



# Coronavirus Impact Report





# Message from our CEO

somerset  
COMMUNITY | FOUNDATION



## About Us

Somerset Community Foundation is a charity that helps passionate people in Somerset change the world on their doorstep by funding local charities and inspiring local giving and philanthropy.

We aim to build stronger communities in Somerset where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. We provide rewarding and impactful ways for donors to give through us to the causes and places they care about most. Together, we fund amazing organisations and the passionate people that change lives every day.

Since we were founded in 2002 we've awarded more than £15 million in funding, changing thousands of lives across Somerset.

**M**arch 2020 marked the beginning of a course of events that would reshape our lives and communities in ways that none of us could ever have imagined. As concern about the coronavirus outbreak grew, it became clear that the impending lockdown would have wide-ranging impacts on everyone's lives – but that the most significant impacts would be on those already facing their own challenges.

With this in mind, we launched our Somerset Coronavirus Appeal on 19th March, just a few days before the first national lockdown was announced. Our first grants were made shortly afterwards to food banks across the county, and we continued making emergency grants to frontline charities every day in those first few weeks.

What was truly remarkable to see was the pace at which our voluntary sector responded. Almost overnight, our nimble, innovative local charities transformed the way they deliver their services. Food banks started delivering food parcels to people at home. People struggling with their mental health could access free counselling over Zoom. Young people could join virtual youth clubs and older people could join sing-a-longs and social clubs from their living rooms. One village even set up and stocked a pop-up community shop in less than a week so local people could access essential supplies on their doorstep.

Thanks to the support of so many generous donors, we were privileged to play a leading role in our county's response to the pandemic. Powered by more than £1.5m of flexible funding we've received from individuals, businesses, charitable trusts and public sector partners, we've made over £1.1m of grants to date\* to over 350 charities. And in the months ahead we'll continue to award even more grants as we help charities recover from the financial impacts of the pandemic.

I'm especially grateful to the many local charities, funders and partners who have shared invaluable data and insights with us to inform our grant making, and helped us make the most impact possible.

We are so lucky to live in a county where so many give back. A county where thousands of hardworking charity staff and willing volunteers join together with those giving funding, food, laptops, baby clothes and so much more. Together, your generosity means our most vulnerable neighbours have been cared for and supported through these most difficult of times.

I hope you enjoy reading more about the incredible work of our local charities over the last year. I find it truly inspirational and I'm sure you will, too.

JUSTIN SARGENT, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

\* correct as at 31 March 2021



## Our emergency response

Our unique role in the local response to the pandemic was to give local charities the funding they needed to reach the most vulnerable people in our communities, as quickly as possible. We knew the need would be huge. And we knew from our experience supporting our communities through the floods in 2012/13 and 2014/15 that the best way we could do that was to launch a public appeal.

We were blown away by the response. We were immensely grateful to local charitable trusts and Somerset County Council for giving us significant funding within the first two weeks which enabled us to make our earliest grants. We were also delighted to benefit from funding from the National Emergencies Trust's national appeal and our gratitude goes out to our existing donors who allowed us the flexibility to swiftly redirect their funds to wherever they were needed most.

Locally, support came from all sides of our community – individual donors, local businesses, sports clubs, churches, local children, and enthusiastic fundraisers undertaking daring, creative and gruelling challenges to raise money for the appeal. A true community effort and one we can all be proud of.



Value of coronavirus grants funding

£1,104,095

Number of coronavirus grants awarded

369

Somerset residents supported

60,675

Average grant size

£2,992

**19 March**

Somerset Coronavirus Appeal is launched

**14 May**

Appeal reaches £800,000

**9 July**

£500,000 awarded to 170 Somerset groups in response to coronavirus

**22 September**

Boris Johnson makes televised address to the nation, outlining the need for new restrictions

**15 January 2021**

The Somerset Coronavirus Appeal reaches £1.5 million target



**23 March**

Boris Johnson announces national lockdown

**21 May**

£330,000 awarded to 140 groups

**29 July**

The Somerset Coronavirus Appeal reaches £1 million

**5 October**

The Wessex Water Foundation launches their COVID-19 Recovery Fund in partnership with the Somerset, Wiltshire, Dorset and Quartet Community Foundations

**2020** Our response during the most challenging of times... **2021**

**2 April**

First 50 emergency grants worth £120,000 awarded from the Coronavirus Response and Recovery Fund



**3 August**

The government's four week Eat Out to Help Out scheme is launched in the UK

**16 November**

£800,000 of grants awarded to 250 local projects

**5 November**

Boris Johnson announces second national lockdown

**27 January**

£1m awarded to 320 Somerset groups in response to coronavirus

**31 March 2021**

369 grants awarded to local groups worth over £1.1m\*



**24 March**

Appeal reaches £70,000 in first 5 days & first grants approved for local food banks

\* In addition, 91 grants worth £170,403 were awarded from the Wessex Water Community Fund and The Somerset Fund to support communities in their response to coronavirus.

Groups like the Elim Connect Centre worked tirelessly, prioritising food and support for those in our communities most in need



# Providing a rapid response

As the severity of the coronavirus outbreak became clear, on 19 March 2020, just days before the country's first lockdown, we launched the Somerset Coronavirus Appeal. Generous support came from local individuals, businesses, charitable trusts and public sector partners, as well as significant funding from a national appeal run by the National Emergencies Trust (NET).

Within two weeks, we'd made 50 grants worth £120,000, providing urgent support to help local foodbanks and community groups to continue or adapt their vital work, supporting the most vulnerable in our communities across the county. In this first, emergency phase, grants were awarded within days, providing flexible funding and prioritising food distribution and deliveries and support for those shielding, such as older people or people with disabilities. We also funded lots of digital change for local charities, who showed huge creativity and dedication, transforming their services to take them online, often within a matter of days.

In the first 10 weeks of the Appeal, two thirds of all grant applications were funded within five days – a huge departure from our usual timescales and ways of working, but one we knew was essential to quickly get funds where they were needed.

### CASE STUDY: TAUNTON SCRUBBERS

Taunton Scrubbers was formed to help address the chronic shortage of PPE the NHS and other care providers experienced during the start of the coronavirus outbreak. The small army of volunteer makers put their sewing skills to fantastic use to support community health workers in and around Taunton and beyond.

Susan McDonnell told us how the £2,500 grant to purchase much-needed fabric helped support local NHS staff.

