

Frequently Asked Questions

MOPAC VAWG Grassroots Fund 2027-2030

Please read this FAQ alongside the [Fund prospectus](#). The prospectus contains the full eligibility requirements, application guidance and timetable. If you are unsure whether your organisation or proposed work is a suitable fit, please contact The London Community Foundation (LCF) on VAWGGrassrootsFund@londoncf.org.uk before submitting your application.

1. About the Fund and its priorities

Which organisations and communities are prioritised?

The Fund has a particular focus on specialist grassroots organisations led by and for Black women and girls and women and girls from minority ethnic backgrounds. At least 60% of the funding will be prioritised for organisations meeting this focus.

Up to 40% of the funding will be awarded to specialist grassroots organisations providing VAWG services for other marginalised communities. These include women and girls with disabilities, neurodiverse women and girls, LGBTQ+ women, young women and girls under 25, older women over 55, women with no recourse to public funds, women involved in prostitution, and women and girls affected by modern slavery and human trafficking.

The Fund also prioritises organisations that understand their communities deeply, co-design services with survivors, respond to intersecting inequalities, take a trauma-informed approach and demonstrate a clear need for organisational investment.

Why are organisations with an annual income below £500,000 being prioritised?

The Fund aims to support specialist grassroots organisations, including smaller organisations that may face barriers to accessing funding and sustaining their services.

There is no income threshold for the Fund. However, organisations with an annual income of less than £500,000 will be prioritised. Organisational size is considered alongside specialist expertise, community need, track record and the strength of the proposed work.

What if our organisation does not meet one of the Fund's priorities?

Applicants should consider the Fund's priorities carefully and explain clearly how their organisation and proposed work meet the Fund's aims.

We have previously funded organisations that haven't quite met a particular prioritisation who have been able to demonstrate how their service users, proposed project etc is not represented by other applicants.

If your organisation does not fully meet a particular priority, you should explain the circumstances and provide evidence of the specialist need you address, the communities you serve and the contribution your proposed work would make. Meeting the other criteria strongly and demonstrating a clear, distinctive contribution will be important. However, the Fund is competitive, and we cannot guarantee that an application will be successful.

What does “led by and for” mean?

The Fund prioritises organisations led by and for the communities they serve, with the communities reflected in staffing, management and governance structures.

The prospectus defines this as at least 80% of trustees and staff being from the protected characteristic of the community the organisation aims to work with.

Applicants should explain how their organisation is led by and accountable to the community it serves, including the representation of that community across its staffing and governance structures. If your organisation does not fully meet the 80% expectation, you should explain the circumstances and provide relevant context, such as the composition of your delivery team and leadership, community involvement, advisory structures or plans to strengthen representation.

Not fully meeting this prioritisation does not automatically mean that an application cannot be considered. Please see the answer above on how to demonstrate your fit with the Fund.

What if our organisation is led by and for a community but does not meet the 80% representation expectation?

Explain your organisation's circumstances and provide evidence of how your community is represented in staffing, management and governance, as well as how the organisation is accountable to the people it serves.

You may also wish to explain any practical barriers affecting representation and describe relevant community involvement, advisory structures or plans to strengthen representation.

We have previously funded organisations that haven't quite met a particular prioritisation who have been able to demonstrate how their service users, proposed project etc is not represented by other applicants. You should therefore explain both your organisation's fit with the Fund and the particular contribution your proposed work would make.

Does our organisation need to focus exclusively on VAWG?

The Fund can consider women's community organisations and specialist community organisations whose work addressing VAWG is a core aspect of their activities.

However, applicants must currently be providing services to address VAWG and demonstrate how their proposed work meets the Fund's objectives. If VAWG is part of a wider programme of work, explain the specialist VAWG support you already deliver, the needs you are responding to and how the proposed activities will address those needs.

Can newer organisations apply if they have not been operating for three years?

Applicants must be able to demonstrate a minimum of three complete years of operation. The Fund is intended to support established grassroots organisations and strengthen existing VAWG services.

For partnership applications, newer organisations may be considered as partners on a case-by-case basis, but a track record of delivering VAWG services is still required. Lead applicants must meet the three-year operation requirement.

