

**The London
Community
Foundation**

M O P A C

MAYOR OF LONDON
OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME

MOPAC

**Victims Small
Grants Fund**

2027 - 2029

Contents

Foreword	3
About the Victims Small Grants Fund	4
Fund Guidelines	5
Aim of The Fund:	5
Fund Priorities	5
What can I apply for?	7
Full cost recovery	8
Living Wage Funder:	8
Funding period	9
How much can I apply for?	9
Partnerships	9
Who can apply?	10
(i) Eligible Legal Structures	10
(ii) Applicants must have:	11
(iii) Exclusions:	11
How to apply:	12
Application support	12
Timeline	13
Assessing your grant application	14
Grant payments	15
Monitoring and evaluation	15

Foreword

Foreword from Kaya Comer-Schwartz, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

Every victim of crime deserves access to support that understands their experiences, responds to their needs, and helps them recover and move forward.

Across London, small and specialist voluntary and community organisations play a vital role in making this happen. They are often deeply embedded in the communities they serve, with trusted relationships, cultural understanding and specialist expertise that enable them to reach people who might otherwise struggle to access support. For many victims, these organisations are a lifeline. They provide not only practical and emotional assistance, but also a sense of safety, connection and hope.

That is why I am pleased to launch the MOPAC Victims Small Grants Fund 2027-2029. Through this £2 million investment, we are seeking to strengthen and diversify the support available to victims of crime across our city by investing directly in smaller, community-based and specialist organisations that are making a difference every day.

This fund forms part of our wider commitment to delivering the Mayor's Police and Crime Plan and his Tackling VAWG Strategy – which place the experience of victims at the heart of our approach to building a safer London for everyone. We know that some communities continue to face significant barriers to seeking help and support after experiencing crime. We also know that organisations led by- and for- those communities are often best placed to understand those challenges and provide effective, accessible support.

The Victims Small Grants Fund has been designed to help address gaps in provision, support innovation, and strengthen the ecosystem of organisations working with victims across London. We want to see services that are responsive to local needs, informed by lived experience, and focused on improving outcomes for those who have been harmed by crime.

We are particularly keen to hear from organisations supporting communities that are currently under-served, and from those with strong local roots and trusted relationships. We also welcome applications that demonstrate meaningful collaboration and partnership, helping to build a more connected and effective support system for victims across our city.

I would like to thank the many organisations and stakeholders who helped shape the priorities for this fund through their insights, expertise and engagement. Their contribution has been invaluable, ensuring this programme reflects the realities facing victims and the organisations that support them.

I encourage eligible organisations to consider applying and look forward to seeing the innovative, compassionate and impactful work that this funding will support in the years ahead.

Kaya Comer-Schwartz

Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime



About the Victims Small Grants Fund

The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) provides the democratic oversight of policing in London. It also has a statutory responsibility to provide support services for victims, witnesses, and others affected by crime in London. MOPAC, on behalf of the Mayor, is responsible for setting the overall strategic direction for policing and safety, which is set out in his [Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029](#). The Plan reflects the Mayor's manifesto and priorities for making London a safer city for all:

- Reducing violence and criminal exploitation
- Building safer and more confident communities
- Supporting and overseeing reform of the MPS
- Improving the Criminal Justice System and supporting victims

To support the delivery of this Plan, MOPAC agrees the budget for the Metropolitan Police Service, oversees police performance in the capital and commissions a wide range of services to prevent crime and support victims.

We are pleased to launch The MOPAC Victims Small Grants Fund 2027-2029 (hereafter referred to as 'the Fund'), to benefit victims of crime across London.

Between 2015 and 2021, the Fund awarded circa £4.8 million across six rounds of funding, including multi-year grants, to a total of 74 organisations supporting victims of crime in London. The priorities for this new round of funding have been shaped by learning from these previous grant rounds, as well as a series of recent market engagement sessions (July 2026), whereby organisations working with victims of crime across London were invited to share insights, experience and expertise.

