



London Borough of Lewisham

Main grants programme 2022 – 25
£10,000 Partnership Grants

September 2021

Lewisham Main Grants Programme – £10,000 Partnership Grants

SECTION 1 – OVERVIEW

Lewisham's Main Grants programme has been operational for over 20 years, providing funding to organisations delivering a wide range of crucial services during that time. The provision of grants has enabled organisations to develop their capacity and widen the range of services they offer. The programme has focused on a range of service areas and approaches during its lifetime and has developed in accordance with the needs of local residents, always with input from the VCS to ensure its focus is effectively targeted.

A new funding round is due to open for applications in September 2021 for expenditure in the 2022 – 2025 financial years. As usual, the programme is focusing on specific areas of need and a recent VCS consultation has informed its approach.

In compiling the consultation, the Council sought feedback on a strategic approach aimed at building the capacity of the sector as a whole through strong infrastructure, coordination and fundraising services. The aim is that the new Main Grants funding round should deliver VCS sustainability by building strength and capacity to attract funds from wider sources rather than the Council trying to fund everything directly through short term project-based grants.

A major factor in the Council's approach and consultation in relation to the Main Grants programme has been the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Lewisham's communities. This has presented both positive outcomes, such as increased community cohesion at a time of crisis, and challenges for *example 25,000 + residents volunteering at the Community Hub, and 50,000 + calls made to clinically vulnerable residents (source Future Lewisham)*. Consultation responses have confirmed that the Lewisham VCS endorses a Main Grants programme at this point in time which builds capacity and infrastructure to increase funding sustainability overall at this crucial post-pandemic point in Lewisham's VCS history.

The Main Grants programme is primarily focused on adults. The new priorities for the main grants programme are:

- An economically sound future (specifically Advice Services and Enabling Digital Access for All)
- A healthy and well future
- A future we all have a part in

The proposals for the new programme include:

- Funding under the three broad criteria outlined above
- Significant grants to partners delivering advice and social prescribing services
- Three FTE Community Fundraisers hosted by the VCS, with specific focus areas covering equalities, culture and sports, and 'cold spots' - areas of high need and low services coverage in the borough

- Small partnership grants of £10,000 for organisations willing to work with the Council in the coming years
- A specific funding pot for London Borough of Culture (LBoC), administered through the LBoC Team as part of the wider programme
- An approach to equality and equity that prioritised funding proposals on the basis of those most impacted by Covid, an equalities-focused Community Fundraiser, and a commitment to funding BAME infrastructure support

This guidance focuses on applications for small partnership grants of £10,000.

The grants are available to organisations who can demonstrate commitment to working in partnership with the Council. These funds could enable organisations to attract additional funding, and can support the core activities of organisations who will commit to:

- Add value in specific areas of the borough or in specific sectors where need is high and infrastructure is needed to meet demand.
- Support consultation with residents
- Coordinate local networks
- Work with the council to develop local engagement
- Act as a critical friend working in constructive dialogue with the council
- Link into appropriate networks for their own service delivery
- Work in partnership with other council grant recipients and commissioned services, Borough of Culture etc.
- Support the council in disseminating information to the community

The Council will agree proportionate and reasonable outcomes with successful applicants once grants are awarded.

Funding will be available for three years starting from April 2022.

1.2 Timetable

Please complete this form by 11.59pm on 18 November 2021. All applicants will be written to with the outcome of their application in December 2021.

Please be aware that we require a statement from your Board – please see Section E, Question 14. This may take time to coordinate if there is not a board meeting scheduled during the application period.

SECTION 2 – APPLICATION PROCESS AND ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

- 2.1 In order to apply to Lewisham Council Main grants programme you must complete the main grants application form on the Community Funding Lewisham website: <https://communityfunding.lewisham.gov.uk/>

- 2.2 You should read the criteria and guidance contained in the previous sections of this document before completing your Application form.
- 2.3 It is hoped that the form itself is largely self-explanatory but additional guidance on each section of the form is contained below. Word limits are quoted with each question – please do not see these limit as targets and answer all questions as succinctly as possible.

Section A – Organisation name & contact details

- Q 1. All we need in this section is your organisation name and contact details including website and social media.

Section B – Eligibility

- Q. 2 In order to be eligible for a grant from Lewisham Council you must be a not for profit organisation. The following types of organisation are eligible to apply for a grant:
- Registered Charity - give registration number
 - Company Limited by Guarantee
 - CIC (Community Interest Company)
 - Cooperative
 - Other – constituted (including CIO's and Social Enterprises) – Tenant and resident associations

Does your intended programme mainly benefit Lewisham residents (90% of your recipients live in Lewisham)? If not, please explain how you will ensure Lewisham residents benefit the most from your programme.