"There was a shortage of scrubs and PPE for a number of reasons, but due to the coronavirus outbreak it was simply that more people needed to wear them; they were changing their scrubs up to three times a day. There was a ten-fold increase in the need for scrubs, and a decrease in the number of deliveries, as they had to be quarantined before they could be used.

All types of community health workers required them, such as the Somerset NHS Trust, hospitals, GPs, care homes and mental health units.

In late March I posted on Facebook, asking if any sewers were interested in getting involved. The group started doubling every two days until we got to around 1,000 members: our youngest was 6 years old and our oldest was 91.

I soon found myself running a big organisation from my living room, with delivery support from the local driving school and other local people who had been furloughed. We also made scrubs wash bags, headbands to protect the skin behind the ears, operation gowns and scrubs caps. It took our fastest sewers around 90 minutes to make a set of scrubs, but for most people it took the best part of a day.

Local people and businesses donated all kinds of fabric – curtains, quilt covers, sheets, tablecloths, as well as actual dress-making fabric.



At one point we had around 700 volunteers making up to 600 sets of scrubs a day, with another 100 or so people helping in other ways; at the peak we were out delivering every day."

As sets of scrubs and PPE started arriving in the country, the urgency and demand gradually declined.

"The problem was stopping people sewing! We delivered over 15,000 items in total, including around 3,000 sets of scrubs. More recently we made Christmas scrubs for children's wards and we've also helped our local hospice who were affected by delayed deliveries."



### CASE STUDY: HIGHBRIDGE AREA FOODBANK

In April 2020, Highbridge Area Foodbank was just one of the county's foodbanks to receive an emergency grant from our Coronavirus Response and Recovery Fund. The foodbank usually provides food parcels to around 2000 people every year affected by food poverty, however, demand for their services rocketed since the coronavirus outbreak, and we provided an urgent grant to help the group transform its approach to offer safe home deliveries of food parcels three times a week.

We spoke to Maxine Bashford, Trustee of the foodbank, who told us how they supported local people in need in the early days of the pandemic.

"In mid-April 2020, our foodbank centres fed three times the amount of people we fed in the same week the previous year. We saw a rise in those moving into temporary accommodation, waiting to secure benefits, people being laid off and of course those who were previously just about coping but, due to the financial impact of this crisis, were no longer able to do so.

I spoke to elderly people who were isolating and scared because their food was running out and there's no one to help, and vulnerable adults whose regular framework of support had, in their terms, disappeared. I spoke to a mother of several children who suddenly lost her job and found herself totally at a loss. She visited us at Easter and was hugely grateful for the food parcel she received. We also managed to include an Easter Egg for each child which reduced her to tears.

No one can know the real impact that receiving a couple of bags of food can have on someone who is hungry. For some people it's the food that really matters, for others it's that they mean enough to be helped."

Comparing April 2020 – January 2021 to the same period in the previous year, Highbridge Area Foodbank have seen a 59% increase in referrals to the foodbank and the amount of people they have fed has increased by 34%.

"There is now much more food support, over and above that which we provide here at the foodbank. Various organisations, such as the Village Agents, are providing food so it's probable the overall level of need is greater than our figures alone would suggest.

We expect the level of need to continue to rise in line with the expected worsening economic situation once the full financial effects of the pandemic and other economic factors are seen."





Reminiscence Learning had to put many of their usual activities on hold, swiftly adapting their services to online

Nova Sports and Coaching delivered free Sports Care Packages to Somerset families with a disabled child, helping them to remain active while staying safe at home during the pandemic



# Living with coronavirus

By early July 2020 we had awarded £500,000 to 170 Somerset groups, and our approach to grant funding had evolved in line with what local charities told us they needed. We started to provide a blend of different types of grants to help local charities and community groups respond to the more wide-ranging social impacts of the coronavirus outbreak.

This saw us support charities working with diverse groups across the county, from online youth clubs and counselling services, to charities delivering activities for people with disabilities or reducing isolation in older people. Many charities started to feel the financial impacts as many fundraising events and activities were unable to go ahead, so we began to provide flexible core funding to help offset those losses, ensuring they could keep up with surging demand, and adapt their infrastructure to deliver their work in a Covid-secure way.

By the end of July 2020, the funds raised by the Somerset Coronavirus Appeal had grown to a staggering £1 million.

**CASE STUDY: REMINISCENCE LEARNING**

**Reminiscence Learning specialise in dementia care, reminiscence and activities. Fiona Mahoney from the charity told us how a grant from the Somerset Coronavirus Appeal helped them to continue providing remote support sessions for people with dementia and their carers during the pandemic, in the summer of 2020.**

"Due to the lockdown we had to put a stop to practically all our projects and swiftly reinvent the wheel. Our centre temporarily closed and we adapted our services as best we could to remotely reach our clients in their homes. Like so many other charities, the situation had a very negative impact on our income and fundraising opportunities. However, throughout this, we've learnt that we're very resilient and adaptable, reshaping almost all of our services and at a rapid speed, learning many new skills – mainly digital and IT based – in the process! We're very proud of the teams' efforts and hard work through this very challenging period.

Once the first lockdown was announced we knew we had to do whatever we could to continue supporting our clients and family carers. We started by offering them twice weekly care calls from different staff, especially important for those of our clients who are less technologically minded. What we didn't expect was the amount of people we would reach with our new live 'Activity @ Home' Facebook sessions. In the first few weeks we were reaching over 11,900 people across 20 countries – increasing our profile by 900%.



Our clients and family carers have felt very isolated and alone during the lockdowns, and we constantly strive to be a lifeline for many who are vulnerable and have no one else.

One of our family carers and her husband, who lives with dementia, have benefitted hugely from the services we have been able to offer as a result of the funding from the Somerset Coronavirus Appeal. She accessed our online sessions every single day, twice a day, and they both enjoyed – and continue to enjoy – the activities on offer, from cooking and baking to chair-based exercises and quizzes. She told us that because of the live sessions she never felt fully on her own with her husband; they have felt supported and safe, and she structures her day and routine around the sessions."

The latest funding from the Somerset Coronavirus Appeal will support Fiona and the team at Reminiscence Learning to deliver a Forest School for younger people with dementia and memory impairment.

"As well as running our Forest School, our intergenerational dementia awareness project, The Archie Project, is planned for late 2021, when we hope we'll be able to link local primary school pupils with care home residents, alongside other members of the community. The ultimate aim is to reduce the fear and stigma often associated with dementia and create more dementia-friendly communities."

