



PRESS RELEASE

£33,449 funding available for specialist Oxfordshire projects for vulnerable women and girls

Local groups supporting women and girls with issues like period poverty, domestic and sexual abuse, mental health and long-term unemployment can apply for a share of £3.5 million for their vital work.

A further round of the Tampon Tax Community Fund is open to charities and community groups working with women of all ages and backgrounds to build their skills, confidence and self-esteem.

Groups anywhere in the UK can apply to their local Community Foundation for grants of up to £10,000 and the funding can only be used for projects or services that directly benefit women and girls.

Priority will be given to grassroots organisations, organisations working with women or girls facing multiple challenges, user-led organisations and sustainable projects providing long-term solutions.

Please visit Oxfordshire.org/tampontax

Last year's grants were awarded to four organisations:

- Henley-based **Riverside Counselling Service** - £9,700 to provide counselling for girls and women aged 12–20 who are experiencing mental health problems as a result of family and relationship difficulties; self-esteem, depression or anxiety; self-harm; worries about body image or more complex mental health needs.
- **Oxford Sexual Abuse & Rape Crisis Centre** received £9,500 to recruit, train and support volunteer counsellors to work with survivors of sexual violence experienced at any point in their lives, helping them to understand and process their trauma.
- Children's charity **Fegans** are using their grant of £5,000 to run a female-only parenting programme that encourages healthy relationships, builds self-confidence and improves outcomes for women and their children affected by domestic violence and maternal mental health problems.
- **Home-Start Oxford** will use £9,935 from the fund for a Family Support Worker to help mothers who have increasingly complex needs, including poor housing, poverty, domestic abuse and extreme isolation – visiting each mum weekly for up to three hours and providing ongoing liaison between statutory services.

"Riverside Counselling Service is incredibly grateful for this grant. It has enabled us to reach out and support the mental health of young girls and women in South Oxfordshire and have a positive impact on their future lives and well-being." Hilary Arthur, CEO and Clinical Lead at Riverside Counselling Service.

"The Tampon Tax provided a vital lifeline of funding for this service at a critical time. We've now secured a three year grant to continue our support to vulnerable women. Thank you to OCF and the

Oxfordshire Community Foundation

Tampon Tax for helping us reach these mums when they needed us most.” Katharine Barber, Scheme Manager at Home-Start.

This year’s applications will be assessed by the Community Foundation and shortlisted projects will go to a local panel who will decide which groups to award funding to. Successful projects are likely to be announced early in 2020.

This is the second time UK Community Foundations has been selected by the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport to distribute the largest share of Tampon Tax funding. This is money raised through the levy on sanitary products which will be passed to small, local projects, working through the national network of Community Foundations.

Notes to Editors:

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

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About UKCF

UK Community Foundations is a national network of 46 accredited Community Foundations across the UK. Its members bring communities together, fund great ideas and inspire local philanthropy. Its network has collectively given out £1 billion in grants to charities, community groups and individuals.

www.ukcommunityfoundations.org | [@UKCF tweets](https://twitter.com/UKCF)