

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

We are a group of 12 Young People who live in Islington, who have come together this year to make decisions about how Islington Giving's funding for young people is spent. We want to fund projects that benefit young people in the best way possible with the limited funding available. We want to see change – for young people, their communities and the organisations that support them.

There are so many issues facing us as young people – we've spoken about poverty, inequality, crime and community safety. We've discussed the cost-of-living crisis and lack of affordable housing. We have spoken about the challenges of moving through life changes. There is not enough support to learn the life skills we need to help us feel confident to know our options and make these transitions. We have spoken about the pressures placed on us and the importance of understanding and sustaining our mental health and wellbeing. We also spoke about the support our parents and carers may need in understanding our challenges and helping us to navigate them.

We recognise that there are many amazing opportunities and projects in Islington, but these may not be accessible to everyone who needs them. We would like more to be done to raise awareness of opportunities and to help young people to access what is available through improved publicity and by services and schools working more closely together.

As a result of our discussions, we believe it is important that Young People have access to support, information, and guidance around the changes they go through – feeling confident, being aware of options, and helping them to bounce back from challenges are all important factors for us.

We would like to invite applications from projects that achieve at least one of the following:

- Develop young people's life skills to help them at transition points. This could include moving out of challenging situations, helping them stay safe and providing options.
- Develop young people's skills around their interests, explore options and make contacts so they can take the next steps in their careers.
- Help young people gain awareness of the importance of positive mental health and wellbeing and, in doing so, providing opportunities to try something new and to grow in confidence and self-esteem.
- To support Young People and/or their parents to navigate systems to access support and advice (such as around community safety, crime, immigration, housing), particularly for families where English may not be their first language.

The deadline for applications is Monday 28th November at 1pm

What we are looking for (criteria):

- Projects that are free.
- Projects that support young people aged 13-25 (doesn't need to cover this whole age range) or their parents/carers.
- Projects that are proactive and seek to have a longer-term impact.
- Projects that provide safe spaces; to us this means not tolerating discrimination or abuse, adequately trained and DBS checked staff providing welcoming and open environments.
- Projects that are inclusive; to us this means they should be open and welcoming to everyone regardless of their background, special educational needs, neurodiversity, ability, ethnicity, nationality, LGBTQIA+, level of English, and so on.
- Projects that promote themselves effectively eg. via joint working, social media, networking with schools, parents and carers, and with local networks.
- Projects that ensure that Young People have a voice in their service; to us this means saying how and what kinds of activities are run, feedback being sought and taken forward, Young People lifting-up their peers, participation at every level.

Our maximum grant is likely to be £20,000 and projects can request funding over multiple years.

Note: The answers on your application form will be assessed by young people aged 17-24. Please therefore avoid use of jargon and acronyms to make the language understandable to all.