**CASE STUDY: TAUNTON & DISTRICT MENCAP SOCIETY**

**Taunton & District Mencap Society support people with a learning disability and their families and carers in Taunton and the surrounding area. They provide a range of services, including round-the-clock care, advice and information on things like employment and education, and help with living independently for the first time.**

**When we spoke to Dave Urwin, Development Officer, in June 2020, he told us how their £2,000 grant from the Somerset Coronavirus Appeal helped the team to make sure their self-isolating service users were able to stay in contact with each other during lockdown.**

"Since the lockdown, we'd been unable to continue our normal programme of activities and trips. Our members are adults with learning disabilities and some of them have physical disabilities too. During the pandemic we've had to adapt our work so that we can engage with them remotely, mostly via Facebook and Zoom.

The Somerset Coronavirus Appeal grant allowed us to pay towards the salary costs of our two staff, easing the pressure of fundraising and allowing us to focus more on providing the best service that we can for our members during these difficult times.

The social distancing measures meant that people with learning difficulties, who thrive through being able to socialise and having activities to keep them occupied, have become isolated, and the break to their usual routine is difficult to cope with. But we were able to adapt what we do to make sure that important interaction was still there, and the Zoom bingo and quizzes that we put on were a big hit across the board.

Some of our members hadn't seen their friends in a long time, so there were always big smiles all around when they got to see each other on screen."

We recently caught up with Dave for an update: "Between lockdowns we did manage to host one socially distanced quiz in a village hall, and a treasure hunt in a local park, but since then our activities have gone back to being online.

We'll keep providing activities and socialisation for our members in different ways, including creating some artwork which we plan to unveil at a virtual art exhibition in the summer of 2021. It's difficult in this current climate to continue bringing in the necessary funds to cover the running costs of our charity. However, our most recent grant from SCF for core costs means we know that this side of things is covered for the next quarter, giving us more time to focus on supporting our members rather than raising funds."





Pupils at The Blue School, Wells redesigned and refurbished the conservation area at the school during lockdown



# The road to recovery

No one knows for certain what the future holds for charities in 2021 and beyond. The pandemic has significantly impacted on normal fundraising activities like fun runs, charity dinners and coffee mornings, and many groups are struggling financially. With hope on the horizon with the rollout of the vaccination programme, we want to help local charities to build greater resilience into their organisations to help keep our sector strong for many more years to come.

Since the outbreak, the Foundation has funded grassroots charities and organisations who have proved themselves invaluable during this time of crisis. They have shown they have the ability to respond creatively, rapidly and in an innovative way, underpinned by their expert knowledge within their communities. We have seen that some of the most resourceful groups have found new and improved ways of working since the pandemic, adapting their approach almost overnight to enable them to continue their work and, in many cases, expand their reach and become more inclusive.

We are extremely proud to support these charities and will do everything we can in the years to come to help them, not just to survive but to thrive. Working together, and powered by the support of our donors, we want to build stronger communities that create brighter and better futures for everyone in Somerset.



**CASE STUDY: ESCAPELINE**

Escapeline was founded to meet the needs of children and young people in Somerset who have been exploited by criminal County Lines gangs, whose practice of trafficking drugs into rural areas, away from major cities, has increased substantially in the last year. The National Crime Agency suggests that there are approximately 50,000 young people involved in County Lines gang activity across England.

Escapeline provides counselling and support directly to victims and their parents or carers, educational programmes to raise awareness of the dangers among the general school population, and training for professionals working with young people.

We spoke to CEO Lisa Hooper who told us how two grants from the Somerset Coronavirus Appeal have helped the charity:

"When the pandemic first hit, we needed to quickly adapt our services. With the emergency grants from the Somerset Coronavirus Appeal we were soon able to set up and provide virtual support for young people exploited by County Lines gangs.

Thanks to our first grant, we were able to continue, develop and expand our service during this difficult time. We set up a telephone support service for parents whose children were being exploited by criminal gangs – because parents are victims too; they've lost their child and they desperately need that support. It's about educating the parents, too, to make them more aware of what's going on out there.

During the coronavirus crisis there has been an immense increase in County Lines gangs operating in Somerset, with well over 30 gangs now operating here. Gangs are targeting deprived neighbourhoods, seeking out vulnerable young people, possibly those with learning difficulties or those who are marginalised due to their race or background, and enticing them with gifts and cash. This increase in criminal activity far outweighs the resources the police and local authorities can provide to combat the problem. As a result we've seen a large increase of young people being referred to us, as well as an increase in demand for our work.



We've adapted our service to offer virtual, online training and assemblies where possible. Our latest grant will help to cover the loss of income normally generated from face-to-face training, which has been restricted due to the coronavirus. It will fund our core costs over the coming months, giving us the flexibility to manage the day-to-day running of the charity, our staff and volunteers, and deliver training to professionals and at school assemblies in the future."

**CASE STUDY: WINCANTON WAR MEMORIAL HALL**

Wincanton War Memorial Hall is a small charity that has been running for 70 years and provides a local community space for the town and surrounding villages. The facilities are used for a huge range of groups and activities including blood donation sessions, sports groups, children's drama groups, tea dances for older people, the local carers association and the stroke club. It is also a private functions venue for the local community to hire, for events such as birthday parties and wedding receptions.

We spoke to Brian Sales, Chair of the Trustees, who told us how a grant from the Somerset Coronavirus Appeal has helped the hall to replace lost income, ensuring the viability of this valuable community asset for future generations.

"During the lockdowns we've sadly had to close our doors, but we've been able to open on and off for a couple of months having put in a huge amount of work and effort into ensuring we're COVID-safe, and compliant with the Government guidelines.

The hall normally hosts activities every single day of the week – it's a very busy venue! So while our doors are closed groups struggle to meet up. In many cases, such as the local lunch club, it's the only opportunity people have to get out of their homes and meet up with their friends once a week.

The hall, as with other community venues, is a lifeline for so many vulnerable people and in many cases there has been nothing to replace this, since the coronavirus outbreak.

Loneliness is a major issue for lots of our older users, and the activities held at our hall helped to combat those feelings of isolation for so many. Local children have also had to stop attending which could impact on their mental wellbeing.