If your organisation was registered more recently but began delivering its work earlier, contact LCF to discuss your track record.

2. Eligibility and location

Can organisations based outside London apply?

Yes. Organisations based outside Greater London may be considered, but the proposed activity must take place in London and benefit Londoners. You must demonstrate an existing track record of delivering your services in London.

Organisations based in London are preferred. Applicants should explain their existing work in London, their understanding of the communities they intend to serve and how the proposed activity will benefit women and girls who live, work or study in London.

Can we apply if we provide services to people across the UK?

You can apply if you meet the Fund's eligibility requirements and can demonstrate that the proposed work will be delivered in London and benefit Londoners. The Fund cannot support activity benefiting people who do not live, work or study in London.

If your organisation operates nationally, explain how your proposed project will deliver a clear benefit to women and girls in London.

Can we apply if we are not a specialist VAWG organisation?

The Fund includes specialist community organisations whose work addressing VAWG is a core aspect of their activities, even where the organisation's wider work focuses on a particular community or area of need.

You must currently be providing services to address VAWG. Your application should demonstrate the specialist nature of your work, your understanding of VAWG and the needs of the women and girls you support, and how your proposed activities align with the Fund's objectives and priorities.

Can we apply if our organisation has an annual income above £500,000?

Yes. There is no income threshold for the Fund, but organisations with an annual income of less than £500,000 will be prioritised.

If your organisation's income is above £500,000, you should consider carefully how you will demonstrate a strong fit with the Fund, particularly the specialist nature of your organisation and proposed work, the needs of your service users and the contribution your work makes to underserved communities.

We have previously funded organisations that haven't quite met a particular prioritisation who have been able to demonstrate how their service users, proposed project etc is not represented by other applicants.

Can we submit more than one application?

No. Only one application per organisation will be accepted, including where an organisation is involved in a partnership application. An organisation cannot submit an individual application and also be named as a partner in another application.

Please consider carefully which proposal best meets the Fund's aims and priorities before applying.

Can an organisation apply to both the Victims Small Grants Fund and the VAWG Grassroots Fund?

Yes. An organisation may apply to both funds where it is seeking support for different activities, and each application clearly meets the priorities of the relevant fund. If applying for one project/activity an application should be submitted to the fund that is the best fit. If you are unsure which fund is the best fit, contact LCF before applying.

3. What work and costs can the Fund support?

What types of activities can the Fund support?

The Fund can support the continuation or expansion of existing VAWG services, as well as a new element of an organisation's work addressing VAWG.

This may include specialist support for survivors, prevention and early intervention, work that addresses the root causes of VAWG, and services responding to the needs of marginalised or underserved communities. Activities should align with the Fund's

objectives and demonstrate a clear understanding of the needs of the women and girls they aim to support.

If you are unsure whether your proposed activities fit the Fund, please contact LCF before applying.

Can we apply for a new project or pilot?

The Fund can support a new element of an organisation's work addressing VAWG. However, applicants must already be providing services to address VAWG and meet the Fund's eligibility requirements, including the relevant track-record requirements.

A proposal should demonstrate how the work responds to an identified need, how it builds on the organisation's expertise and experience, and how it will contribute to the Fund's objectives. The Fund is not intended to support individuals or projects run by individuals rather than an eligible organisation.

Can we apply for funding to continue or expand an existing project?

Yes. The Fund can support the continuation or expansion of existing VAWG services, as well as a new element of work addressing VAWG.

You cannot use the grant to pay for expenditure that has already taken place or for costs that are already funded elsewhere. Your application should clearly explain what the grant will pay for and how it will support service delivery during the funding period.

What costs can we include in our application?

Eligible costs may include staffing, volunteer costs, training, publicity, equipment, small capital items, office and overhead costs, and premises costs.

Your budget should be balanced and clearly linked to the proposed activities. It should consider service delivery costs, core costs and the time and resources needed to participate in the wider Fund programme.

The grant cannot be used for capital-build projects, activities generating private profit, or other costs and activities listed as ineligible in the prospectus.

Can we include core costs in our application?

Yes. Up to 50% of your grant request can be allocated to core costs. These are day-to-day organisational running costs, such as rent, bills, insurance, systems and other overheads.