250 words

Section C - Your Service Offer

These sections will be used to assess how well your organisation meets the criteria for partnership grants.

- Q. 3 Please give a brief description of your organisation, including:
- Your mission, aims and objectives
 - Services you provide
 - Where you provide them
 - Recent achievements,
 - Who do you usually work with
 - How many committee members, paid staff and volunteers does the organisation have?
 - what arrangements your organisation has in place to ensure you are delivering good
 - quality services

500 words

This question is designed to get a good understanding of your organisation, your main areas of work and how the organisation is run. It is important that you address each of the bullet points as a minimum as we will be looking for a comprehensive picture of your organisation.

Q 4. Protected Characteristics

This question aims to find out how your service will engage and promote services to groups with protected characteristics. We will be assessing how proactive you are in ensuring your service is accessible and that it is representative in terms of service use.

Please tell us:

- How will you make your service accessible?
- How will you reach communities who need your services but aren't currently using them?
- Who are the groups that you would target?
- How will you target those groups

300 words

Q. 5 The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we work in many ways.

Please tell us:

- If your organisation has changed due to the pandemic and if so, what you have done to deal with the changes
- How you adapted to new ways of working

This question asks about the lessons you have learnt from your experiences during COVID-19 and how your approach might differ in the future as a result (please include both positive and negative experiences).

250 words

Q.6 Working in Partnership with Lewisham Council

Partnership Grants are designed to recognise your commitment to working closely with the Council on our shared priorities. While limited in size they are designed to provide recognition of our partnership and allow you to work closely with us.

Please tell us:

- How you propose to work in partnership with us.
- Your commitment to helping the Council reach all residents in your area
- The difference you want your service to make.
- How a partnership approach can develop your service beyond what is already in place
- How much extra funding you think you might attract in this period. You should state the level of funding that you would anticipate attracting during this period as we hope our commitment to working in partnership with you will assist with this.

NB – your answers in this section will be part of your monitoring returns if you are successful; the exact details will be agreed with you once the grant has been

awarded.

These points are minimum requirements.

500 words

This question will be key to assessing which organisations will receive partnership grants. Please address all the bullet points outlined. Please tell us your ideas about how you might work more effectively with us going forward to meet the needs of residents.

Q.7 Shared Values

In applying for the Main Grants funding you are agreeing to work in partnership with us to demonstrate your commitment to:

- London Living Wage
- Equalities diversity and wellbeing
- Sustainability
- Being Dementia Friendly
- Ending Modern Slavery
- Help with promoting Council events to residents
- Information sharing e.g overview of service users
- Sector leadership

If you haven't ticked one or more of the above, please explain why.

250 words

Section D – Your track record including financial position

Q. 8 Resources: your track record of attracting resources both financial and human.

We are interested in your track record as an organisation of raising funds, other kind of income, human resources, and in kind support. This could be equipment, volunteers, donations, or free HR or finance support.

Q. 9 Your overall financial position - Please provide your income/expenditure along with surplus/deficit for the last three years.

Q. 10 Your reserves position

Please tell us what reserves you hold, which areas of your reserves are ring-fenced vs. free reserves, and whether you have a reserves policy. If for any reason your current reserves do not meet your reserves policy thresholds at this time, please explain the current position and your plans for returning reserves to the defined level.

250 words

Q. 11 Please confirm that you are up to date with filing your accounts with the Charities Commission and if not please explain why

100 words

Section E – About Your Organisation

- Q. 12 Please provide us with details of people involved in your organisations and the numbers in each category.
- Q.13 Trustees/board details
Please provide us with details of your trustees, please add additional lines as required.
- Q. 14 Board statement
We would like to know that you trustees are aware and supportive of your application to the Main Grants programme. Therefore, we would like a statement from your board on your organisation and its governance, your strategic plan and how often it was last reviewed, your management and supervision arrangements.
500 words
Please be aware this may take time to coordinate if there is not a board meeting scheduled during the application period.
- Q 15. Banking arrangements – please provide details of your bank account
- Q. 16 It is not a requirement as part of the application to submit the documentation listed here but this must be available within 10 working days when requested otherwise your application may be invalid.

Section G – Further Information and Declaration

It is essential that your application is signed by the chair of your organisation or other member of the management committee with appropriate authority.

Additional Guidance

There will be a series of application workshops in September – October 2021.
These will be held on:

- 30th September 2-4pm (for organisations applying to host community fundraisers)
- 6th October 10am-12pm
- 13th October 6-8pm
- 19th October 10am-12pm
- 20th October 10am-12pm

Further information and booking details are available on the Community Funding Lewisham website at:

<https://communityfunding.lewisham.gov.uk/>