

A call for project proposals by Islington Giving's Young Grant-Makers

## Application Guidelines

We are a group of local young people aged 16-22 who became Islington Giving's third group of Young Grant Makers in March 2020. We are a group of young people who want to make a difference locally, hoping to have a knock-on effect on the future. We have joined Islington Giving to make grant-decisions that will benefit Islington's young people.

We are now inviting applications for projects that are looking to support young people in a safe and supportive space where they can talk and be themselves. These projects will focus on creating a sense of community.

We will prioritise projects that:

- Enable the creativity and potential of young people to support and guide their future
- And/or are a space for young people to speak about their mental health, including any fears they have about the current social climate
- And/or give young people the confidence to speak up on social issues that affect them and their mental health, having conversations they may not have had in the classroom

**The deadline for applications is 9am on Monday 20th July 2020.**

## Background to Islington Giving's Young Grant-Makers programme

In the summer of 2015 *Islington Giving* commissioned a consultation with Islington's young people to inform our strategy for investing in Young People: *Making the Most of Free Time*. One of the findings from the consultation was that young people said they would like to be included in decisions about how funding is allocated for projects aimed at benefiting them. *Islington Giving* was serious about acting on this and giving power to young people through grant-making.

The first group of young grant-makers came together between May and December 2018 and distributed £80,000 of *Islington Giving's* grants budget to 7 local projects working with young people. The second group worked between March and November 2019 to distribute £80,000 to 5 local projects working with young people.

Joining *Islington Giving* in March 2020 as the third group of young grant-makers, we are now pleased to issue this call for applications. In developing this call we have considered our own knowledge and experiences of growing up and living in Islington as well as researching the local area. As young people living in the borough we tend to see things that might not be picked up on by older people with power and so we are using the voices we are given to change what we think should be changed.

We started working as a group in March 2020. During lockdown we have worked as much as we can as a group over zoom, meeting weekly, so the momentum has not been lost.

Isolation and uncertainty have shaped why we wrote this call. Young people now tend to feel quite lost and alone, especially during the transition into adulthood where we are expected to just learn to be independent. Mental health has been extremely fragile during this period because of people being stuck at home, school closures, fear of illness, job losses, money and everything under the sun over which they have no control. People feel powerless as they are unable to change what's going on around them, and many people are feeling aimless during this time. We know that young people need more support and with the current pandemic this level of support needed has been elevated.

We wanted to make sure people actually have access to this support and to someone to talk to and somewhere to go.

## Call for applications

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We would like proposals from organisations or partnerships of organisations working with and/or providing activities for young people. This document provides guidance for interested organisations. It is intended to help you (1) decide whether this call is right for you, and (2) frame the content of your application if you would like to proceed.

The overall budget for this call is £70,000. We expect to fund between 4 and 6 projects, with the maximum for an individual grant being up to £20,000. However, we hope to be able to fund projects of different scope and scale and welcome applications for smaller projects too.

## What we are looking for – our criteria

We are open to a range of project ideas and suggestions. Our criteria are that projects:

- **Your project can work with young people aged 13–25.** You can target particular age groups within that range with age-appropriate projects.
- **Projects must be free for all.** It is important to us that young people don't have to spend any money, so projects must also provide any resources needed. We would also like projects to provide food in any way they can.

- **Projects must be spaces for young people to be heard, whatever background they come from.** Young people should be able to speak freely, with no judgment and have what they say taken into account.
- **Projects must demonstrate that young people have been given a say how projects are designed and run. This might look like:**
  - Projects being led by young people's needs and issues
  - Young people being part of any solution to their needs and issues
  - Young people being given the opportunity to speak out if they're unsatisfied and to give feedback on the project
- **Projects must be spaces that feels safe and comfortable for young people to go and be themselves.** Young people should be checked in with. Projects should be able to tell young people where to get advice/support for something else that is happening in their lives that is not related to the project. All relevant staff must have safeguarding training.
- **Projects must give a fair opportunity for young people to be involved regardless of any perceived barriers.** Priority will be given to organisations who can demonstrate that they are taking steps towards identifying and removing barriers to people living with disabilities from taking full advantage of your offer. We actively encourage the addition of a budget line to enable your offer to be more inclusive/accessible to people living with disabilities
- **Projects must try and appeal to young people so they want to take part (not just appeal to parents or carers).** Projects must/should be visible and clear on what they do, so young people know what they can expect if they go.
- **In the current moment with coronavirus, projects must be adaptable.** For example, we want to know your plans about how and when you'd work in and out of 'lockdown'.

