

Frequently asked questions

We have included some responses to some of the key frequently asked questions. This list will be updated during the application window and following the online Q&A sessions.

Why are organisation's with income under £500k being prioritised?

Consultation by MOPAC in 2019, which formed part of the commissioning of the first VAWG Grassroots Fund found that small organisations were disproportionately affected by austerity and accessing funding. That's why the Fund is aimed at organisations with an income of less than £500k in the previous financial year. Organisation size is one consideration of the fund, alongside history, expertise and impact of delivering VAWG specialist services at a grassroots level. Inevitably we recognise that this means not all VAWG-specialist organisations will be prioritised for this fund.

How much can smaller organisations apply for?

If your income is £30,000 or under, we encourage you to call us prior to making an application to discuss an appropriate grant request. As LCF does not usually fund organisations for more than 50% of their last year income, we recommend that organisation's with an income around £30,000 a year apply toward the minimum grant size for this fund, which is £15,000 per year.

Can we apply for 50% core costs?

Yes. The Fund remains committed to supporting projects which can demonstrate within their application a balance of, and consideration for, project/service delivery costs, core costs and costs to cover engagement in the capacity-building programme. Up to 50% of your request can be for core costs.

Can I apply for funding to extend a current project?

Yes, however we will not be able to fund project costs which are already funded (also known as double-funding). As all projects will begin in November 2023, we are able to fund project costs for costs which are not funded beyond this date.

Will newer organisations be penalised for not having a three-year track record?

MOPAC's consultation evidenced a clear and growing need for greater investment in, and building the resilience of, existing VAWG specialist organisations. It is these established

organisations who have been particularly affected by decreases in grant funding in recent years. Whilst we recognise the important value of newer organisations who are responsive to wider needs; this programme has been specifically designed to build the resilience of those organisations who have been operating for three years and have established services. LCF has a range of other funds that may benefit your organisation. Please [sign up to our newsletter](#).

Do partners have to have been set up as its own legal entity for a certain period of time?

No. The lead applicant will need to have been in existence for at least 3 years and have a track record in delivering VAWG services. However newer organisations, for example those set up in response to a particular need, are able to be considered as a partner. However, a track record of delivering VAWG services is still required.

Can national organisations apply if we are delivering in London? Will being a national organisation disadvantage our application?

Yes, national organisations can apply for this Fund, if they are able to demonstrate that they are well-placed to deliver their proposed project and have a track record of delivery to London's communities. This may be the case if you are delivering a unique, specialist service to your beneficiaries.

How many organisations can apply in partnership?

Up to three organisations can apply to the Fund in partnership. This is in recognition that any more organisations working in partnership will have to divide the funding into very small amounts and be more difficult to manage.

In order to qualify as a partnership, applicants must have a partnership agreement (written document) or equivalent in place before applying. This is so that the assessor can be reassured that all partners are clear of their obligations for delivery and the amounts of funding to be committed to them in relation to the project.

What do you define as a partnership?

Up to three organisations who each meet the eligibility criteria and already have a Partnership Agreement (or alternative written document) in place.

Can we partner with groups that have no bank account?

No. All partners will need to meet the eligibility criteria with regards to legal structures we are able to fund.

If we wanted to pay another organisation for their venue space due to better accessibility/ access to their client group, does that constitute a partnership?

No, this would not constitute a partnership.

Are you eligible to apply if your income is under £30,000?

If your income is under £30,000 we encourage you to contact us prior to making an application. If applying in partnership, organisations with an income under £30,000 are eligible to apply as a partner but not as the lead organisation.

How many applicants will you fund per borough?

We would ideally like to fund organisations across London and are aiming for a spread of grant awards across London boroughs. We do recognise that there are many inequalities in London and between boroughs. If we do get many applications from boroughs where there are higher levels of need, we will consider funding projects accordingly.

Who is assessing the grant applications?

The grant applications will be assessed by a team of Grant Assessors, including the VAWG Programme Manager. We are recruiting Assessors over the coming weeks with expertise in VAWG/DA services, intersectional services, small organisations and BME community organisations are essential experience which we will be searching for in candidates.

The guidelines outlines 'Two-year grants of up to £50,000 per year'. Does the funding request have to be equal values over the two years?

We recognise that the funding you will need may be different over the two years of your proposed project. For example, requests can allow for either inflation increase or alternatively can taper off in year 2 if you anticipate that alternative funding sources will pick up some of the costs of year 2 as part of your aims for sustainability. However, the maximum you can apply for in any one year is £50,000 and your first year's request should meet the criteria of being no more 50% of your organisation's annual turnover as shown in your latest annual accounts.

Can we submit multiple applications for funding?

Only one application per organisation will be accepted. This is in anticipation that there will be a high level of demand for the funding available, but also that there will be some additional requirements in connection with the higher levels of engagement via the capacity building and peer support activities, alongside the grant award. This engagement will also be required of organisations who are part of a partnership bid.

My organisation is based outside of London but our services target London residents. Can I apply?

Based on consultation, LCF will be prioritising London-based organisations. We are particularly interested in organisations established by the communities they exist to serve. Though organisations based outside of Greater London may be considered for funding, only activity within London and for Londoners will be considered, and a track record of delivering your services within London must be demonstrated.

I am the lead organisation but applying in partnership – are the partners involved in my bid able to login to access my application?

If you require input from others, the link you will receive to access your application form can be supplied for others to add their contributions.

I still have a question, who should I contact?

Please email VAWGGrassrootsFund@londoncf.org.uk or call 020 7582 5117