

# FAQs: Together for London Programme

We hosted a live Q&A on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November and you can find the recording here:

<https://youtu.be/-fkVKOg2RGI>

We have included as many as possible of the most common questions below:

<b>We are a local branch of a national charity - can we apply?</b>	Yes, you can apply to this fund but if your local branch does not have its own accounts and the accounts provided are from the national charity and over £500,000 you will not be considered for funding.
<b>What documents should we submit if we do not have annual accounts available for the last completed financial year?</b>	<p>If your accounts are not finalised for the last financial year please submit either draft accounts or management accounts, signed by either your CEO or a trustee.</p> <p>If your financial year ended in the last two months you can submit accounts for the previous financial year.</p> <p>If you do not have accounts for the last financial year (eg you are a new organisation) please submit an income and expenditure forecast for the current year and include a note as to why accounts are not available for previous years.</p> <p>We're looking to see last year's annual income for the year (or projected income for the last or current year), whether they have 2 years of net current liabilities, any trustee payments or directors' loans (these should be allowed for in the governing doc).</p>
<b>Our most recent accounts are for 20/21 – will we be eligible for funding if we submit these?</b>	If your current financial year has ended in the last 2 months you can submit accounts for the previous financial year. However, if your current financial year closed more than 2 months ago please send us your draft accounts or management accounts for the most recent financial year, signed by either your CEO or a trustee.
<b>Our organisation is based in London but we have beneficiaries both in London and in other parts of the country – can we apply for a grant?</b>	The grant must be used to benefit people and communities in London only. Therefore you can only apply for funding if the work you are doing is limited to London. If you are also delivering services outside of London you would need to ringfence this grant for London only, and any organisational costs would need to be proportionate to the amount of work you do in London.
<b>Our income is over £500,000 because of a one-off increase in income, am I eligible for funding?</b>	If your total income in the last completed financial year is above £500,000 because of a one-time increase in your total income you will not be eligible for funding. For example, if a legacy or in-kind donation has taken your organisation over the maximum threshold in the previous financial year we will not be able to consider your group for funding in this round.
<b>Can we apply for: short term mentoring, training mentors, food vouchers, food parcels, salaries for staff</b>	Yes! You can apply for any costs that help meet the immediate needs of your community due to the cost of living crisis. As long as you can explain how activities meet these needs all of these are eligible. You can also apply for organisational costs to help your organisation adapt and respond to the crisis, as long as at least some of the funds are used for direct community needs as well.
<b>My organisation, like many Citizens Advice Bureaus, provided T&amp;Cs to staff that included membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). As such, the organisation has a pension liability on its</b>	Yes, as long as this is clearly noted in the accounts and managed so there is no impact on cash flow you can still apply for funds.

<p>accounts. The liability has full notes in the audited account and the organisation has now ceased membership of the LGPS. Are we eligible.</p>	
<p>How many organisations are you looking to fund?</p>	<p>We have a grant making pot of around £1m. As these grants are for up to £10,000 (and we expect most people will apply for the full amount) we would expect to award around 110 grants.</p>
<p>Can you provide a Word version of the application form?</p>	<p>We are not able to provide an application form in Word and all applications must be received via the online portal. If you would like to see the questions before completing the application, register your email to open the application form then copy and paste the contents of the form into a Word document. You can also share a copy of the form with others by right-clicking the application and choosing share from the dropdown menu of options. An arrow should appear by 'Share' giving you a number of mediums to share the form through. If there are any accessibility issues you have with the form, please email <a href="mailto:applications@londoncf.org.uk">applications@londoncf.org.uk</a>.</p>
<p>Where do you get data on the indices of deprivation?</p>	<p><a href="#">Indices of Deprivation - London Datastore</a></p>
<p>Can I apply for more than £10,000?</p>	<p>No. £10,000 is the maximum you can apply for in this programme.</p>
<p>Does the money have to be spent within 6 months?</p>	<p>Yes, as this is emergency funding, the money needs to be spent in 6 months. It is designed to particularly support communities and organisations over the winter.</p>
<p>We have an idea of what we will spend the money on but we also need to be able to change plans to meet the needs of our community, will this be possible?</p>	<p>This funding is flexible, which means that you can change your plans without asking for any approvals. As long as you are spending it to address the impacts of the cost-of-living crisis on your communities and your organisation, we trust you to know how best to use it. We will ask you what you expect to spend the grant on at application stage, and what you did spend it on at the end, but this is primarily to understand the different needs and uses that the funding has. You won't be judged on whether things change or not.</p>
<p>We are extremely busy at the moment, how likely are we to get funding and how long will the application take?</p>	<p>We do expect there to be a high number of applications for funding, so we have clearly outlined the criteria and priorities in the programme guidelines. We have also kept the application as short as possible asking only for information you are likely to already know or be able to share really easily. So, we don't think it will take long to apply.</p> <p>You can only receive funding if you meet <b>all of the criteria:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- You are responding to the <b>immediate impacts of the cost-of-living crisis on the communities you support</b></li> <li>- Your income is less than £500,000</li> <li>- Your beneficiaries are in any London borough</li> <li>- Any salaries funded will be paid the London Living Wage (£11.95/hour)</li> <li>- You can spend the money within 6 months</li> <li>- You meet all of LCF's standard eligibility criteria (pg 4 of the <a href="#">programme guidelines</a>)</li> </ul> <p>If you don't meet all of these criteria, we wouldn't recommend that you apply.</p> <p>For organisations that do meet all of these criteria, we will then prioritise in the following order:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Organisations <b>supporting people on low incomes or those who are likely to be disproportionately impacted by the cost-of-living crisis</b></li> </ol>

