**Disability Fund**

**Summary**

Islington Giving is launching a new fund to support organisations capacity to be inclusive so people living with disabilities can access the range of arts, culture, sport and other offers in Islington and services are more reflective of Islington’s diverse communities. The Disability Fund will provide small grants up to £3,000 to enable organisations to identify, resource and remove barriers to people living with disabilities from taking full advantage of what is on offer in Islington. The Disability Fund will make funds available to:

1. support an individual or group of individuals living with a disability to engage with a service, opportunity or activity. This could for example pay for a support worker or volunteer expenses to provide 1:1 support for an individual with epilepsy who needs close supervision / dedicated support whilst participating in a service;
2. organisations who identify ways their service can develop to be more inclusive, for example for staff training, recruiting disability advisors or to review/adapt the organisation’s communications so people with disabilities are visually represented, indicating that their services are open to all.

Funds can be used flexibly for what organisations feel would remove barriers to people with disabilities being able to benefit from what they offer. The only exception is that funds cannot be used to improve physical access to buildings.

For this fund, people living with disabilities can be interpreted as anyone living with a physical disability, learning disability and / or mental ill-health.

Only organisations who have received funding in the last 18 months from Islington Giving, Cripplegate Foundation or Islington Council’s Community Chest will be eligible to apply for funds. As these groups are well known to programme team staff and due diligence has already been carried out risk is minimised, and staff can respond quickly to requests as they arise.

**Approach**

The Disability Fund will issue grants of up to £3,000 to organisations to enable them to take steps towards making their offer more accessible to people living with disabilities.

Where relevant, Islington Giving will commit to responding to requests and releasing funds quickly (within 30 days) to give organisations the ability to respond to need as it arises (subject to aligning with our internal grant payment cycle).

The approach allows scope for creativity, providing organisations with the resources to be responsive to individual access needs and to proactively consider ways to embed inclusivity policy and practice in every level of their organisation.

**Eligibility and Criteria**

In keeping with a flexible approach, we have avoided putting too many constraints on how organisations can utilise the Fund. However, all requests must adhere to the following criteria:

1. The programme is limited for the benefit of people who are resident in Islington. This reflects the mission and objectives of Islington Giving.
2. The programme is intended to benefit people living with disabilities who struggle to access opportunities as a result.
3. The maximum grant an organisation can apply for is £3,000.
4. The entirety of the grant must be spent on resourcing inclusivity. The grant does not include an amount to the organisation for administration costs.
5. Following the principle of flexibility there will be few exclusions for funding. The only exception is that funds cannot be used to improve physical access to buildings. We will however consider funding for equipment to enable people with disabilities and people who are hearing impaired to take part in services.
6. Organisations will be required to implement monitoring appropriate to capturing the difference made from their grant and to provide case-studies where relevant.
7. Organisations will be required to feedback and share learning from receiving a grant from the Disability Fund to inform best practice and the future shape of the programme.

**How to apply**

All applicants will be asked to complete a 2-page application form to outline what the proposed funds will be utilised for. Please request an application form by email to: grants@cripplegate.org.uk or complete the [online form.](https://islingtongiving.org.uk/disability-fund/)

**What happens next?**

When you have submitted your application form, Islington Giving will contact you to have a conversation with you about your application. This conversation allows staff to follow up with you on any points of clarification and ensure they have a full understanding of all the elements of your application.

All applications will be considered and notified of a decision within 21 days of receipt.

If your application is unsuccessful Islington Giving will be in touch to explain why.

If your application is successful staff will send you an offer email and our terms and conditions - which you will be required to read, sign, and return so funds can be released.

All successful organisations will be expected to:

* report back on how funds have been spent and to feedback any learning and reflections from receiving the grant.
* keep financial records of how the grants are spent.

Given the aims of Islington Giving, 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.

**Questions**

If you would like to discuss the Disability Fund further, please contact our Programme team at Islington Giving on 020 7288 6942 or via email grants@cripplegate.org.uk