



# We Make Camden Project Fund - A handy guide to applying for funding



Camden's voluntary and community sector (VCS) plays a central role in making our borough a special place to be, where everyone is supported and included. The VCS has consistently demonstrated an ability to bring together and support our communities at times of celebration and crisis.

The We Make Camden Project Fund is a chance to think creatively about how to make a difference in your community. We know that by listening and responding to our communities we can achieve positive change. We believe that organisations deeply connected to and led by our communities are best placed to make a difference.

**We Make Camden** is our renewed vision for our borough, developed in collaboration with people across Camden. It reflects how we need to work together to achieve a positive impact.

We want this fund to support projects that are influenced and shaped by communities and people with first-hand knowledge of problems and solutions. We want this fund to support organisations that are representative of the communities they serve.

The fund aims to support projects that will make Camden a fairer, better place for everyone. And we look forward to working closely with organisations to share learning and build connections.



## 2 How to use this guide

This guide provides you with information about the We Make Camden Project Fund, its aims and criteria and who is eligible to apply.

Please read this guide carefully before filling out an application.

Check the section 'Who is this funding for?' to ensure that your organisation is eligible and that what you are proposing will deliver the aims of the fund.



## 3 Who is this funding for?

The We Make Camden Project Fund is for organisations **based in Camden** with a strong connection to Camden communities.

You will need to demonstrate:

- an existing connection to Camden, such as a strong track record in project delivery in Camden
- a strong understanding of community needs and strengths in Camden

We encourage organisations who have received the We Make Camden Kit / Growth Grants and are ready for the next stage of their development to apply.

This fund is part of a wider VCS investment programme, including seven-year unrestricted grants through the Community Partner Fund and organisational support grants. This fund has been designed to support organisations who may not have been ready to apply for a Community Partner Fund grant but who are delivering projects that make a difference to Camden communities.

We particularly encourage organisations that are led by, or are supporting, specific under-served communities to apply.

Disability, Central and West African, Balkan and LGBTQ+ communities and organisations in particular have previously been under-resourced in our funding. We strongly encourage these groups to apply.

This fund is for organisations that are open to learning and sharing learning with others.

**Please check the eligibility criteria and minimum requirements before spending time on an application, as we will not be able to offer a grant to organisations who don't meet these.**

This fund is not open to applications from individuals. If you are a resident with an idea for a project, please visit the [We Make Camden Kit – Camden Giving](#) website for more details on the funding available to residents.





## 4 Eligibility

Your organisation is eligible to apply if:

1

You are a local Camden based not-for-profit organisation. You can demonstrate that you are a local Camden based organisation, with your main base in Camden and the majority of your organisation's focus, time and money spent on delivering for Camden residents.

2

You are a not-for-profit organisation listed below

- Registered Charity
- Social Enterprise with a 'not for profit' distribution clause
- Community Interest Company (CIC)
- Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
- Cooperative or Community benefit Society
- Not-for-profit Faith organisation
- We are unable to consider applications from private companies e.g. Companies Limited by Shares, private partnerships or sole traders

3

You have a governing document whose objectives are in line with the aims of this fund.

4

Has a turnover of less than **£500,000** based on the most recent published or available accounts.

5

Minimum requirements: Your organisation meets (or will meet at the time of signing a grant agreement) the minimum requirements set out below.

## You can't apply if your organisation:

- Is a statutory body or organisation
- Makes a surplus or profit which is not reinvested for social benefit
- Is applying on behalf of another organisation
- Promotes political or religious beliefs. Faith-based organisations are welcome to apply for community-focused projects that do not promote religion or require individuals to participate in religious activities to take part
- Seeks to use the funding to cover costs already incurred
- Organisations with a turnover of more than £500,000 are not eligible for this funding
- Organisations in receipt of long-term funding from the Council are unlikely to be prioritised for this fund

## Minimum requirements

There are a number of minimum requirements we ask of organisations we fund. **Please use the checklist below to check that you meet these minimum requirements before completing your application.**

### Governing document

A governing document would include your memorandum and articles of association, or constitution.

### Latest set of accounts

If you are registered on the Charity Commission, we will be able to take a look at your latest set of accounts for the last financial period. If your accounts aren't available to view on the Charity Commission, we will ask you to submit this as part of your application. You will need at least one year's accounts to be eligible to apply.

### Public liability insurance

You are responsible for ensuring that you have Public Liability Insurance to cover your activities.

### Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

You will need to confirm that you have undertaken all the relevant DBS checks where required.

## Safeguarding policies

You will be asked to provide a copy of your safeguarding policies, including a named Safeguarding Lead and their contact details.

## Bank account

You should have your own organisational bank account with at least two unrelated signatories.

## Accounting

You should have annual accounts with proper accounting systems and arrangements for income tax (PAYE); National Insurance and VAT where applicable.

## Governance

We will check that you have a minimum of three unrelated directors / trustees on Companies House / Charity Commission.

## Living wage

Any employees and/or contractors whose salaries are funded through this Project Fund grant should be paid London Living Wage as a minimum.

## Complaints

You should have an up to date and transparent complaints procedure for service users which is compliant with HR legislation.

## Data protection

You should have an up-to-date and accessible data protection policy.

## Equalities

You should have an equalities policy which is compliant with existing anti-discrimination legislation and does not unlawfully discriminate.

If you don't have one or more of these policies or procedures in place already, there may be organisations who can support you to develop these. Please see our website for further information about support available: [Voluntary and community sector in Camden - Camden Council](#)

This is the second round of funding and there will be opportunities to apply to the project fund in the future.

