



Belong Advice and Support

Since lockdown measures were introduced, Belong has continued to offer support to people from BAME and minority nationality backgrounds. NIACRO is committed to delivering Belong, and in so doing, to ensure that housing and related general advice and support is available to people from BAME backgrounds in Greater Belfast. We propose to operate with telephone support until it is safe and advisable to meet service users face to face and / or in small groups.

Support can be given for a wide range of issues over this period including:

- referral to foodbanks and help with accessing essentials including furniture
- supporting applications for Free School Meal support
- applications for charitable funding for household
- assistance with applying for benefits or resolving issues (UC, Tax Credits, ESA/JSA, Rates Rebates
- advice about maximising housing points
- administering/distributing funding for those who are struggling financially.
- support with EUSS applications
- advice on potential scams
- amendments to Biometric Residence Permits;
- applications for and follow ups with Travel Documents;
- HC2 applications;
- information / support for those who have lost their jobs, been furloughed or have needed to close their business
- referral for support in finding employment
- onward referral to other organisations.
- checking in with those who have engaged with Belong to date and are vulnerable



BCC- COVID RESPONSE FUND

We have secured funds from Belfast City Council to enhance the support to BAME communities that are living in Belfast and have been impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic.

This support can include financial client assistance to those affected.

Criteria

You must answer yes to all 3 points below:

- Live in the Belfast City Council Area
- From the BAME, Minority Ethnic and Migrant Community (Inc Irish Traveller)
- Adversely affected by Covid19 e.g. Income has decreased as an effect of Covid or living costs have increased as an effect of Covid19

Eligible Expenditure

This is very broad but includes expenditure on items such as:

Essential baby supplies; Gas / Electric top up; Internet access; Baby clothes; Travel to appointments; Vouchers for shops; emergency accommodation, Food supplies, Mobile phone top-ups, Baby products etc.,

Amount

- Maximum of £100 per payment
- Maximum of two payments per family