It's so important that we keep our hall going through the pandemic, so that it's here for the many local people who use it to return to. Since March 2020, we have had a substantially reduced income, but our Somerset Coronavirus Appeal grant will help us to cover the ongoing costs of this much loved and well-used community venue until we are able to open the doors once again."

# Coronavirus grants made to organisations during 2020/21

Mendip	Project description	Number of grants	Grant value
7 Starlings CIC	Establishing a new community hub in Shepton Mallet	1	£2,424
Active and In Touch	Volunteer support for isolated people in Frome	2	£4,500
Anglo Boxing Sports Community Centre	Core costs of running a sports club in Shepton Mallet	1	£5,000
Avalon Community Centre CIC	Replacing lost income and ensuring future viability for free counselling services	1	£3,360
Baltonsborough Volunteer Support Group and Seniors' Christmas Dinner	Volunteer support for isolated people	1	£600
BlackBirdRedRose Productions	Online dance classes for older people	1	£1,500
Buddha Maitreya Soul Therapy Centre	Hot meals for homeless people in Glastonbury	1	£2,500
Children's World	Educational activities and events for families with children with additional needs in Glastonbury	3	£10,500
Christ Church First School Parents, Teachers and Friends Association	Play equipment for a community nursery in Frome	1	£3,000
Christ Church First School PTFA	Food parcels for vulnerable families	1	£750
Citizens Advice Mendip	Virtual volunteer-led advice service	2	£4,500
Cranmore Parish Council	Informing and supporting vulnerable people	1	£500
Creativity Works	Online creative courses for people in Mendip living with poor mental health	1	£4,885
Cruse Bereavement Care Somerset	Remote bereavement support	1	£3,000
Cultivating Community	Re-establishing a therapeutic horticulture project in Mells	1	£2,500
DOGS FOR HEALTH	Therapeutic dog walking groups for those who have become isolated	1	£1,500
Edventure Frome CIC	Support for young people who are unemployed or have mental health problems	1	£7,120
Elim Connect Centre	Meal delivery and mental health services for vulnerable people in Wells	2	£10,000
Fair Frome	Emergency food bank funding	1	£2,000
Families for Children	Volunteer costs for remote support for foster and adoptive families	1	£1,800
Feed Avalon CIC	Community kitchen to supply hot meals to vulnerable people in Glastonbury	2	£10,000
Focus Counselling	Subsidised counselling for families on low incomes	1	£3,000
Frome Community Drivers c/o Sustainable Frome CIC	Prescription delivery and community transport provision	1	£4,000
Frome Medical Practice CIC	Addressing digital deprivation in Mendip	1	£5,000
Frome Selwood Tennis Club	Free tennis coaching for children whose parents have lost their jobs due to coronavirus	1	£1,668
Frome Town Council	Support for volunteers	1	£1,250
Girlguiding Somerset International	Maintaining connections between girls and young women across Somerset	1	£2,000
Glastonbury Coronavirus Support Network	Range of support for vulnerable people	1	£1,000
Glastonbury FM	Information, advice and entertainment	1	£1,500
Glastonbury Mothers Collective	Support for vulnerable women in Glastonbury	1	£1,400
Globe Carnival Club	Replacing lost income and ensuring future viability	1	£1,164
Green Door Families	Hot meal provision for vulnerable people	1	£1,500
Heads Up	Virtual support service for people with mental health needs in Wells	1	£2,200
Holly & Hawthorn Forest School	Forest school activities for children, young people and adults in Shepton Mallet	2	£5,300
Love Glastonbury	Emergency foodbank funding	1	£4,000
Make the Sunshine CIC	Ensuring future viability for community arts activities	1	£2,000
Mendip Community Credit Union	Cloud-based software to increase the capacity of a local credit union	1	£8,665
MHA Communities South Somerset & Mendip District	Remote befriending service for isolated older people	1	£4,500
Move the Mind CIC	Supporting the recovery of an equine therapy centre	1	£3,000
Nova Sports and Coaching	Provision of equipment to enable disabled children to enjoy sport at home	1	£5,000
Oasis Carnival Club	Replacing lost income and ensuring future viability	1	£3,720
Openstorytellers Ltd	Virtual and face-to-face sessions for adults with learning disabilities in Frome	1	£7,609
PACE (Personal Achievements Creative Experiences)	Support for people with multiple disabilities in Frome	1	£1,500
Peers for Creative Outlets	Mental health peer support group in Glastonbury	2	£900
Project Factory CIC	Coordination of local volunteers and targeted support for vulnerable groups in Wells	1	£2,500
Purple Elephant Productions CIC	Play resources for disadvantaged families in Frome	2	£3,000
Rare Species Theatre CIC	Online exercise classes for children, young people and adults in Frome	2	£5,300
Root Connections CIC	Subsidised grocery delivery service for vulnerable people in Mendip	1	£1,500
Shambles Carnival Club	Core costs of a local carnival club	1	£5,000
Shared Earth Learning Co-op	Outdoor wellbeing support for vulnerable people	2	£6,500
Somerset County Trefoil Guild	Online sessions for members	1	£200
Somerset Local Food Ltd	Subsidised grocery delivery service for vulnerable people in Mendip and South Somerset	1	£4,000
Somerset Mental Health in Agriculture Group	Mental Health First Aid training for farming communities	1	£4,250
Somerset Youth Volunteering Network	Supporting vulnerable young people in Mendip	1	£3,000
St Benedict's CoE VA Junior School	Counselling service for children experiencing mental health problems in Glastonbury	1	£725
Stoke St Michael Community Events Group	Volunteer support for isolated people	1	£300
Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall	Establishing a community foodbank	1	£2,500
Street and District Swimming Club	Replacing lost income and ensuring future viability	1	£3,000
Street Community Support Group	Gardening and growing project for people with no outdoor space in Street	1	£1,000
SWEDA	Adaptations to help manage online and face-to-face counselling for those with eating disorders across Somerset	3	£10,250
Sweet Track Counselling Services & The Friends of Sweet Track Counselling	Virtual counselling service for people with mental health needs	1	£2,500
The Dorothy House Foundation Ltd, also known as Dorothy House Hospice Care	Contribution towards a hospice at home service in Mendip	1	£3,500
The Food Forest Project	Development of community food education centre	1	£5,100
The Friendship Club Shepton Mallet	Hot meal provision for vulnerable people	1	£2,500
The Frome Shed	Pilot virtual shed for older and isolated members	1	£2,000
The Lawrence Centre	Support for older vulnerable people and their carers	2	£5,000
The Mendip School	Food parcels, youth clubs and a sensory room for children and young people with SEND	3	£8,400
The Old Stores Studio	Re-introducing community learning to people in Mendip	1	£2,900
The Pod Youth Club	Online social clubs for young adults with learning disabilities in Frome and core funding to support future viability	2	£8,000
The Salvation Army, Shepton Mallet	Emergency foodbank funding	1	£2,000
The Salvation Army, Street	Emergency foodbank funding	1	£2,000



