



New Beginnings Fund: support for refugees and their communities

Aim of the fund

A consortium of Funders have come together and pooled resources to create the New Beginnings Fund to support refugees and their communities. The fund is responding to the recent dramatic increase in refugees and asylum seekers moving across Europe which is placing incredible strain on the network of community based support available within the UK. UK Community Foundations (UKCF) has been appointed to manage and deliver the fund, via their network of local community foundations.

The fund will support local groups working to welcome refugees and asylum seekers into their local communities, through existing or new services. The fund is particularly interested in groups who are working to get their local communities involved in volunteering and supporting their work to promote integration and welcome new arrivals.

Overview of Situation

The refugee crisis that escalated during the summer of 2015 and is still ongoing has had a dramatic impact in Europe in terms of inflows of refugees and asylum seekers. Whilst here in the UK the numbers of new arrivals have been much lower than in mainland Europe, the number of new arrivals is steadily increasing, placing incredible strain on the network of community based support that is available within the UK.

There was a 10% increase in new asylum applications year ending June 2015 and a 46% increase in Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) for the same period (ONS quarterly report August 2015). In the longer term the crisis threatens to undermine wider efforts to promote more equal, less divided communities throughout the UK. The government also announced the resettlement of 20,000 Syrian refugees across the UK over the next five years.

With an estimated 1000+ local refugee community organisations across England alone many of these small groups are reliant on volunteers. We witnessed in summer 2015 a rise in the number of people looking to volunteer for refugee organisations, but many of these groups were not able to respond or capitalise on this as they have limited capacity. Using local volunteers is a valuable means of supporting integration into local communities and has a positive impact on the capacity of these frontline organisations.

Use of funds

The New Beginnings Fund will award grants of up to £10,000 to frontline groups working to support refugees and asylum seekers across the UK. In exceptional cases, the fund will consider grants of up to £20,000 for bids including multiple local partners. The fund is UK wide and all grants will be for the duration of one year.

The fund will prioritise local groups, with turnovers of less than £250,000 who can explain the need for additional short to medium term support and how this will add capacity to their current work with local refugees and asylum seekers. Groups must be able to evidence an increase in demand for services and explain how they plan to respond using this funding, (larger organisations with turnovers of up to £1million are not excluded from applying for funding however, and priority will be given to smaller locally based organisations.)

Your organisation and proposed work must be based in London to be eligible for funding through The London Community Foundation. If you are not based in London, please visit the UK Community Foundation's [website](#) to be directed to your local community foundation.

The types of activity that New Beginnings is likely to fund are proposals from groups that are led by local refugees and asylum seekers, which offer guidance, counselling, community integration and welcoming activities with existing local communities, groups supporting volunteering and community activities.

The fund will not be supporting activities promoting party political activity; major capital costs; individual sponsorship; activities generating private profit; statutory services; faith groups are welcome to apply but activities which evangelise or proselytise religious beliefs will not be eligible.

New Beginnings aims to provide funding to increase the capacity of small to medium sized local organisations to meet the support needs of refugees and asylum seekers to mobilise other forms of local support to ease their integration into local communities

Impact

The context of welcoming Refugees and Asylum seekers and promoting integration, the New Beginnings Fund aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- Improve access to volunteering
- Improve community cohesion
- Improve the community working together
- Strengthen organisations through capacity building
- Promote human rights and equality
- Reduce isolation

The Process

- The fund will be open for applications for five weeks. The fund will be promoted via local community foundations and through existing RCO networks across the UK.
- The fund will be divided across 5 areas namely: Northern Ireland, Scotland, the North West, the West Midlands and the South East of England. These regions were selected based on need as determined using the most recent available data on destitute Asylum seekers in the UK and the number of registered Refugee Community Organisations, by region/country. The fund is evenly distributed across the five regions.
- Community foundations will receive online applications and will carry out all necessary due diligence and produce assessments. Each region will shortlist and provide a number of recommendations (to be determined once the amount of funding available is confirmed). A national panel including funders, refugee

organisations and UKCF will consider these recommendations. The panel will make the final recommendations, which will then go back to the local community foundation which will make the awards.

Guidelines

Please ensure that your project activity begins no earlier than 10 weeks after the grant deadline; you will then have 12 months to spend your grant, if you are awarded.

Who can apply?

- Community Groups
- Resident Associations
- Community Centres
- Social Enterprises/Community Interest Companies/Community Interest Organisations
- Credit Unions
- Charities

Please note: Your organisation and proposed work must be based in London to be eligible for funding through The London Community Foundation. If you are not, please visit the UK Community Foundation's [website](#) to be directed to your local community foundation.

Exclusions

Grants will not be awarded to:

- Activities promoting party political activity
- Major capital costs
- Individual sponsorship
- Activities generating private profit
- Statutory services
- Faith groups are welcome to apply but activities which evangelise or proselytise religious beliefs will not be eligible.

How do you apply for a grant?

Click on the link below to access the online form.

[NEW BEGINNINGS APPLICATION FORM](#)

[NEW BEGINNINGS **PARTNERSHIP** APPLICATION FORM](#)

Please read the instructions carefully, tick to say if you agree and have understood, enter your e-mail address and click on the "Send e-mail and continue".

Once you have done this you will be sent an e-mail with a link to your unique online application form. You should receive the email within a couple of minutes (please check your junk mail folder).

Full guidelines on using our online application form are available [here](#).

You also need to upload all of your supporting documents to The London Community Foundation by the deadline. We regret we are unable to consider incomplete or late applications.

Supporting documents you need to submit are:

- A copy of your signed governing document e.g. Memorandum and Articles of Association or Constitution.
- A copy of your most recent signed annual accounts
- A copy of your safeguarding policy if you will be working with children or vulnerable adults
- Names and addresses of your management committee members
- Projected income and expenditure for the current financial year

If you have received funding from The London Community Foundation within the last two years, you need only submit your most recent signed annual accounts unless other documentation has changed since.

We regret we are unable to consider incomplete or late applications so please ensure you submit everything by the deadline.

Application Deadline

Friday 29th March 2016 – 9am

What happens after you have applied?

We may contact you to discuss your ideas. You will get a decision within 8 weeks of the deadline; therefore projects should not start until 10 weeks after the deadline date. If you are awarded a grant you will have 12 months to spend it.

Monitoring

Grantees will be required to complete an online form outlining how the grant was spent and highlighting the benefits for residents.

Monitoring and evaluating our grants enables us to better understand the impact of our grant making. It helps us to understand community need, enables us to learn from our grant making and inform future strategies, and also enables us to show donors the impact of their funding and hopefully encourage them to give more!

Monitoring will include:

- Number of beneficiaries, volunteers supported and demographic
- Outcomes achieved

- Challenges and learning
- Sustainability
- Case Studies

It should also help organisations to collect valuable information on how service users benefit from your work, what works and what doesn't, how you can make your services more effective, and also demonstrate to funders (and donors) the value of your work. Further information can be found at the Charities Evaluation Services website, www.cesvol.org.uk .

If your application is successful, you will be required to:

- Complete your spending within 12 months;
- Complete a project review form about the project within 6 weeks of completing your grant, and no later than 14 months after receipt of grant;
- Maintain financial records for all grant spending and submit requested information to LCF, including original invoices;
- Be available for a potential monitoring visit.

Contact Us

Please contact Tom Flynn at The London Community Foundation if you have any questions about the programme:

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Tel: 020 7582 5117

www.londoncf.org.uk