The Make It Happen Fund

Funding guidelines

About

The Make It Happen fund is a small grants scheme for Islington residents that offers funding up to a maximum of £500 for people to act on things they care about locally. 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, Hyde, 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. Sometimes our processes can be a bit complicated or slow. The Make It Happen resident's fund aims to help overcome 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** – bringing people together making them the heart of the community

Grant size

Grants are for a maximum of £500. 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

Your project should meet at least one of the three aims stated above while supporting local people to act on the things they care about.

- The people who benefit must live in Islington
- Projects must be organised and delivered in Islington
- Projects must be free or offered at a significant subsidy

- You need to show how the project supports the wider community. For example, if you want to buy gardening equipment it should be available for 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 or friends of parks groups) or groups of three or more Islington residents who will work together to run a project or event. All residents named in the application and/or management committee members/Directors must be unrelated
- Community Interest Companies (CIC's) **must have a minimum of three directors to apply** and priority will be given to CIC's who are based in Islington. **If you are a CIC that is thinking of applying please read Islington Giving's guidance for CIC's here.**
- The project can be either a 'one off' event or a series of ongoing activities lasting up to 6 months. The grant is intended for small community projects rather than larger projects that are part of the ongoing activities of an organisation. The maximum grant of £500 should therefore cover a substantial proportion, if not the total cost of the project
- You can apply to the grant at any time in the year but **please note we can only fund projects that aim to be delivered after the deadline date and the notification of successful applications.** For the deadline in October, projects should take place no earlier than November and for the deadline in May, projects should take place no earlier than June. ***Please also bear in mind that once successful applicants have been notified, it will take at least one month for grant payments to be made***
- Applicants must be 18 years of age or older. We welcome ideas for projects from younger residents but where this is the case a responsible adult such as a parent or youth worker will need to submit the application on their behalf
- Individuals will be supported by an established voluntary or community sector organisation, who will hold the grant on your behalf – if you are applying as a group of individual and are not in contact with a local group that could do this for you then we will try to help you find one
- We cannot fund 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 more connected lives. Some examples include:

- Activities that bring the community together – this could be your neighbours or another community such as people that enjoy playing music together.
- Projects that seek to improve health and wellbeing – this could be anything from a 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 or if you applied in the previous Make It Happen funding round (May 2026). You can apply again if you received funding before this, your project is complete and you have sent us some feedback on 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 have any questions before you apply, you don't have internet access, would like to discuss your idea before making an application or are interested in submitting your application in an alternative format, for example a video or audio file, then please contact Islington Giving on **020 7123 4230** or email Sarah Page: sarah.page@islingtongiving.org.uk

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 12th October 2026, 10am: Deadline for applying – **this is the last day you can apply!**

At the beginning of November, we will let you know if your application has been successful

You should have spent your grant within six months of receiving it and then share with us what impact the funding had for the local community.