		Number of grants	Grant value
<b>Mendip</b>			
We Hear You	Counselling and bereavement support for people affected by life-threatening conditions	2	£10,000
Wells Jazz Collective – Wellspring local live music recovery project	Replacing lost income and subsidising local performance events	1	£500
Wells Vineyard	Funding for foodbank and furniture bank service for those on low incomes in Wells	4	£6,100
White Ribbon Alliance UK	Support and advocacy for vulnerable pregnant and post-natal women	1	£2,000
Wick Carnival Club	Replacing lost income and ensuring future viability	1	£2,000
Wookey Hall Refurbishment Committee	Replacing lost income and ensuring future viability	1	£2,026
Wookey Parish Council	Local food deliveries for people who are self isolating	1	£400
Wookey Theatre Group	Replacing lost income and ensuring future viability	1	£650
YMCA Brunel Group	Food vouchers and assistance for 16–25 year olds in supported accommodation	1	£1,775
<b>Somerset West and Taunton</b>			
@2K Theatre	Replacing lost income and ensuring future viability for amateur theatre activities	1	£2,000
1st Taunton (Wilton) Scout Group	Replacing lost income and maintaining membership fees	1	£2,000
2BU Somerset CIC	Countywide support for LGBTQ+ young people	2	£12,500
2nd Staplegrove Brownies	Online connection and activity packs	1	£340
Accessible Transport West Somerset	Re-introducing shopping and community transport services for older people in West Somerset	1	£2,880
Actiontrack	Expanded studio space to deliver services as lockdown eases	1	£5,000
Age UK Somerset	Strategic support for isolated and older people across Somerset	3	£20,000
Apple FM	Replacing lost income and ensuring future viability	1	£2,500
Arts Taunton	Youth arts and wellbeing hub	1	£4,000
Autism Somerset – Autism Community Network CIC	Online workshops and support	1	£10,000
Breaking Ground Heritage CIC	Engaging online with former service personnel who have suffered trauma	1	£1,000
Carry Me Kate Parenting Services CIC	Support for new parents in Somerset	2	£5,600
Catalys-ability CIC	Community Cafe in Taunton	1	£3,000
Citizens Advice Taunton	Remote advice service provision, including survivors of domestic abuse	2	£11,915
Citizens Advice West Somerset	Coordination of food supplies for vulnerable people in West Somerset	1	£3,000
Community Council for Somerset	Strategic support for minority ethnic communities, community groups and charities	3	£27,634
Compass Disability Services	Community kitchen to supply hot meals to vulnerable people in Taunton	1	£2,000
Conquest Centre	Counselling for vulnerable people	1	£2,730
Coronavirus Community Help Taunton	ID badges and PPE for volunteers	1	£3,700
Creech St Michael Parish Council	Youth worker for Creech St Michael	1	£1,500
Dulverton and Brushford Pastimes Club	Meals on wheels service for isolated older people	3	£3,500
Dulverton Good Neighbours	Food provision and support for vulnerable people	1	£6,000
Engage Voluntary Sector Development	Re-establishing a furniture recycling scheme	1	£4,000
Exmoor Studios CIC	Ongoing costs for studio space and ensuring future viability	1	£2,000
Exmoor Youth Project	Accessible activities for disadvantaged children and young people.	1	£2,500
Family Counselling Trust Somerset	Subsidised counselling for families on low incomes	1	£5,000
Fortitude Wellbeing CIC	Online wellbeing sessions for at home workers and woodwork activity pack for children	2	£4,600
FusePerformance	Replacing lost income for arts activities	1	£4,873
Galmington Social Club	Socially distanced activities for older people in Taunton	1	£2,500
GoCreate Taunton CIC	Remote art project for vulnerable people	1	£500
Healthy Babies UK	Donor breast milk bank deliveries	1	£1,600
Holford Parish Council	Support for vulnerable people in the community	1	£500
Home-Start West Somerset	Virtual antenatal classes	1	£500
In the Mix Youth Project	Virtual youth work in West Somerset	1	£3,550
Kilve Good Neighbours	Volunteer support for isolated older people	2	£200
Kingston Community Partnership	Support for vulnerable people	1	£750
Knights Templar Community Church School – Community Swimming Pool	Running costs to help keep the pool open	2	£4,100
Living Paintings	Postal library for blind and partially sighted people of all ages	1	£2,000
Marie Curie Cancer Care	Remote bereavement support	1	£15,000
Men in Sheds Taunton	Safety measures	1	£5,000
Mencap Taunton	Support for adults with learning disabilities	2	£4,217
Mind in Somerset	Mental health support for young people	1	£10,000
Minehead EYE CIC	Youth work provision across West Somerset	2	£7,000
Moorvale Creative CIC	Online music, art and creative writing courses for isolated children and adults	1	£2,500
Neroche Woodlanders Ltd	Support for young, vulnerable and new parents in Taunton	2	£6,250
New Horizons Somerset CIC	Support for minority ethnic women in Wellington	1	£1,000
North Taunton Partnership	Community cafe, volunteer coordination and core funding to support future viability	3	£9,750
Nourish Bumps, Babies and Breastfeeding	Support for expectant and new parents in Somerset	1	£3,000
On Your Bike (Recycle) Ltd	Free bike hire for NHS workers	1	£2,750
Onion Collective	Coordination of local volunteers and targeted support for vulnerable groups in Watchet	1	£3,000
Porlock Community Toddler Group	Activity packs and resources for local children	1	£500
Reminiscence Learning	Intergenerational forest school and remote sessions for people with dementia	2	£12,000
Second Step	Practical assistance to homeless people in Somerset	1	£4,100
Smart Communities Ltd	Community befriending, bikes for young people, and workshops for community buildings	3	£23,014
Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership	Infrastructure support for community activities	1	£16,634
Somerset Computers for Home Online Schooling	Refurbished laptops for young people in Bridgwater, Taunton and Wellington	1	£1,000
Somerset Counselling Centre	Counselling service for people in Somerset	4	£10,021
Somerset Sight	Support for people with sight loss	2	£10,000
South West Fishing for Life	Fishing and wellbeing activities for breast cancer sufferers	1	£1,500
St Margaret's Hospice	24 hour advice line for people facing a life limiting illness and their carers	1	£2,000
Stand Against Violence	Reintroducing violence prevention workshops in Somerset schools	1	£9,660
Stogursey Parish Council	Activities, meal and food parcels for vulnerable members of the community	3	£4,250

