

# FAQs: VAWG Cost of Living Fund

We hosted two live Q&A webinars on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March and Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

Please see recordings here:

Q&A 1: <https://youtu.be/x4Wnlu60yao>

Q&A 2: <https://youtu.be/mvh5dLoPXdY>

We have included responses to some of the key and frequently asked questions asked below:

<p>We provide trauma informed in-depth support to disadvantaged Parents, 95% women, many but not all impacted by VAWG. So is it worth us applying if we don't just support those impacted by VAWG</p>	<p>We are prioritising specialist led by and for VAWG services, therefore, it will depend on the number of applications received as to whether funding is available for non-specialist VAWG services.</p> <p>You would also need to evidence that you would use the funding specifically to support women and girls impacted by VAWG, rather than your wider service users.</p>
<p>Does the eligibility exclude faith-based VAWG charities that work with individuals of all faiths and none?</p>	<p>Faith-based VAWG charities are eligible to apply, providing your work does not exclude people on the basis of religion. Activities that promote religious beliefs also cannot be covered by this fund.</p>
<p>What does count as "formal advice"? If we provide DV and welfare advice and advocacy, but no legal and immigration advice, is this considered as "formal advice" still?</p>	<p>Yes, DV and welfare advice would all count as types of advice that this fund would be able to support. If you are providing: legal, financial, welfare or housing advice we will need to see any relevant qualifications and/or accreditation your organisation has to deliver the above services.</p>
<p>Will you welcome applications from groups that are not primarily VAWG focussed, but engage in general mental wellbeing work which contributes towards prevention and reducing VAWG (e.g. enabling resilience, building confidence, learning strategies to keep safe)?</p>	<p>This focus on this fund is responding to the immediate needs of women and girls during the cost of living crisis, therefore we are not able to fund VAWG prevention work.</p>
<p>Is it a strict maximum income of £500,000?</p>	<p>We will only be funding organisations with an income of up to £500,000 in the last financial year. If we receive a high number of applications, we will be further prioritising groups with an income of less than £300,000.</p>
<p>Our income is over £500,000 because of a one-off increase in income, am I eligible for funding?</p>	<p>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.</p>

<p>If your organisation has an income less than £5,000 can you apply</p>	<p>You would be eligible to apply. Please note however that the guidance specifies that we recommend that you do not apply for more than 50% of your annual income, therefore if you do apply for more than 50%, you would need to clearly demonstrate in your application how you would manage this proportionally high amount for your organisation. Additionally as this grant would therefore take your organisation's income over £5k, please visit <a href="#">this website</a> for guidance on registering as a charity, including information on legal structures.</p>
<p>If the deadline is 4th April &amp; the financial year ends 5th April then, does this mean that accounts for 21/22 will be accepted?</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Our most recent accounts are for 20/21 – will we be eligible for funding if we submit these?</p>	
<p>My organisation has been registered for 1 year, first set of accounts not due until October 2023, does this mean I cannot apply?</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. You can use this template if you do not have a version of your own: <a href="#">LCF-IE-Forecast-Template.xlsx (live.com)</a>.</p>
<p>Are you going to consider only women/girls led organisations</p>	<p>We are prioritising specialist led by and for VAWG services supporting the following groups of people as their primary beneficiaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Black women and girls and women and girls from minority ethnic backgrounds</li> <li>○ Women and girls with disabilities</li> <li>○ Neuro-diverse women and girls</li> <li>○ LGBT+</li> <li>○ Young women and girls</li> <li>○ Older women</li> <li>○ Women with no recourse to public funds (NRPF)</li> </ul> <p>Therefore, it will depend on the number of applications received as to whether funding is available for non-led by and for VAWG services.</p>
<p>We are a community centre led by BAME people, are you going to consider our application</p>	
<p>Can specialist VAWG organisations not specifically supporting and staffed by the demographic groups outlined apply?</p>	
<p>Is the organisation purely women lead can only apply (for example we have all staff who are women lead and we run Women’s empowerment project exclusively for women ) but our organisations serves all users. Can we still apply?</p>	
<p>We are not a VAWG organisation but we work with VAWG through our food bank support and employment skills – will we be able to apply?</p>	
<p>What if you have a pending application to The London Community Foundation and you want to ask for more money and expand the project/funding already applied for</p>	

<p>Can we use the funding to improve or expand the reach of a currently existing project!</p>	<p>Yes, absolutely. If there is existing work in place, please explain how these funds would help you to develop, improve, increase beneficiaries, or extend your work.</p>
<p>We support a wide range of women who have experienced sexual violence, many are from ethnic minority groups, some are lgbt, some have mental health issues, and also young women under 25. So we don't just serve one of these groups, its all ages, ethnicities etc are we still eligible?</p>	<p>Yes, it is completely understandable that you may be supporting multiple beneficiary groups. Some preference will also be given to organisations whose work addresses the intersectionality of more than one of these priority groups, so please do refer to this in your application.</p>
<p>We have been funded to support males living with domestic abuse via the London Community Foundation - I note this is included in the current application process - the men also have direct needs relating to COLC - are we able to put any budget to this or should we keep it to females?</p>	<p>We recognise that while women are more likely than men to experience violence and abuse and therefore are the primary beneficiaries of this fund, organisations supporting all survivors, including male victims of domestic abuse and those who identify as nonbinary are also eligible.</p>
<p>This grant will help for all boroughs or only specific area?</p>	<p>Applications are welcome from organisations based in <b>any London borough</b> (or working across multiple boroughs) whose services support victims-survivors of VAWG. This fund will review the geographic location of applicants as part of the shortlisting process, taking into account the importance of ensuring a spread across different boroughs and avoiding duplication and/or gaps in areas of support.</p>
<p>Can I apply for core organisational costs only (salaries, rent etc), or how much can I put towards organisational costs?</p>	<p>Please note that the core aims of this fund is to address the immediate needs of women and girls affected by VAWG, therefore we cannot fund applications for core organisational costs only. We however recognise that organisations are also facing increased costs during the crisis, therefore core costs will be considered up to a <b>maximum of 50%</b> of the total application amount.</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>Is a copy of the slides available for us to look through when applying?</p>	<p>Yes, they have now been uploaded to the fund page</p>

Where can we find all the fund details?	All the information is on the <a href="#">webpage</a> . We'd recommend carefully reading through the Programme Guidelines, which is a button on the right-hand side of the page.
Where can I access the application questions?	If you start the application via the <a href="#">online system</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.
I can't upload my documents.	Please send your documents to <a href="mailto:applications@londoncf.org.uk">applications@londoncf.org.uk</a> before the application closing deadline and we will upload them on your behalf.
Is it possible to have a Word document version of the programme guidelines to help with accessibility?	Yes you can find both Word and PDF versions of the programme Guidelines on our <a href="#">webpage</a> .
Is there any other funding available from LCF?	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> .
I can't find the answer to my question here.	Please contact the Grants and Impact team on <a href="mailto:applications@londoncf.org.uk">applications@londoncf.org.uk</a>