



A call for project proposals by Islington Giving's Golden Grantmakers Resident Panel

Application Guidelines

We are a group of Islington residents who have joined Islington Giving to shape this open call and make grant decisions that will benefit Islington's older residents.

We are inviting applications for projects that enrich lives by supporting Islington's older residents to be actively engaged. We want to fund work that identifies local older people who are isolated and lonely and to build social, emotional and community support to reduce isolation, build connections and develop a greater sense of community.

Islington Giving's Golden Grantmakers Resident Panel introduces its call for applications to support activities for Islington's older residents

In developing this call we have considered our own knowledge and experiences of living in Islington and looked at research and data highlighting the needs and issues in the borough.

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 want to apply.

Our focus is particularly on funding projects that proactively identify older residents who have limited access to wider networks because of social or financial isolation which is impacting on their physical and/or mental health.

Projects must benefit Islington residents aged 55 or above. Activities can be delivered in groups or on a 1:1 basis by professionals and/or peers or a combination of both, but they must offer meaning and value to participants. There must also be an emphasis on identifying older people who are isolated or lonely and not currently accessing support or attending activities locally.

We are particularly interested to hear how people with disabilities and older residents from Islington's black, Asian and minority ethnic communities will benefit from proposed projects.

The overall budget for this call is £145,000. We hope to fund projects of different scope and scale and welcome applications for smaller projects. The maximum for an individual grant is likely to be around **£30,000**. Funding can be for one year or multiyear (up to a maximum of three years). Therefore, if a project is funded at the higher level this could be as a one-year grant for £30,000, a two-year grant for £15,000 per annum, or a three-year grant for £10,000 per annum. We are also interested in funding smaller neighbourhood level projects with a mix of grants between £5,000-£15,000. This means we expect to fund up to three larger grants and between five or six smaller one-off grants. We are likely to prioritise applications from organisations that are already embedded in Islington that can offer longer term benefits for Islington residents beyond the funded project.

What we are looking for - our criteria

We are open to a range of project ideas and suggestions. Projects must:

- Be for older residents living in Islington who are aged 55 or over
- Be free to access
- Offer a range of appealing and diverse activities that actively engage and enrich the lives of Islington's older residents
- Provide an opportunity for older residents to connect, get together and feel part of a wider community
- Focus on identifying and gaining the trust of older residents who are not currently accessing support or local activities. Projects must therefore have clear plans for how they will reach isolated people/communities and proactively engage people who don't know what support is available or may feel like 'it's not for them'
- Understand and respond to resident need holistically. This means seeing the person as a whole and helping to support them with any unmet needs
- Build on people's strengths, improve wellbeing and increase local connections.

The Panel will prioritise projects that:

- Are delivered at a neighbourhood and/or community level where the most isolated residents are more likely to attend. This could mean funding smaller projects that are estate based or supporting specific underrepresented sections of the community alongside clear programmes for local outreach and engagement
- Are inclusive and culturally sensitive, ideally with staff and volunteers that people can identify with and are representative of the communities they serve
- Have established community links and work in partnership including to effectively signpost to other support and advice so as to ensure that the range of any identified unmet needs can be supported
- Can demonstrate long term benefits for the people they support and have plans for offering some level of continuity for participants when the funded project ends.

Proposals do not have to be for new or innovative projects. We will give equal consideration to tried and tested activities or approaches that can be further extended to different times or venues. We are particularly interested in funding projects that provide activities at times and places when other things might not be happening as it is at these times when feelings of isolation and loneliness are exacerbated. This might include evenings and weekends, particular localities or venues including care homes or sheltered accommodation.

We recognise that it is hard to plan as there are a lot of uncertainties and it is understood that flexibility in delivery timescales and methods may be needed. What does feel certain right now is that Covid-19 and now the cost-of-living crisis is increasing social isolation and financial hardship and this wider context should also inform project proposals.

Your Outcomes

By funding projects through this call, we are aiming to make a positive difference to the lives of Islington's most isolated older residents. We are interested to hear from you about what outcomes your project hopes to achieve but projects must help residents to become more connected.

Who can apply?

To be eligible to apply:

- Charities, Charitable Incorporated Organisations, Community Interest Companies or Social Enterprises/not for profit companies limited by guarantee can apply. You must have a management committee/Board of Directors made up of a minimum of three people, all of whom are unrelated, and 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 set of signed accounts from the previous financial year.

Islington Giving prioritises support for voluntary and community sector groups based in Islington. If you are based out of the borough you will need to demonstrate that you have excellent local knowledge and links. All decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Please note that the programme will not fund:

- Statutory services
- 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

Complete an online application form. To access the form please click [here](#).

There will be a two-stage assessment process. Initial applications will be shortlisted by the Golden Grantmakers Resident Panel and it is likely that up to ten groups will be invited to meet with the Panel, along with an Islington Giving programme staff member (Islington Giving usually receives between 20 and 30 applications for each of its funding programmes). If you are shortlisted, the Panel will want to discuss your project in more detail, follow up on any points of clarification, and ensure they have a full understanding of all the elements of your proposal. The Islington Giving Golden Grantmakers Resident Panel will make all the final decisions on which grants to award.

Decision making timeline

- Application forms should be submitted by **12 noon on Monday 21 November 2022**.
- Shortlisted applicants will be invited to an assessment meeting with the Golden Grantmakers Resident Panel and Islington Giving grants officers between **9 January – 20 January 2023**.
- Applicants will be informed of decisions to award grants by **Friday 3 February 2023**.

If Your Application is Successful

Once you have been notified of the Golden Grantmakers Resident Panel's 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.

Please contact Patrick Jones – patrick.jones@cripplegate.org.uk –Tel: 020 7288 6948 if you have any specific questions.

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.islimgiving.org.uk for further details of our work.

The deadline for applications is 12 noon on Monday 21 November 2022