	<p>(People with disabilities, older people, Black and Minoritised Ethnic (BME) communities, carers, homeless people or people at risk of homelessness)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Organisations with an income of less than £300,000</li> <li>3. Organisations who operate in areas with high levels of deprivation (based on the <a href="#">indices of multiple deprivation data</a>)</li> </ol>
<p><b>Our income last year was £650,000 but in previous years it was less than £500,000, can we still apply?</b></p>	<p>We will only be funding organisations with an income of less than £500,000 in the last financial year. This is because we are looking to support smaller community-based organisations who may otherwise struggle with funding and costs throughout this period.</p> <p>If we receive a high number of applications we will be further prioritising groups with an income of less than £300,000.</p>
<p><b>Can I apply for core organisational costs only (salaries, rent etc), or how much can I put towards organisational costs?</b></p>	<p>You need to use part of the funding to meet the needs of your community (project costs), so you can't use it only for core organisational costs. However, we know that everyone is struggling with basic operating costs, so if you are applying for project costs, you can apply for core costs on top of this. We haven't set an amount that can be put towards core organisational costs as every organisation will be different. We will base decisions on how well you meet the priorities of the programme.</p>
<p><b>We are running a project to support young people with financial and employment advice linked to the cost-of-living crisis, should we apply?</b></p>	<p>If you meet all of the criteria, you are welcome to apply for funding. Please ensure you can demonstrate how your work will address the immediate impacts of the cost-of-living crisis. As this funding is only for 6 months, we are not looking to fund long-term approaches at this stage.</p> <p>Young people are not a priority for this programme, however, if we have enough funding we will still consider applications supporting other groups who are impacted, particularly if you are applying from a smaller organisation (income under £300,000).</p>
<p><b>We're a voluntary community group organisation and have a constitution and bank account. Can we apply for funding?</b></p>	<p>It sounds like you might be eligible, although we'd recommend checking against the eligibility criteria in the <a href="#">Programme Guidelines</a>.</p>
<p><b>I have another grant with LCF which has monitoring due next year – can I still apply for this programme?</b></p>	<p>Yes as long as you meet all the other criteria. Any monitoring that is past its due date must have been submitted on time at the point of application. This means that we cannot fund an organisation that has overdue monitoring, but we can fund organisations with future monitoring due on other grants with us (meaning they are not late for submitting this).</p>
<p><b>Can you confirm the closing date for the application?</b></p>	<p>The deadline is <b>12 noon on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022</b>. We'd recommend submitting the online application a short while before the deadline in case you experience any technical issues.</p>
<p><b>Where can we find all the fund details?</b></p>	<p>All the information is on the webpage (<a href="https://londoncf.org.uk/grants/together-for-london">https://londoncf.org.uk/grants/together-for-london</a>). We'd recommend carefully reading through the Programme Guidelines, which is a button on the right-hand side of the page.</p>
<p><b>Where can I access the application questions?</b></p>	<p>If you start the application via the online system (<a href="#">Online Form (force.com)</a>), you can see the questions, edit, save, and then come back to the application and continue working on it. The link to your application will be emailed to you after you register. This can then be accessed by multiple people.</p>

<b>I can't upload my documents.</b>	Please send your documents to <a href="mailto:applications@londoncf.org.uk">applications@londoncf.org.uk</a> and we will upload them on your behalf.
<b>Is it possible to have a Word document version of the Programme Guidelines to help with accessibility?</b>	Yes you can find both Word and PDF versions of the programme Guidelines on our webpage ( <a href="https://londoncf.org.uk/grants/together-for-london">https://londoncf.org.uk/grants/together-for-london</a> )
<b>Are religious organisations eligible to apply?</b>	Yes, they can apply, but activities promoting political or religious beliefs cannot be covered by this programme.
<b>The project beneficiaries will be living outside of London, should we be applying to LCF?</b>	If your beneficiaries live outside of London i.e. the people benefiting from the grant fall out of our geographic area, London (see <a href="#">here</a> ) you should not apply. You can find your local community foundation (where the beneficiaries live) by searching <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>Are we eligible to apply as we are registered as Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies?</b>	<p>For more information about cooperative or community benefit societies see <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>Organisations with a cooperative legal structure are not eligible for LCF funding and therefore should not apply to the programme. However, if your organisation is a Community Benefit Society and you also meet all the other eligibility criteria, you can apply.</p> <p>Please do check your organisation meets the full eligibility criteria, available on page 4 of the <a href="#">programme guidelines</a>.</p>
<b>Is there any other funding available from LCF?</b>	Please visit the <a href="#">Available Grants page</a> on our website to see a list of all of the funds that are currently open for applications. Please also <a href="#">sign up to our newsletter</a> for funding updates. Please also keep an eye on <a href="#">Twitter</a> at @London_cf and on <a href="#">LinkedIn</a> .
<b>I can't find the answer to my question here.</b>	Please contact the Grants and Impact team on <a href="mailto:applications@londoncf.org.uk">applications@londoncf.org.uk</a>