Building Charity Resilience with the CAF Resilience Fund

The Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) Resilience Fund ran between 2020-2023, to support communities hardest hit by Covid-19. It was made possible by funding from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and the Covid-19 Support Fund, anomaly by the long-term arts and charitable industry. Phase 2 of the Fund rolled out an innovative, integrated portfolio of support, helping to build the capacity and resilience they needed to deliver support to communities and funded work to build their organisational resilience.

Funding has had a transformational impact, enabling us to meet the needs of the community and giving us the confidence to go beyond immediate survival mode.

£15,091,508
Total Grant Funding
£13,497,639
Main Grant
£1,593,869
Resilience Support Grant*
*Includes £93,869 match funding from CAF

102 charities from across the UK

Impact on resilience

Resilience is a journey rather than an end destination. Grant holders have indicated significant improvement.

- 54% of charities reported positive change within their organisation
- 95% said that this change had been transformational

Key learnings

1. Longer term funding is crucial for ongoing resilience work, but there are also opportunities for shorter term funding, providing a 16 month programme. Shorter term funding can help organisations lay the foundations for long term resilience work.

2. It’s not just about the money. While the grants were vital, our tailored support programme and the opportunity to bring together and support charity leaders and their teams. This included:
   - Facilitated Roadmap workshops
   - Consultant support for resilience frameworks
   - Learning webinars
   - Online resource platform
   - Networking events
   - One to one support
   - Peer learning activities

3. Providing a resilience framework really helped in defining the ambition, setting priorities, holding yourselves accountable and evidence change.

Impact on resilience

It’s felt much more like a partnership rather than a transactional relationship.

Read more: cafonline.org/caf-resilience-fund-report