The Fund acknowledges that a significant proportion of services for victims of crime are delivered by small voluntary and community organisations. These organisations bring valuable local expertise, specialist knowledge and lived experience, often enabling them to respond effectively to the specific needs of their communities. Recognising the important role they play, the Fund is designed to support small and specialist organisations delivering vital services to victims of crime.

The Fund is specifically intended to address unmet need and service gaps, not to replicate existing commissioned services or funding streams, including MOPAC's Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Grassroots Fund¹ and Shared Endeavour Fund, the Violence Reduction Unit's Stronger Futures Programme, the Home Office VAWG Advocacy Fund, or other similar funding.

¹ Further information regarding the VAWG Grassroots Fund, including eligibility and funding priorities, can be found here: [The London Community Foundation](#).

Fund Guidelines

Aim of The Fund:

The Fund aims to strengthen the diversity of support available to victims of crime across London by supporting smaller, community-based and specialist organisations. These organisations often have strong local connections, trusted relationships and expertise in supporting communities that may be underserved by mainstream services.

The programme aims to achieve this through:

- **Improving outcomes for victims from underserved communities** by supporting more tailored and accessible services delivered by organisations with specialist expertise, local knowledge and trusted relationships.
- **Strengthening the diversity of provision across London** by supporting a wider range of smaller, community-based and specialist organisations to play a meaningful role in the victims' support landscape.
- **Encouraging greater collaboration and connection across the sector**, enabling smaller and specialist organisations to work alongside mainstream services, enhancing the overall offer with their expertise, and contributing to a more coordinated and responsive support system for victims.

Key features of the Fund

- A total of £2,000,000 of grant funds are available over two years (February 2027 – January 2029)
- The Fund will provide two-year grants of between £20,000 and £200,000 (£10,000 to £100,000 per year)
- Organisations may apply in partnership if there is a clear rationale for the partnership
- Organisations must have a track record of delivering support to victims of crime OR must have a track record of delivering services to their target community, if setting up a new project for victims of crime
- Organisations must be based in UK, and projects must serve communities in London

Fund Priorities

The Fund is designed to prioritise supporting small and specialist organisations delivering services for victims of crime. These organisations are often led by and for the communities they serve and/or are community led. By and for-led organisations are organisations that are led by, and primarily work with and for, people who share a particular lived experience, identity

or connection to the community they support. Their work is shaped by the knowledge, experience and perspectives of the communities they serve, and they often have trusted relationships and a strong understanding of the specific needs and barriers faced by those communities.

The Fund also recognises the important role of small and specialist organisations that may not be led by people with lived experience, but have strong community connections, relevant expertise and a proven track record of working with and for underserved communities affected by crime.

The Fund specifically (but not exclusively) seeks to extend provision for:

- Black and minoritised communities
- People with disabilities
- LGBTQI+ people
- Persons with insecure or unknown immigration status, including those with no recourse to public funds
- Male victim-survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence/abuse
- Children and young people
- Faith-based communities
- People who have experienced hate crime
- Bereaved families
- People involved in prostitution
- Older people

The Fund will prioritise organisations which:

- Can demonstrate that they are embedded in the communities where they are delivering, with evidence of trusted, established relationships with the community/groups of people that they support, good local reach, knowledge of need and track record of delivery.
- Provide specialist support, or enhance existing support, to victims from communities that face additional barriers to accessing support.
- Can evidence that their work is responding to an unmet need that has been identified.
- Improve outcomes for victims in line with priorities under the Police and Crime Plan 2025 – 2029.

There is no income threshold for this fund. Organisations with an annual income of less than £500,000 will be prioritised.

Organisations may be based anywhere in the UK, but the funded service must be delivered in London for Londoners, and you must demonstrate a track record of delivering in London. Where an organisation is based outside London and has an annual income above £500,000, we will fund it only where it is meeting a need that London-based applicants cannot currently meet.

What can I apply for?