Please note that proposals do not have to be for new or innovative projects. We will give equal consideration to tried and tested activities or approaches, that show consideration for how they would adapt to potential future scenarios in and out of 'lockdown'.

## Your Outcomes

We want young people to do more than just speak within these projects. We want them start conversations about whatever issues they want and to be able to take action based on the confidence that they've built.

## Who can apply?

To be eligible to apply:

- Charities/constituted community groups must have a management committee of at least 3 unpaid and unrelated people who have ultimate responsibility for the organisation and its finances
- Charitable Incorporated Organisations, Community Interest Companies or Social Enterprises must have a management committee of at least 3 unrelated directors who have ultimate responsibility for the organisation and its finances
- Your organisation must have a governing document or constitution
- Your organisation must have a bank account
- Your organisation must have a safeguarding policy

*Islington Giving* prioritises supporting voluntary and community sector groups based in Islington. However, we are also interested in hearing from groups based out of the Borough which are able to provide high-quality activities for Islington's young people. If you are based out of the borough you will need to demonstrate that you have local knowledge and local links. All decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Please note that the programme will not fund:

- Statutory services
- Services that are not free at the point of access
- Advancement of religion and religious groups, unless they offer non-religious activities and support to the local community
- Commercial or for-profit activities
- Work that has already taken place.

## How to apply

Please make a full online application: <https://www.tfaforms.com/4705224>

This will ask specific questions, for example about how you aim to deliver the project including your approach, how you have identified the need, and how you will evidence its progress and success. It also asks for a budget, which needs to be well-thought through. Please give us as details about your project such as what you plan to do, how long for, what outcomes you're hoping for, and be explicit about how you meet the criteria. We would like applications to be written very clearly and straight to the point. Please make sure you make it clear what your most important points are and use simple sentence structures.

As part of our assessment process, we will aim to virtually meet a shortlist of applicants, along with an *Islington Giving* programme staff member, to discuss your project in more detail, follow up on any points of clarification, and ensure we have a full understanding of all the elements of your proposal. As *Islington Giving's* Young Grant-Makers we make all the final decisions on which grants to award.

## Decision-making timeline

- Applications should be submitted by 9am on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July.
- Applicants will be informed of decisions to award grants by 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

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## If Your Application is Successful

Once you have been notified of the Young Grant-Makers' decision to fund your project you will be sent Islington Giving's terms and conditions – which you will be required to read and sign.

Full details of our requirements for feedback from your project will be agreed following confirmation of a successful application. Funded organisations will be required to keep financial records of how the grant is spent and to provide feedback on progress and learning every 12 months and when the project comes to an end.

Successful organisations will also be asked to provide publicly accessible examples of their work (e.g. case studies, photographs, blog posts) and **must** be willing to act as ambassadors and supporters of the *Islington Giving* campaign, with imaginative ideas for how this can be achieved.

## Contact

You can also contact Anne Shewring (Programme Director at Islington Giving) on our behalf to ask questions about the call:

T: 020 7288 6947

E: [anne.shewring@cripplegate.org.uk](mailto:anne.shewring@cripplegate.org.uk)

## About Islington Giving

Islington is a borough of stark contrasts – a place where great wealth sits alongside hidden poverty. *Islington Giving* was set up in 2010 to address these issues and create opportunities for people in Islington. It is a partnership that brings together residents, businesses, community organisations and funders to make a real difference in the Borough.

*Islington Giving* currently supports over 40 local projects across 3 core themes:

- Investing in Young People
- Supporting Families

- Reaching Isolated People

Please see the *Islington Giving* website [www.islingtongiving.org.uk](http://www.islingtongiving.org.uk) for further details of our work.

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