Somerset West and Taunton	Project description	Number of grants	Grant value
Taunton Area Debt Advice	Remote provision of debt advice to vulnerable people	1	£1,250
Taunton East Development Trust	Food parcels for vulnerable families in the Halcon Estate, Taunton	1	£2,500
Taunton Foodbank	Emergency food bank funding	1	£2,000
Taunton Vineyard Church	Remote money management support for vulnerable people	1	£1,000
Tavern Fight Academy	Training equipment and repairs	1	£2,000
The Minehead Hope Centre	Hot meals and support at drop-in centre for homeless people	2	£2,700
The Open Door TAUNTON	Meal provision for homeless people	1	£5,000
The Orchard Social Club	Online activities for older people in sheltered housing	1	£1,250
The Quantock Foodbank	Emergency food bank funding	1	£2,000
The Redstart Learning Partnership	Food parcels for vulnerable families	1	£3,000
The Salvation Army, Taunton	Food parcels for vulnerable families and support to the homeless in Taunton	1	£2,500
The Salvation Army, Watchet	Food parcels for vulnerable people	1	£2,000
The West Somerset Inter Cultural Friendship Group	Community befriending for older people	2	£3,000
The Willow Set Preschool and Sun Up Sun Down Club	Community kitchen to supply hot meals to vulnerable people in Stoke St Gregory	1	£2,300
The Women's Community Forum	Food parcels and wellbeing courses for minority ethnic women	1	£1,000
Timberscombe Good Neighbours	Volunteer support for isolated people	2	£9,000
Watchet Coastal Communities Team	Hot meals for elderly people in Watchet	1	£1,200
Watchet Town Football Club	Safety measures for a sports club	1	£750
Wellington Carers Support Group	Practical support for carers	2	£800
Wellington Community Counselling CIC	Subsidised counselling for families on low incomes and people with mental health needs	2	£8,350
West Somerset Railway Association (WSRA)	Virtual social club to reduce isolation among older volunteers	1	£250
Westcountry Savings and Loans	Raising awareness of credit union services among vulnerable people	1	£5,000
WHERE	Virtual support service for isolated older people in Wellington	1	£1,750
Williton Parish Council	Volunteer support for isolated people	1	£2,000
Wilton and Sherford CIC	Food distribution networks in Taunton	1	£1,000
Wiveliscombe Area Partnership	Support for vulnerable older people	1	£3,500
Wiveliscombe Community Swimming Pool Club	Replacing lost income and ensuring future viability	1	£4,000
Wivey Cares	Support for vulnerable people in the Wiveliscombe area	2	£6,000
YMCA Taunton	Support for the physical and mental wellbeing of families, children and young people in deprived areas	4	£5,916

Sedgemoor	Project description	Number of grants	Grant value
Axe Valley Men's Shed	Replacing lost income and ensuring future viability	1	£4,350
Brainwave	Virtual therapy sessions for children with disabilities and additional needs	1	£3,750
Brent Knoll Parish Council	Food distribution networks in Brent Knoll	1	£1,000
Bridgwater Cricket Club	Replacing lost income and maintaining grounds and clubhouse	1	£4,628
Bridgwater Foodbank	Emergency foodbank funding	1	£2,000
British Flag Carnival Club	Ongoing costs for carnival club	1	£2,065
Cavaliers Carnival Club	Replacing lost income and ensuring future viability	1	£2,000
Centre for Sustainable Energy	Additional staffing for fuel poverty triage and casework	1	£3,650
Cheddar Patient Group	Website costs to enable continued information sharing during pandemic	1	£250
Cheddar Valley Plus	Emergency food bank funding	1	£2,000
Citizens Advice Sedgemoor	Remote advice service provision	1	£3,500
Deafinate Matters CIC	Online and face-to-face support for people with hearing loss	1	£2,500
Elmwood Learning Support Centre	Sensory resources for children and young adults with special educational needs	1	£4,000
Highbridge Area Foodbank	Emergency food bank funding	1	£1,000
Hillview Juvenile Carnival Club	Replacing lost income and ensuring future viability	1	£1,500
In Charley's Memory	Virtual counselling service for young people in Burnham and Highbridge	1	£1,700
Marina Sydenham Juvenile Carnival Club	Replacing lost income and ensuring future viability	1	£2,070
Masqueraders Carnival Club	PPE and IT equipment to help members stay connected	1	£1,000
Nourish Bumps, Babies and Breastfeeding	Online antenatal classes and breastfeeding support for new parents	1	£1,600
Pentathlon Carnival Club	Replacing lost income and ensuring future viability	1	£1,100
Rusty Road to Recovery CIC	Community mental health support project for people in Bridgwater	2	£4,820
Sedgemoor Community Partnership	Equipment to sanitise community hall	1	£1,230
Seed of Hope CIC	Therapeutic horticulture sessions in Cannington	2	£4,060
Somerset Federation of Young Farmers Clubs	Online activities and mental health support for young farmers around Somerset	2	£4,750
Somerset Film and Video Ltd	Mental health awareness film production	1	£1,253
Somerset Time For Youth	Supporting young people with additional needs	3	£2,250
Somewhere House Somerset	Virtual counselling service for people with mental health needs	1	£1,500
Stowey Bears Pre School	Adaptations to help manage social distancing	1	£2,000
Taunton Scrubbers	Provision of protective equipment	1	£2,500
Taunton Theatre Association Ltd	Online art sessions for disadvantaged children and older people	1	£1,630
The Cafe Abundance CIC	Start up costs for community cafe to support older and more vulnerable people in Cheddar	1	£10,000
The Friends of The Princess Theatre	Replacing lost income and providing community engagement in the arts	1	£5,000
The Isle of Wedmore Good Neighbour Scheme	Providing new Good Neighbour scheme	1	£1,000
The Marketeers Carnival Club	Hand washing facilities and signage to enable the group to reopen in Bridgwater	2	£2,212
The Nelson Trust	Remote support for vulnerable women across Somerset	1	£10,000
The Nurture Shed	Activity packs for young children and support for people with mental health problems	2	£6,000
The Space	Virtual counselling and youth work provision for young people in Cheddar	1	£6,054
Ups and Downs Southwest	Support for families and schools supporting children with Down Syndrome	2	£20,000
Westfield United Reformed Church	Support to vulnerable families and homeless people in Bridgwater	3	£18,800
Weston-super-Mare Foodbank	Emergency foodbank funding	1	£2,000
Westonzoyland Carnival Club	Replacing lost income and ensuring future viability	1	£2,600
Wilstockhub	Activity packs for children in Wilstock	1	£500
Young Somerset	Virtual youth work across Somerset	1	£4,000