Grants are available to cover any costs relating to support work for victims of crime and can support both new and existing work. Examples of the type of support and services could include, but is not limited to:

- Practical, emotional or advocacy support.
- Culturally appropriate support.
- Specialist support.
- Counselling and/or therapeutic support.
- Peer support/ community support.
- Community outreach, engagement and may include events.
- Accessibility features for a programme such as interpreters or specific transport needs.

Victims of crime are defined in the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime as: *‘a person who has suffered harm, including physical, mental or emotional harm or economic loss which was directly caused by criminal conduct; or a close relative of a person whose death was directly caused by criminal conduct.’*

Where applications include work with people who have both experienced victimisation and committed offences, the proposed work must have a clear focus on supporting beneficiaries as victims of crime. This should include support to help them cope with and recover from their experience of victimisation. Applications will not be eligible where the work focuses solely on addressing offending behaviour.

Funded services must be available to victims of crime whether or not the crime has been reported to the police. Funded services must not require a crime reference number, a police referral, or a referral from any statutory agency as a condition of access.

Applicants should clearly link their proposal to the [Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029](#).

We can accept a maximum of two applications per organisation to the Fund:

1. As a sole applicant or Lead partner
2. Applicants can be involved in one further bid as a sub-partner. Further details on applying in partnership can be found in the section below.

This fund is intended to complement, not duplicate, other victim service provision and the MOPAC Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Grassroots Fund. However, child sexual abuse/sexual exploitation services (unless the project is specifically for girls), and specialist services supporting victims of domestic abuse/sexual violence (unless the project is specifically for women and girls), can apply to this fund. Further information regarding the VAWG Grassroots Fund, including eligibility and funding priorities, can be found here: [VAWG](#)

[Grassroots Fund](#) (see also note on this Fund below). If you are unsure whether you should apply to this Fund or the VAWG Grassroots Fund, please contact LCF prior to submitting your application using the details at the end of this document.

Full cost recovery

We support full cost recovery. Your budget should include a fair share of the costs your organisation has to meet in order to deliver the funded service, including management time, premises, finance and HR support, IT, insurance, clinical supervision, staff training, and the time required to take part in the wider programme.

Please note that the allocation to core costs should not exceed 50%. LCF consider core costs as day-to-day running costs such as office overheads, bills, rent, insurance, systems, and training.

Applicants will need to include a balanced budget which considers project/service delivery costs, core costs and costs to cover engagement in evaluation activities. Full recovery costs for the wider participation in the programme, such as involvement in evaluation activities, do not need to be included in core costs. This means organisations can maximise the core cost offer this Fund allows.

Living Wage Funder

The London Community Foundation is a Living Wage Funder. This scheme, run by the Living Wage Foundation, means that The London Community Foundation will actively encourage and support applications from organisations willing to pay staff the real Living Wage (currently £14.80 in London), or higher.



If you are applying for funding of any staff costs (this could include existing staff members, sessional workers, part-time or full-time posts and freelance workers) you should budget these at the Living Wage or above. We are sensitive to circumstances where applicants feel that taking up the Living Wage could cause difficulties, in these instances, please explain the circumstances in the Living Wage section of the application form. This does not require employers to pay the Living Wage to apprentices or interns, although we recommend it as best practice for employers who can afford to do so.

For this two-year programme, applicants should also consider any anticipated increases in staffing costs over the grant period, including appropriate annual pay increases, and budget accordingly.

You can learn more about The Living Wage Funder Scheme [here](#).

Funding period

Funded activities can start from the week beginning 01 February 2027 and must be completed by 31 January 2029.

Please note that Year 1 of the grant will run from 01 February 2027 - 31 January 2028 and Year 2 will run 01 February 2028 to 31 January 2029. Grantees should request to split funds evenly across both years of funding.

We recognise that the period between notification and the start of delivery is short. We do not expect services to be operating at full capacity from 01 February 2027. Your first quarterly return should reflect mobilisation activity including recruitment, and we will agree a realistic delivery profile with you at the start of the grant.

