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Pathways To A Better Future – Application Guidelines

A fund by Islington Giving's Young Grant-Makers

Grants of up to £30,000 (multi-year) or £20,000 (over one year) for charities and non-profits towards projects supporting young people in Islington aged 16-25, especially those vulnerable to criminal exploitation, into engaging and well-paid roles.

1. Background and Rationale for this fund.

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 will provide long term solutions and impacts to some of the challenges young people face. We believe it is important for young people to gain skills to be productive and make progressive steps in their self-development.

There are so many issues facing us as young people – we have spoken about youth safety, crime, and the difficulties young people face in securing employment. We feel these issues are connected and can affect young people's confidence, opportunities and sense of belonging. We have spoken to the groups who may be furthest from opportunities and therefore more at risk to exploitation and unemployment.

Through our discussions and conversations with local organisations, we have recognised the importance of building a stronger sense of community, where young people feel safe, listened to and supported. We want young people to have access to trusted people, practical support and concrete opportunities to develop skills and find employment. We feel that support should be free, easy to reach and tailored to different needs, with reliable services that young people know about and can turn to. Above all, we want young people to have a voice in shaping the support available to 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 ensure young people are aware of the opportunities available to them, and that projects are inclusive.

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2. Our Priorities

What we want to fund:

We believe it is important that young people have access to job opportunities and employability support. We want to see how the project being delivered will lead to future outcomes for the young people who are involved. It is important to us that activities we take part in offer a productive use of time.

We are interested in projects that achieve at least one of the following:

- Support young people to explore different industries and gain qualifications and/or workplace skills and networks to gain opportunities beyond the project.

- Offer careers support alongside internships and apprenticeships in interesting roles and industries, improving young people's employability and reducing barriers to access opportunities.

- Projects that reach young people in the criminal justice system and get them ready for the world of work.

The deadline for applications is 8th December 2026 at 10am

3. Criteria

Essential criteria – projects must:

- Be free
- Take place in Islington with the majority of beneficiaries being Islington Residents
- Support young people 16-25
- Target young people who are more vulnerable to criminal exploitation and unemployment (eg. Young people from lower socio-economic backgrounds, Disabled young people)
- Be engaging and resonate with young people
- Have a tangible and measurable outcome towards employment. (eg. A paid job, a qualification, practical skills, personal development)
- Benefit the young person in the long term, beyond the end of the project
- Run for at least three months
- Be inclusive; to us this means they should be open and welcoming to everyone regardless of their background
- Ensure all staff are qualified and ensure safeguarding (e.g. all staff are DBS checked)
- Amplify young people's voices and develop in response to their views and feedback
- Promote the opportunity so Young People in Islington know what is on offer
- Reduce barriers to participation (e.g. provide travel expenses, childcare, translation etc.)

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Desired criteria – priority given to projects:

- Where the people who deliver the project are relatable, eg have lived experience, understand the real issues.
- That also support young people to improve their mental health.

4. Guidance:

- Maximum grants available are £20,000 for up to one year, or £30,000 total for multi-year (e.g. up to £15,000 per year over 2 years, etc).
- **Demand for funds:** In our recent open rounds of funding, we tend to receive around 50 applications, with funds available for around 5-7 projects. In this round we have £150,000 available. Please therefore only apply if you are confident your project meets **the priorities and all of the essential criteria**. If you have any questions or aren't sure, please don't hesitate to ask: laura.guy@cripplegate.org.uk.
- The answers on your application form will be assessed by young people aged 16-24. Please therefore avoid use of jargon and acronyms to make the language understandable to all.
- Including a case study or examples helps bring your work to life.
- To apply please use the form https://www.tfaforms.com/5239598. This is the preferred format, but if you need to apply another way, such as email or video, please let us know.
- The deadline for applications is Tuesday 8th December at 10am.
- We will be shortlisting applications in **January**, interviewing shortlisted groups in **February** and announcing final decisions in **March.**
- **Please see our additional guidance on use of AI in applications.**

5. Eligibility

Islington Giving prioritises support for organisations already based in Islington. If you are based out of the borough you will need to demonstrate excellent local knowledge and links.

To be eligible to apply your organisation must:

- Be a constituted charity, Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Community Interest Company (CIC) or Social Enterprise/not for profit company limited by guarantee. Please note, if you are a CIC, read our new CIC guidance here before deciding whether to apply.
- Have a management committee/Board of Directors made up of a minimum of three people. **ALL management committee members/Board of Directors must be unrelated.**
- Have a bank account
- Provide a set of signed accounts from the previous financial year (if your organisation has been in operation for a full 12 months). If your latest accounts are more than one year old, we may request more recent management accounts. We will need you to submit a copy of these accounts. If you are a new organisation without a full set of accounts, we will accept management accounts. Again, if you are a CIC please see our guidance on CICs as we require more detail than you may be supplying to Companies House.

Please note that the programme will NOT fund:

- Statutory services and schools
- Politically affiliated campaigns
- Advancement of religion and religious groups, unless you are applying to specifically deliver non-religious activities, encompassing 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 – after funding has been awarded

6. How to apply

Complete the online application form. To access the form please click here. If you need help completing this form or have any specific questions about this funding opportunity, 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.

7. Timeline

- Application forms must be submitted by **10:00am on Tuesday 8th December 2026.**
- Applicants may receive requests for further information between **– 9th December 2026 – 31st January 2027**
- Approximately 10 shortlisted applicants will be invited to interview on Tuesday evenings in **February 2027 (2nd, 9th, 16th or 23rd).**
- All applicants will be advised of final decisions by **Friday 12th March 2027.**

If Your Application is Successful

The Young Grant Makers 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.

Young Grant Makers value the opportunity to see your project in action, so please do invite them to stay in touch.

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. Our Participatory Grant Making Funds, like this one, place the power to decide what is important and what projects should be funded in the hands of local people.

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

Please contact Laura Guy if you have any specific questions on: laura.guy@cripplegate.org.uk
0207 288 6940