South Somerset	Project description	Number of grants	Grant value
able2achieve	Remote support for adults with learning disabilities	1	£4,900
ARK AT EGWOOD CIC	Support for people with learning disabilities	3	£9,420
Art Care Education	Therapeutic arts activities for vulnerable people in Somerton	1	£3,000
BIBIC	Support to families with children with additional needs	1	£4,000
Bournemouth Churches Housing Association	Remote access for homeless people in Yeovil	1	£2,500
Bruton Town Council	Refurbished laptops for young people and food parcels for vulnerable people	2	£3,000
Bruton United	Additional cleaning and PPE for a community sports club	1	£750
Cary Cares	Food boxes and volunteer costs	1	£2,500
Cary Comedians Carnival Club	Replacing lost income and ensuring future viability	1	£1,000
Centre for Sustainable Energy	Emergency energy pre-payment top-up vouchers for vulnerable people	1	£3,500
Chard WATCH CIC	Virtual mental health peer support groups and provision of online learning	2	£2,500
Citizens Advice South Somerset	Single point of access to Citizens Advice services in Somerset and PPE	2	£12,550
DraytonCitz – the friendly club for retired country folk	Social activities for older people in Drayton	1	£900
EAQ Manor Farm CIC	Supporting equine-assisted activities for young people with additional needs	3	£10,500
Escapeline	Virtual support for young people exploited by county lines gangs	2	£6,250
Friends of Fairmead (working in association with Fairmead Special School)	Food parcels and sensory resources	1	£3,000
Friends of South Petherton Library (FOSPL)	Village walk leaflets to promote outdoor exercise	1	£680
Gemini Carnival Club	Maintaining ongoing costs for carnival club	1	£4,500
Golden Oldies	Development of an online Sing and Smile group for older people	1	£1,260
Josephine's Star	Supporting grieving children and families in Somerset	1	£2,500
Langport and Huish Episcopi Youth Group	Outdoor activities and one-to-one support for vulnerable young people	1	£3,000
Langport Church Community Trust	Developing a foodbank and other community services	2	£6,000
Lord's Larder Yeovil Foodbank	Emergency food bank funding	1	£2,000
Magdalen Environmental Trust	Food production and donations for South Somerset residents	1	£2,000
Martock Christian Fellowship	Emergency foodbank funding	1	£2,000
Martock Parish Council	Food distribution networks in Martock	1	£2,000
Mind in Somerset	Support for people in Yeovil with poor mental health	1	£3,000
Monks Yard	Support for new parents in South Somerset	1	£2,000
People First Dorset	Easy Read newsletter for adults with learning disabilities	2	£5,005
Polonia & Friends	Remote support for families where English is a second language	1	£2,175
Radio Ninesprings	Replacing lost income and ensuring future viability	1	£2,500
RAISE South West CIC	Exercise classes and activities for minority ethnic families in South Somerset	1	£2,464
Reach Out (SW) CIC	Family support around Somerton	1	£2,500
Read Easy Blackmore Vale North	Adult literacy sessions for people in Wincanton	1	£1,315
Re-engage	Care packages for isolated older people in Bruton	1	£300
Relate Dorset and South Wiltshire	Counselling for those experiencing domestic abuse	1	£3,000
Sands	Stillbirth and neonatal bereavement support in Yeovil	1	£1,250
Seavington Community Shop and Services Association	Supporting a rural community shop to stay open	1	£647
Somer Valley Education Trust CIO	Podcasts to share the stories of those managing their mental health during lockdown	1	£1,552
Somerset Art Works	Remote art workshops to support vulnerable people with mental health issues	1	£3,000
Somerset Arts Therapies Centre (SATC)	Replacing lost income and ensuring future viability	1	£3,000
Somerset Child Contact Centres	Core costs of running child contact centres	1	£5,000
Somerset Parent Carer Forum CIC Ltd	Activities and peer support for families of children with disabilities	2	£4,500
Somerton Community Lifeline	Shopping and prescription delivery for vulnerable people	1	£300
Somerton Recreation Ground Trust	Income loss and running costs of a community recreational venue	1	£5,000
South Cadbury Village Hall Committee	Volunteer support	1	£1,250
South Petherton Community Shed	Running costs to keep the shed open over winter	1	£1,000
South Somerset Live At Home Scheme	Emotional and practical support for older people	1	£3,000
Spark Somerset	Strategic infrastructure support and training for community groups and charities	4	£27,550
St Andrews Church, High Ham	Creation of community cafe	1	£5,000
St Georges Hall and Playing Field	Replacing lost income and maintaining premises	1	£4,000
St Peters' Church Yeovil	Establishing a new community hub in a disadvantaged area of Yeovil	1	£6,700
The Be A Good Neighbour Scheme	Support for isolated and vulnerable people	2	£5,500
The Charltons Memorial Hall and Playing field Trust	Cleaning fees and materials	1	£2,000
The Community Youth Project (Somerset)	Youth workers and youth clubs for children and young people in South Somerset	2	£6,500
The Friends of Ham Hill	Outdoor play area for children in Stoke-sub-Hamdon	1	£737
The Hub Yeovil Community Support Charity	Support for adults with learning disabilities in Yeovil	2	£4,000
The Lord's Larder Chard Foodbank	Emergency food bank funding	1	£2,000
The Magdalen Environmental Trust	Fresh food supplies to food parcel providers for distribution	1	£4,000
The Meeting House Arts Centre Limited	Replacing lost income and ensuring future viability	1	£5,000
Wassail Theatre Company	Connecting care home residents to their communities across Mendip and South Somerset	1	£3,000
Wessex MS Therapy Centre	Remote support for vulnerable people	1	£1,500
West Coker Covid 19 Voluntary Group	Support for vulnerable people	1	£500
Wincanton War Memorial Hall	Replacing lost income and ensuring future viability	1	£2,500
Yeovil Art Space	Support for isolated older people during the pandemic	2	£8,500
Yeovil Community Church	Volunteer coordination and parent and baby groups to address isolation	2	£9,000
Yeovil Community Meals Service	Meal delivery service for vulnerable people	1	£5,000
Yeovil Counselling and Pregnancy Crisis Trust, Counselling4Yeovil	Support for domestic abuse survivors	2	£8,000
Youth Resource Services (The Rendezvous, Sherborne) Ltd	Tutoring and accreditation for 16–25 year olds without basic qualifications in Yeovil	1	£5,593

