for a new immigration route, enabling them and their dependents to come to the UK. Applicants and their family members will be able to live, work and study in the UK but will not have access to public funds. The Hong Kong BN(O) visa will provide eligible applicants with the ability to enter or remain in the UK for up to 5 years. After these 5 years, successful applicants will have the choice to apply for indefinite leave to remain and, after a further 12 months, they will be able to apply for citizenship.

Background information

The Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) created 12 “Welcome Hubs” across the UK to support new arrivals, and the North West Regional Strategic Migration Partnership (RSMP) is

one of these Hubs. The Welcome Hubs have been funded to ensure that newly arriving BN(O) status holders are able to access information to help their integration into the UK. Local authorities in England can apply to DLUHC targeted funding where they have provided support to those on the BN(O) route who need help with English language or are destitute or at risk of destitution.

We know the VCFSE sector plays an important role in delivering local services and they have extensive experience in supporting the integration of migrant groups. We would like to ensure that VCFSE organisations have access to funding to support the local welcome of the Hong Kong BN(O) visa holders, therefore, the North West RSMP Welcome Hub has created the Hong Kong BN(O)s Welcome Grant Scheme, which will make available grants to organisations that propose suitable projects and activities for Hong Kong BN(O) visa holders across the North West.

The objectives of the Hong Kong BN(O) Welcome Grant Scheme are to:

- Enable BN(O) status holders and their dependants to be part of British society, provide a positive contribution to the areas in which they settle, both economically and socially, and be able to mix confidently with people of all backgrounds.
- Ensure that any instances of destitution and underemployment in the BN(O) status holder cohort is minimised and addressed through effective support.
- Ensure that BN(O) status holders to understand their rights and entitlements and are aware of services available to them.
- Ensure that emotional wellbeing needs of the BN(O) visa holders and their families are met and that they feel safe and welcome.

Examples of projects (the list is not exhaustive):

- Bespoke projects supporting BN(O) visa holders into employment or setting up of an enterprise, including advice on the job market across the North West, employability skills, coaching for interviews etc.
- Cultural exchange programmes between newly arrived and local children and young people
- Projects supporting mental health of newly arrived Hong Kong BN(O) visa holders, tackling issues of culture shock.
- Projects supporting informal language learning, such as conversation clubs.
- Projects raising awareness about and linking Hong Kong BN(O) visa holders to other services, such as health, advice and so on.
- Projects creating opportunities to create meaningful connections between the newly arrived Hong Kong BN(O) visa holders and local communities.
- Community events, celebrations or engagements.

We encourage that that organisations engage with the newly arrived HK BN(O) visa holders and co-design projects based on local needs.

The funding provided via this Grant Scheme may be used to cover the costs of:

- Project-related sessional work.
- Expanding or building on existing projects to include BN(O) visa holders.
- Venue hire.
- Community events.
- Publicity material.
- Costs of interpretations, translations and alternative formats.
- Volunteer expenses and training.

We will not fund the following:

- Activities of a political or exclusively religious nature.
- Activities to be reimbursed by other public or private sector grants.
- Projects or activities that have already taken place prior to the agreement of funding.
- Projects primarily for the benefit of people who are not resident in the North West.

The application process

You can apply if you are:

- Registered, exempt or excepted charity.
- Charitable incorporated organisation (CIO).
- Community Interest Company (CIC) limited by guarantee.
- Charitable company (limited by guarantee).
- Community benefit society (Becom).
- Constituted community group.
- Faith group, where the activity is not promoting religion.

If you do not qualify under any of the above criteria, you may be able to apply in partnership with an organisation that does meet the criteria. Only the organisation that meets the criteria may be a lead applicant and submit the application form.

Application Deadline	Decision	Project's commencement
31 January 2021	28 February	From 1 March
31 March	30 April	From 1 May

All projects must submit their final report by 15 July 2022.

All applications will be assessed according to the criteria specified here. The assessment process has two stages:

- Panel 1 will screen all the applications to ensure the organisations are eligible for funding and meet the criteria specified here and will make recommendations to Panel 2;
- Panel 2 will make a final decision on the applications.

Both Panels will include representatives of local authorities and people with lived experience.

Application forms must be submitted to rsmp@manchester.gov.uk

Available funding

The North West RSMP is making up to £100,000 available for project to take place across the North West. Each organisation is able to apply for up to £5,000.

Other information

The RSMP Welcome Hub consulted BN(O) visa holders, and VCFSE organisations ahead of opening the North West RSMP Hong Kong BN(O) Welcome Grant Scheme. Additionally, once the Grant application process opens, RSMP Welcome Hub will organise at least two sessions to provide information and guidance to organisations willing to apply. Dates will be publicised on our website.

Points to consider when making an application:

1. The maximum grant available per application is £5,000.
2. We welcome applications from groups but will not fund individuals.
3. We welcome partnerships with one lead organisation.
4. Funding is provided on a one-off basis and is not renewable.
5. The decision to award a grant rests with the Council and there is no appeal process.
6. Evidence of costs is required with all applications. As part of the assessment, we will consider if the costs appear reasonable.
7. Funding will not be awarded retrospectively.
8. Any text above the word count in the application, or any appendices or attachments will not be considered.
9. If the application form is not fully completed and the necessary supporting evidence not provided when requested, then the application will be refused.