

Introduction to the Community Panel's Fund

We are a group of 13 Islington residents aged 18 to 80+ who have come together to discuss what is important to local people and to develop this call, to invite local organisations to apply for funding to address some of the things we think are most important.

This programme started with Islington Giving's team members visiting local projects and gathering people's views. They invited local people to apply to the Community Panel, and 36 people applied, who also added their views about what is important to local people. Over 70 Islington residents were consulted in this process.

Since we started meeting as a panel, we have discussed the findings of this consultation, in addition to community research and other local statistics. We have also drawn upon our own experiences of living in the borough and our lived experiences as people of a range of ages, backgrounds and life experiences including:

- being parents, carers or single people;
- being in or out of work;
- being housed or facing insecure housing;
- of having a disability or having a child or family member who does;
- of being a student or a pensioner;
- of living in Islington our whole lives or coming to the borough from other continents.

We know there are problems that people of particular ages face. We feel like it can be very challenging for young people to get a foothold in society and to know what opportunities are available to them and how to seize them. We worry about young people getting involved in crime and facing danger because there are not clear paths for them to progress. We are concerned about the impact that this has on all members of our community.

On the other hand, we know that older people and people with disabilities in the borough face high levels of poverty and isolation and that many people are struggling to access health and social care services, including physiotherapy/rehabilitation to regain/sustain independence.

We discussed things that are important to people of all ages in the borough, such as the experience of living in poverty and the cost-of-living, not having safe and suitable housing, being lonely or isolated, and facing health problems (physical, mental and

addiction) and the adverse impact that lacking in any of these areas can have on quality of life and opportunities. We discussed that many of the issues facing people are closely connected.

We have a limited fund and can't tackle all these problems, but we are keen that the projects we support offer residents something beyond an immediate crisis; that residents will be able to learn skills which they can take forward to create a better future.

Our Priorities:

We want to invite applications from projects that do **ALL of the following**:

- **Support local people to learn skills.** *This can be for example, skills around employment, financial independence, digital inclusion or skills for improved mental and physical health.*
- **Provide a community environment.** *A place where people can meet and connect with others to combat isolation.*
- **Provide an accessible and welcoming atmosphere.** *A project where people can fully take part regardless of disability or background.*

The project can be tailored to a particular group of residents (for example young people, parents with children, older people, people from a particular background) but the project must demonstrate how it is accessible for people who may otherwise face exclusion (for example, people with disabilities).

Essential Criteria:

In addition to meeting the above priorities, **projects MUST**:

- be delivered in Islington with the majority of beneficiaries Islington residents
- be inclusive
- be accessible for people with disabilities
- have robust safeguarding policies and procedures in place
- be well publicized

Desirable Criteria:

In addition, **we will prioritise projects that**:

- provide food to participants

- cover expenses such as care/travel costs if people would not otherwise be able to attend (include a budget line for this in your project proposal)
- involve residents/service users in the design and delivery of the project
- are from organisations already operating in Islington that can offer longer-term sustained benefits beyond the funded project
- benefit people across generations

Notes:

The total budget for this funding call is £150,000. We hope to fund projects of different scope and scale and welcome applications for smaller projects. Funding can be for one year or multiyear (up to a maximum of three years) but the **maximum** grant – whether for one or more years – is likely to be around **£25,000**. For example, if over 2 years the maximum grant would be up to £12,500 per year.

Please be aware that we consistently receive far more applications than we can fund. On this occasion we have up to £150,000 available, which means that we will be able to fund 6–9 projects. Please only apply if you are confident that your application meets all the essential criteria and priorities of this fund. If you are unsure, please contact laura.guy@cripplegate.org.uk.

Who can apply?

Proposals do not have to be for new or innovative projects. We will give equal consideration to tried and tested activities or approaches. Islington Giving prioritises support for organisations already based in Islington. If you are based out of the borough you will need to demonstrate that you have excellent local knowledge and links.

To be eligible to apply your organisation must:

- Be a constituted charity, Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Community Interest Company or Social Enterprise/not for profit company limited by guarantee,
- Have a management committee/Board of Directors made up of a minimum of three people, **all of whom must be unrelated**.
- Have a bank account,
- And have a set of signed accounts from the previous financial year (if your organisation has been in operation for a full 12 months).

Please note that the programme will not fund:

- Statutory services
- Advancement of religion and religious groups, unless you are applying to specifically deliver non-religious activities that encompass support to the wider community
- Commercial or for-profit activities or organisations – i.e. your organisation must reinvest 100% of surplus income into the organisation and it must not have a 'profit distribution' clause in its governing documents, which allows it to pay Executive Directors as shareholders.
- Work that has already taken place (i.e. you can only apply for work to take place in the future)

How to apply

Complete an online application form. To access the form please click [here](#). If you need help completing this form, please contact the Programme Manager, laura.guy@cripplegate.org.uk.

Your application will be read by people from a range of backgrounds who may not be familiar with your group or service. Please avoid using jargon, acronyms or sector-specific language.

Timeline

- Application forms should be submitted by **11:59pm on Wednesday 9th October 2024**.
- Shortlisted applicants may be invited for a further assessment meeting or receive requests for further information between **9th October – 12th November**.
- Applicants will be informed of decisions to award grants by **Friday 29th November 2024**.

If Your Application is Successful

The Community Panel members will make all the final decisions about which projects to fund. If your application is successful, you will be sent Islington Giving's Terms and Conditions, which you will be required to read and sign.

Funded organisations will be required to keep financial records of how the grant is spent and to provide annual feedback on progress and learning including a final report following the completion of the project. Successful organisations will also be

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

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.

Please see the Islington Giving website www.islingtongiving.org.uk for further details of our work.

For further information please contact laura.guy@cripplegate.org.uk.

**The deadline for applications is 11:59pm on Wednesday 9th October
2024**