If you need advice or support in relation to the minimum requirements, please contact us at [VCS@Camden.gov.uk](mailto:VCS@Camden.gov.uk)



## 5 Fund Criteria

This fund aims to support projects which contribute to **one or more** of the missions set out in [We Make Camden](#)

We Make Camden highlights the big issues facing Camden that we all agree are important, alongside practical ways we can make change together.

We recognise that organisations often contribute to several missions

### 1. Camden Missions

In your application, you will need to show how your organisation is making a difference to Camden communities - contributing to one or more of the Camden missions:

#### Estates and Neighbourhoods

- Working with people in a local area to build community, and support wellbeing
- Making sure homes / neighbourhoods / estates provide opportunities for people to connect, learn and be creative
- Enabling everyone to live happy, healthy and fulfilling lives

## **Diversity**

- Supporting people from under-served communities to develop leadership skills and capacity
- Creating opportunities for people from all backgrounds to take on leadership roles
- Projects could be focussed on one of the following areas: schools and education, local businesses, trustees and charity leadership, and other decision-making bodies (e.g. school governors).

## **Young people**

- Creating places and spaces for children and young people to be safe and have community role models
- Delivering opportunities for children and young people to get on in life
- Support children and young people to build connections and improve their skills and talents

## **Food**

- Finding solutions that support people to access healthy, nutritious food over the long term
- Addressing the root causes of food insecurity and connecting people to support services including debt, housing and employment advice.

## **2. Inclusion and Equality**

Applications that are more likely to be successful are those that can demonstrate:

- How your project is accessible and inclusive and tackles inequalities
- How your project involves people and encourages them to take action

## **3. Project proposal and impact**

Applications that are more likely to be successful are those with a realistic project proposal and outcomes that are achievable and will make a difference.



## 6 What kind of work will we fund?

We're looking for projects that make a difference to Camden communities. For inspiration, you can read about community projects and how people in Camden are working to make the borough even better here: [Stories – We Make Camden](#)

**Your proposal should include all the costs related to delivering your project.**

This could include, for example, staffing costs, activity costs and materials. We understand there are core costs associated with delivering any project, so do include all the costs needed to deliver your project in your budget (for example, rent, management, insurance and energy costs). We encourage you to seek match funding and ask you to outline any match funding you have already secured in your application.

We encourage you to follow good practice in allocating 10% of your project costs toward evaluation.

We understand that costs and priorities change over time and appreciate the need for some flexibility.



## 7 Learning and impact

This funding is for organisations open to learning. This might be about capturing feedback during your project and using it to adapt delivery. It might be about giving you the chance to try out a new approach or idea that you've developed with your community. We hope this fund will allow organisations to be more comfortable with taking a risk, testing something new or learning from what hasn't worked well.

We will be bringing together organisations working across similar missions or within a neighbourhood to share learning, support and foster collaboration. We hope this will not only strengthen individual projects but help contribute to wider collective change around the missions. We encourage you to include some costs for your time to participate in your application.

Alongside providing grant funding for your project, we will support your organisation to develop and make connections. We will keep in touch with you during your grant to capture learning and get your feedback to improve future rounds of funding.



## 8 Measuring Impact

Measuring impact can help you to understand and communicate the difference you make to people's lives, your impact on the wider community and your contribution to wider systems change. We want to capture the impact of funded projects in a way that is helpful to you and builds on your existing approach.

If you are awarded a grant, you will be asked to submit a report at the end of each year of the project. We'll be keen to see what you've learned from the first year to take into how you deliver the second or third.



## 9 Funding available

There is a total grant pot of £165,000 available in new grants for this round of the We Make Camden Project Fund.

Grants will be awarded for two years, with the potential for the grant to be extended for a third year. Extensions will be based on organisations being able to demonstrate the difference the project is making.

Based on feedback we have redesigned the fund to allow more opportunities for multi-year grants. This does mean that there is less funding available in new grants in each round.



## 10 How much can I apply for?

Grants of up to £20,000 a year are available, with most awards expected to be between £5,000 - £15,000.

Each grant will be awarded for two years. The maximum grant award is £20,000 a year – or £40,000 in total for two years.



## 11 Funding timeline and key dates

The fund will open for applications on Monday 9 March 2026.

The fund will close applications on Monday 20 April 2026 at 1pm. You must submit your application on or before this date to be considered.

There will be other chances to apply, so don't worry if you are not quite ready to apply. To receive announcements about future funding please [sign up to our VCS newsletter](#).

We're trialling some new approaches and we've used feedback from the first round to make some improvements. We're keen to hear from you about your experience to help us improve future rounds of the fund.



## 12 How to apply

You will need to register for an account on [Plinth](#) to be able to complete the application.

If you have any issues with the form, there is a chat button at the bottom right of the screen. This will enable you to speak to Plinth directly for assistance.

If you are having issues with Plinth and for accessibility reasons would prefer an alternative format (such as a Word format to submit via email) please contact us [vcs@camden.gov.uk](mailto:vcs@camden.gov.uk) or you can call 020 7974 8901.

The application form includes the option to translate the form into other languages.

[We Make Camden Project Fund application form](#)

As part of your application, we will ask that your organisation meets the minimum requirements.

If your organisation has applied for funding via Plinth in the past 12 months, the documents you submitted should appear on your application. If there have been any changes to these documents, you will need to upload the latest version.



## 13 Support

If you would like to talk to someone before you submit your application, have any questions or need any support please email [vcs@camden.gov.uk](mailto:vcs@camden.gov.uk) or you can call 0207 974 8901 to talk to a member of the Community Partnerships Team.

We will be hosting online webinars about the fund. For details, please visit [Voluntary and community sector in Camden - Camden Council](#)