How much can I apply for?

There is a total of £2,000,000 available. Organisations can apply for grants of between £20,000 and £200,000 over two years (£10,000 to £100,000 per year).

We anticipate this fund to support between 16 and 25 organisations.

Applicants should consider what is proportionate to their annual income when applying. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please contact us at victimsfund@londoncf.org.uk.

Partnerships

Partnership applications are not a requirement of the Victims Fund. However, we welcome partnership applications where there is a clear rationale for working together, and evidence that the partnership adds value to the services offered. For example, a partnership application may enable smaller or specialist organisations to apply with the support of a larger lead organisation.

We will be looking for clear rationale for any proposed partnership, including how this helps meet community needs and/or fills gaps, how the partnership complements skill sets and how it improves victim/survivor journeys.

Lead applicants may apply in partnership with a maximum of two other organisations per partnership bid. Partnerships may be existing or newly formed for this funding opportunity. Applicants can submit a maximum of one application as a sole applicant or lead partner, and be involved in one further application as a sub-partner.

For partnership bids, the upper grant limit of £100,000 per year (£200,000 for two years) remains unchanged and the application should clearly break down how the grant will be split across the partners in a considered and equitable way.

All partnerships applications will need to be submitted by one “lead partner” who will be responsible for holding the contractual relationship with LCF, receiving the grant and submitting any required monitoring.

Partnership applicants should provide a written agreement showing the roles, responsibilities and commitments of all partners. All Partners are subject to the eligibility criteria listed and supporting documents requested must be submitted for all partners.

MOPAC VAWG Grassroots Fund

MOPAC is running two grant funds concurrently. Further information regarding the VAWG Grassroots Fund, including eligibility and funding priorities, can be found here: [VAWG Grassroots Fund](#)

During the application window, LCF can help organisations identify which fund is the best fit for their service if they are unsure which fund to apply to. If you are unsure whether your proposed project and/or the expenditure requested meets the aims of the Fund, or whether you should apply to this Fund or the VAWG Grassroots Fund, **please contact LCF prior to submitting your application** using the details at the end of this document.

After the application closing date, if LCF considers that an application would be better suited to a different fund, we reserve the right to contact the applicant to discuss transferring their application for consideration under that fund.

Who can apply?

(i) Eligible Legal Structures

We will accept applications from organisations with the following legal structures. There must be a signed governing document in place appropriate to the legal structure which includes an asset lock (or equivalent clause), and the purpose of all funded activities must be charitable (not for profit):

- Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
- Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) - may also be registered as a Charity or a Community Interest Company Limited by Guarantee (CICLG)
- Trust
- Unincorporated Association
- Community Benefit Societies (CBS). Ideally, the CBS will also be registered as charitable with HMRC, however, this is not essential

(ii) Applicants must have:

- **Governance:** You must have at least three unrelated members legally responsible for the governance of the organisation; Trustees/Directors/Management Committee as appropriate to your structure. Please note that this refers to the highest level of governance, a Management Committee that sits below a board of Trustees (e.g. charities, CIOs) or Directors (CLG or CICLG) does not count towards this.
- **Bank account:** A bank account in the same name as the organisation applying with a minimum of two unrelated signatories must be in place by the start of the grant.
- **Policies:** Policies and processes in place to ensure compliance with relevant legislation including (but not limited to) equalities, safeguarding and data protection.
- **Safeguarding:** You must have a safeguarding policy in place that has been reviewed in the last year.
- **Previous LCF funding:** All conditions from any previous London Community Foundation grants must be completed and there is no current outstanding overdue monitoring at the time of application.
- **Registration:** If the income for charitable purposes is more than £5,000 at the point of application, organisations must have submitted an application to register to Charity Commission or the relevant regulator (e.g., Companies House, CIC regulator or Financial Conduct Authority) or if the LCF grant will take the organisation over £5,000. Please visit [this website](#) for guidance on setting up a charity, including information on legal structures.
- **Insurance:** Your organisation will have current and appropriate insurance certificates (e.g. professional indemnity and employer's liability).