Your budget should demonstrate a balance between service delivery costs, core costs and the costs of participating in the wider Fund programme. Costs associated with participation in the programme do not need to be included within the 50% core-cost allocation.

Do we need to budget for staff at the Living Wage?

Yes. If you are applying for funding for staff costs, including existing staff, sessional workers, part-time or full-time posts, or freelance workers, you should budget these at the Real Living Wage or above.

As this is a three-year programme, applicants should also consider anticipated increases in staffing costs, including appropriate annual pay increases, and budget accordingly.

Can the grant cover activity that takes place in schools or other settings?

Yes, although statutory organisations such as schools, prisons, NHS cannot apply.

4. Grant amounts and partnerships

What is considered a proportionate grant request?

Your request should be realistic in relation to your organisation's income, financial position, delivery capacity and the scale of the proposed work. As a general guide, the application should not exceed 50% of the organisation's annual turnover. For example, if your last years annual turnover was £100K, it would be considered proportionate to apply for £50K year which would be £150K total grant request.

If your organisation has an annual income of less than £30,000, you are encouraged to contact the Programme Manager to discuss an appropriate request.

A request that represents a substantial proportion of your organisation's income may require closer consideration of your financial position and how you will manage the associated risks. Your budget should clearly demonstrate that the proposed work is achievable and financially sustainable.

Can a newer organisation be included in a partnership?

Newer organisations may be considered as partners. However, a track record of delivering VAWG services is still required. The lead organisation must demonstrate a minimum of three complete years of operation and meet the Fund's eligibility requirements.

The application should explain the role of each partner, their relevant experience and how the partnership will deliver the proposed work.

Does paying another organisation for a service count as a partnership?

Not necessarily. If you intend to pay another organisation to provide a specific service, venue or other element of your project, you may be able to include this as a project cost rather than apply as a partnership.

A partnership application is intended for organisations working together to deliver the proposed project, with agreed responsibilities and a formal partnership agreement in

place. All partners in a partnership application must meet the relevant requirements and participate in the wider Fund programme.

If you are unsure which approach is most suitable, please contact LCF before applying.

Can LCF recommend an organisation for us to partner with?

LCF cannot recommend individual organisations as potential partners. You may wish to explore partnership opportunities through your existing networks and relationships with organisations working in relevant areas.

5. Other

Are specific ICT or data-security systems required at application stage?

No particular CRM, database or ICT security system is prescribed. As a minimum, applicants must have policies and processes that operate within relevant legal requirements, including data protection. The controls in place will vary from organisation to organisation, depending on its size, capacity and the sensitivity of the data it processes.

Cyber Security Requirements

Applicants must have appropriate cyber security controls, policies and practices in place to protect systems, information and personal data. This should include documented evidence of cyber security awareness, such as relevant policies, staff training arrangements, incident management processes, and information governance measures. The controls in place will vary from organisation to organisation, depending on its size, capacity and the sensitivity of the data it processes.

Organisations are expected to hold, or be willing to work towards obtaining, Cyber Essentials certification or equivalent as a minimum standard. Cyber Essentials Plus accreditation is encouraged where proportionate.

Where certification has not yet been achieved, reasonable costs associated with achieving Cyber Essentials or Cyber Essentials Plus are encouraged to be included within your application core costs budget. Cyber Essentials certification will not be considered a requirement at the shortlisting stage, however, if you have not budgeted for this, we will discuss this with you during the assessment process and there will be the opportunity to add this to your budget if needed.

Can we contact LCF before applying to discuss our proposal?

Yes. LCF can help organisations consider whether their proposed project or expenditure appears to fit the Fund and can help you identify whether this Fund or

the MOPAC Victims Small Grants Fund may be more suitable. However, LCF cannot guarantee that an application will be successful.

Who should we contact if we have another question or need application support?

Please contact London Community Foundation if you would like to discuss your proposal before applying, need assistance completing the application or providing supporting documents, or require this information in an alternative format.

Email: VAWGGrassrootsFund@londoncf.org.uk

Telephone: 020 7582 5117

For full details of the Fund's eligibility requirements, priorities, grant amounts and application process, please refer to the [VAWG Grassroots Fund prospectus](#).