# Thank you!

To say we were blown away by the generosity of our community and your response to our Somerset Coronavirus Appeal is truly an understatement. When we launched our appeal, we had no idea of the extent of the impact that coronavirus would have on all of our lives, but in particular, on those already facing their own struggles.

As the scale of the crisis became clear, we knew we wanted to do as much as we possibly could to try and reduce the short-term impacts on the most vulnerable in Somerset and help our communities and charities to recover in the long-term. We were joined in that mission by more than 200 generous local donors who made our work possible and we want to give thanks to each and every one of you who donated, took on challenges or got creative to raise funds, shared the appeal on social media, or told friends or family.

We were also hugely grateful to our SCF Fundholders, who made extra donations in recognition of the scale of the challenge, or gave us much-needed flexibility to use their funds differently and wherever the need was greatest, unlocking significant additional funding for the appeal.

One of our Fundholders shared their reasons for increasing their giving to support the Somerset Coronavirus Appeal: "We started our Fund with SCF a year ago as we wanted to direct our charitable giving through an organisation that 'had its ears to the ground', and really knew the charities it supported and the people who were involved. Needless to say, giving through SCF has not disappointed and we have been so impressed by the way our funding has been directed – in proactive and tangible ways that really make a difference to those it is helping. SCF work hard to ensure the fit is right and that funds are being targeted conscientiously. The Foundation are always keen to enable you to feel a part of the whole philanthropic journey and not just a donor.

When COVID-19 struck it was evident there were going to be a great many people and organisations very adversely affected by the pandemic. SCF's Somerset Coronavirus Appeal was an excellent response to this increased need and it was heart-warming to see how the Somerset communities rallied around to support those in need. A silver lining to the darker clouds of 2020."

## THANK YOU TO THOSE GOING THE EXTRA MILE (OR 26.2!)

**Matthew Laight** from Taunton, hopped on his rowing machine and rowed the distance of a marathon in 2 hours, 40 minutes, raising an amazing £920 for the Somerset Coronavirus Appeal.

**Harry, Maisie and Gwennie Golding** (and Pilchard the cat) camped and cooked in their garden, raising £155.



Concert pianist **Jonathan Delbridge** performed a number of fantastic piano recitals via Facebook Live, raising almost £600.

Jonathan said: "During the pandemic, I felt it was important to continue to share live music, so I put on regular online concerts as a way of doing this. I personally felt it was really important to raise funds for local people who would need extra support during the pandemic and encouraged people to donate during the concerts, if they felt they could. Audience members were very generous with their giving to Somerset charities, including Somerset Community Foundation."

In the absence of trips to the hairdressers and with thanks to friends and family, brave Somerset residents shaved their heads (and beards!) to raise vital funds in support of our appeal. In May 2020 **James Wellbelove** braved the head shave (going the whole way – including his eyebrows!), raising £520, and **Justin Fudge**, from the Lord Lieutenant's Office, shaved off his hair and beard raising £1,865 for the appeal.

**Thank you so much to everyone for your wonderful efforts.**



# How you can support The Foundation

We are privileged to be able to do the work we do thanks to the many generous donors and partners who give through SCF. During the last year, we've been able to react quickly and sustain our response due to the incredibly valuable support we've received, and we're particularly grateful to our regular donors who have continued to support us over the years. Together, we are passionate about changing the world on our doorstep by supporting strong communities in Somerset where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

If you'd like to give through SCF, we have shared a few different ways you can make a difference, below. You can also support our work by spreading the word about SCF to friends, colleagues or neighbours.

Find out more at: <https://www.somersetcf.org.uk/support-our-work>

## CREATE YOUR OWN GIVING FUND WITH SCF

Named Funds offer families and businesses all the benefits of a charitable trust, without time-consuming administration. We provide expert advice and ensure your donations make a real difference to the places and causes you care about most.

You'll receive regular updates about projects you've funded, alongside opportunities to visit local charities and network with like-minded supporters, making local giving simple, rewarding and impactful.

## SOMERSET PHILANTHROPY NETWORK

Somerset Philanthropy Network is an influential and engaged group of donors who are passionate about supporting Somerset. Members donate £1,000 a year or more to the Foundation and have networking opportunities to deepen their understanding of local needs and be inspired and uplifted by people and projects that change lives every day.

## BECOME A FRIEND OF THE FOUNDATION

Friends of SCF make a regular donation of £20 per month or an annual donation of £250 or more to the Foundation to support our work. By becoming a Friend you'll help us provide vital funds to help hundreds of local charities, and publish research that shines a spotlight on local need.

## THE SOMERSET FUND: CHANGING LIVES TOGETHER

In 2018, we established The Somerset Fund to unite local businesses and families in support of small, local charities. **All donations to The Somerset Fund are matched by 50%** before being awarded as grants, meaning every gift makes an even bigger impact.

The Fund offers an easy and rewarding way to support a wide range of causes, from youth clubs to village halls and social clubs for older people. Donors can benefit from networking and volunteering opportunities, as well as regular updates on the difference their donations have made.

## LEAVING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

Leaving a gift in your Will is an incredible way to change lives in Somerset for generations to come. Donors can name Somerset Community Foundation as a beneficiary in their Will to help us respond to urgent need, or can set up a Named Fund that will be held in our endowment to support a place or theme they are passionate about. You can leave a gift of cash, shares, or property in your Will, and donating 10% or more of your net estate to charity can reduce the Inheritance Tax on the remainder of your estate from 40% to 36%.



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