(iii) Exclusions:

- Projects primarily benefiting people who do not live, work or study in London.
- The grant funds cannot be used for:
 - o Activities that promote religious or political views.
 - o One-off events, assemblies or roadshows where these are the main activity being funded. Events and outreach that form part of a wider funded service are eligible.
 - o Spending that has already taken place (i.e. retrospective funding).
 - o Individual sponsorship or redistribution of a grant to individuals or other organisations.
 - o Activities where people are excluded on the basis of religion, sexual orientation, sex or ethnicity unless the issue is group-specific.
 - o Contributing to capital build ('bricks and mortar') projects.
 - o Projects that focus on political campaigns and/or lobbying individuals.
 - o For profit organisations/activities.
- There must be no [personal benefit](#) attached to the grant.

- The organisation must not have two years of late submissions to the Charity Commission/Companies House within the last two completed financial years.
- The organisation must not have two years of net current liabilities within the two most recent completed financial years.
- Organisations where Trustees are paid are not eligible unless evidence of approval is provided from the Charity Commission and/or this arrangement is referenced in the governing document.

How to apply:

The online application form can be accessed by clicking on the '**Apply now**' button on the [fund webpage](#). Before you can start your application, you will need to complete an eligibility check to establish your eligibility for the programme. If eligibility is confirmed you will move on to the full application form.

The deadline for applications is 2pm on Monday 2nd November 2026.

Please note, we are unable to consider applications submitted after the deadline or which do not have the relevant, up-to-date supporting documents included.

If you have any concerns or experience any problems attaching key documents, please get in touch with LCF before the deadline at victimsfund@londoncf.org.uk.

Application support

The London Community Foundation will be providing support throughout the application process to answer any questions you have. Please use the details below to contact the team should you have any queries or require support:

Email: victimsfund@londoncf.org.uk

Telephone: 020 7582 5117

Timeline

Fund opens for applications Online form is opened to applicants – applicants will need to successfully complete an eligibility check to access the form.	Wednesday 16 September 2026 at 12pm
Application deadline All applications and supporting documents must be submitted by this date at 2pm.	Monday 02 November 2026 at 2pm
Eligibility checks and Shortlisting LCF checks all applications for eligibility and shortlists eligible applications against fund criteria and priorities	03 November – 20 November 2026
Assessment period LCF grant assessors undertake full assessment of applications and may contact applicants during this period.	23 November 2026 – 08 January 2027
Panel meeting to decide awards	w/c 11 January 2027
Grant decisions communicated	w/c 18 January 2027
Project mobilisation and programme delivery begins	From date of award and no later than 01 February 2027

Assessing your grant application

Applications which best fit the Fund priorities will be shortlisted by an internal team of LCF experienced grant assessors using a pre-agreed framework. Final shortlist decisions will be agreed with MOPAC.

Shortlisting and assessment

Eligible applications will be assessed by The London Community Foundation against the following criteria:

- **Fit with the Fund's purpose and priority cohorts** – how well the proposal aligns with the aims and priorities of the Fund, including its focus on smaller, community-based and specialist organisations supporting underserved communities in London.
- **Evidence of need and understanding of the communities to be served** – the strength of the evidence demonstrating need or a gap in provision in London, and the organisation's understanding of the communities and victims it proposes to support, and the barriers they face.
- **Quality, impact and deliverability of the proposed service** – the quality and appropriateness of the proposed support, the difference it is expected to make for victims, how victims' voices shape the work, and the organisation's capacity to deliver it effectively.
- **Value for money and appropriateness of the budget** – whether the funding requested is proportionate to the proposed activity, costs are reasonable and well justified, and the budget represents good value for money.

