**The Make It Happen Fund**

**Funding guidelines**

**About**

The Make It Happen fund is an Islington residents’ small grants scheme of up to £500 for local people to act on the things that they care about. The purpose of the fund is to bring people together and do something that makes them feel proud of where they live.

Social housing landlords Peabody, Newlon, Hyde Housing, Clarion and Southern Housing Group alongside Islington Giving and other local voluntary organisations in Islington decided to work together with communities to build individual and community resilience and support innovation. We know that people can find grants hard to apply for or don’t know who to ask for help spending it. Sometimes our processes can be a bit complicated or slow. The Make It Happen resident’s fund aims to meet these challenges.

**Aims**

Projects must align with one of the following aims:

* **Healthy** – helping people with their physical and mental wellbeing
* **Happy** – helping people make the most out of their lives through active citizenship, volunteering and community involvement
* **Connected** - putting people at the centre of grants, exploring what is important to them

**Grant size**

Grants are up to £500 and you will have **3 months** to begin spending your grant and **6 months** to complete the project. We will also ask you to:

* explain how you plan to keep everyone doing the activity safe (we can help you with this)
* share what you’ve achieved – for example through pictures or asking people what they think about the project

**What we are looking for – our criteria**

The fund is to support activities and events that meet our aims and supports local people to act on the things that they care about.

* The people who benefit must live in Islington
* Projects must be free or offered at a significant subsidy
* You need to show how what you plan to do supports the wider community. For example, if you want to buy gardening equipment it should be available to others to use, such as a local gardening club.
* Applications can be made by local community groups without paid staff (such as tenants and residents associations, parent-teacher associations, mutual aid groups, and friends of parks groups) or groups of three or more residents who will work together to run a project or event. **Individuals will be supported by an established voluntary or community sector organisation, who will hold the grant on your behalf – if you are not in contact with a local group that could do this for you then we will try to help with this.**
* We cannot fund groups and organisations with an annual income of more than £50,000

We have limited funds but we will try to fund your project if it meets our criteria and our aims of helping people to lead happy, healthy and connected lives. Some examples of this include:

* Activities that bring the community together – this could be your neighbours or another community such as people that enjoy playing the guitar
* Projects that seek to improve health and wellbeing – this could be anything from an online keep-fit class to a workshop on managing stress to a knitting club aimed at helping people relax
* Something that explores what’s important to you and your community – this could be developing an art project to be displayed where you live, an open day to introduce children to nature or a summer party in your communal garden.

**Previous applications**

***We can’t accept applications from groups or individuals who are still running their projects from an earlier application. You can apply again if you had funding in 2022, your project is complete and you have sent us a description of how it went.***

**How to apply**

Apply through a word application form available to download from here <https://islingtongiving.org.uk/make-it-happen-fund>.

If you don’t have internet access or want to discuss your idea before making an application feel free to contact Islington Giving on **020 7288 6948**.

You can also email us at [patrick.jones@cripplegate.org.uk](mailto:patrick.jones@cripplegate.org.uk) if you have any questions before you apply.

Islington Giving and local voluntary sector organisations can support you through the application process, and during the delivery of your project. This support could include:

* developing your idea
* buying items
* recruiting and working with volunteers
* promoting your project to other residents
* monitoring your project
* applying for future funding

**Timeline**

**Monday 27th February**: Fund opens for applications.

**Tuesday 11th April, 9am**: Deadline for applying and Fund closes – this is the last day you can apply.

**Week beginning April 24th**: We will let you know if your application is successful.

**November 2023**: you will have spent your grant by now.

**December 2023:** you will need to share how it went with us.