Applications will be considered against these criteria as a whole. We will take into account the size and capacity of the organisation and will assess applications proportionately, recognising the particular contribution that smaller and specialist organisations can make to the victims' support landscape.

Shortlisted applicants may be telephoned or emailed by an assessor from The London Community Foundation to gather additional information needed about the project and/or the applicant organisation as part of the assessment process. Once assessments are completed, a panel comprised of MOPAC and sector representatives will meet to make final grant award recommendations. These decisions are then ratified by trustees from LCF before applicants are notified of outcomes.

All successful grant applicants will be notified of the decision in writing in the week commencing 18 January 2027, allowing project mobilisation to begin from 25 January 2027.

Unsuccessful applicants may request written feedback on their application within 20 working days of being notified.

If you believe your application has not been handled in accordance with the process set out in this prospectus, you may submit a complaint in writing to complaints@londoncf.org.uk within 6 weeks of being notified. A review considers the process followed and does not revisit the funding decision itself. Grant award decisions are final. Further details on LCF's Complaints Policy can be found here [The London Community Foundation | Complaints procedure](#).

Grant payments

Grant payments will be paid quarterly in advance. The first quarterly grant payment will be made upon return of the signed grant agreement and upon meeting any conditions associated with the grant award. Subsequent grant payments will be made every quarter, upon receipt of satisfactory monitoring returns.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and reporting are important both for funded organisations to reflect on their work and project planning, and for LCF and MOPAC to understand the collective impact, learning and contribution of the Fund. LCF will collect data from all funded programmes on a quarterly basis over the two-year programme period. This data will be used to understand the impact of the Fund and to inform wider MOPAC work to ensure that the voices and experiences of victims are reflected in policy and strategy. LCF and MOPAC may also publish some programme data on a quarterly basis.

We recognise that reporting requirements can feel burdensome on smaller organisations with limited capacity and have designed an approach to minimise duplication. Funded organisations will be asked to provide information through two complementary reporting processes:

1. **Quarterly data returns.** Funded organisations will complete a quarterly return in alignment with MOPAC's data capture system via Excel document. These returns will focus primarily on quantitative information about service user demographic and service.
2. **Annual narrative report.** Once a year, funded organisations will complete a more reflective narrative report covering progress, learning, outcomes and the wider context in which their work is delivered. This will provide an opportunity to reflect on what is working, what has changed, challenges encountered, organisational learning and the difference the funding has made. We will use this alongside the quarterly data to understand the wider impact and nuanced learning from the Fund.

The information collected will help LCF and MOPAC understand the reach, needs and impact of organisations supporting victims of crime in London and inform efforts for future investment and support for the sector.

Quarterly reporting will be data-led and you will include the following:

- Number of service users by crime type
- Referrals and cases open and closed
- Type of intervention
- Reporting to police
- Coping and building resilience
- Detail of number of people on waiting lists
- Demographic breakdown

This monitoring will be via Excel spreadsheet and LCF will be available to support organisations with understanding and using the reporting template.

In addition, annual reports will be requested at the end of year one and end of year two which will ask for additional qualitative information.

An independent evaluation partner will be appointed to evaluate the Victims Fund, and LCF requires all funded organisations to engage with and contribute to the evaluation process. An interim and final evaluation of the Fund will be published.

How we use information about your service users

Monitoring returns ask for aggregate, anonymised information about the people your service supports. You should not send us anything that identifies an individual service user, and we will not ask you for it.

No personal data about service users is shared with MOPAC. Information collected through this fund is not shared with the Metropolitan Police Service, the Home Office, or any immigration enforcement function.

Where we publish information about the programme, it is aggregated across funded organisations. No organisation is identified in published material without its consent.

The London Community Foundation is the data controller for information you provide in your application. Its privacy notice is available [here](#).

Canopi
Arc House
82 Tanner Street
London SE1 3GN
T +44 (0)20 7582 5117
F +44 (0)20 7582 4020
E info@londoncf.org.uk

londoncf.org.uk

Registered Charity 1091263