

# **Provident Social Impact Fund**

Fund guidelines 2018-19

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# Fund guidelines

## About the Fund

London Community Foundation is proud to be working with Provident in an exciting grants initiative. As part of Provident's commitment to Barking and Dagenham, we are delighted to launch the Provident Social Impact Fund (London) which aims to support social inclusion. The programme will invest in activities benefitting NEET young people aged 18-30 that seek to alleviate the underlying problems that prevent social inclusion and enjoyment of a full modern life. The Fund will distribute £65,000 in grants, of between £5,000 and £10,000.

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## About The London Community Foundation

We are The London Community Foundation (LCF), the charity for London's grassroots. We specialise in supporting community-based organisations focused on helping disadvantaged London. We do this by raising funds from institutions and individuals to invest in local charities and social enterprises. We believe that communities often characterised as poor and disadvantaged are rich with ideas and assets. When these ideas and assets are maximised, small community groups can make a big difference.

### Our reach

Since 2011, we have invested over £75 million into charitable groups across the capital. Today, we invest around £7 million annually, giving out around 1,000 grants every year across London. We manage a number of high profile funds and work closely with donors and partners to structure, promote and deliver them. We are part of a network of 46 Community Foundations in the UK, and more than 1,800 worldwide, strengthening civil society, and empowering people to address local challenges and opportunities.

## About Provident Financial Group

Established in 1880, Provident is one of the UK's leading suppliers of personal credit products to the non-standard lending market. Provident is a FTSE 250 company, with 4,940 employees serving 2.5 million customers. Through its network of branches, call-centres and websites, Provident provides a portfolio of products designed to meet the particular needs of those who want credit products but are unable to access the high-street credit market. The group delivers non-standard lending through its businesses - Vanquis Bank, Provident home credit, Satsuma Loans and Moneybarn.

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## Fund details

### Who can apply?

Organisations applying to the Fund for grants must be based in, or supporting people living within the Borough of Barking and Dagenham.

The fund is open to community groups, charities, social enterprises or other charitable organisations from the voluntary sector that:

- Have a constitution or other relevant governance document
- Have a management committee/board of directors/trustees of at least three unrelated people
- Have a bank account under the name of the group with at least two unrelated signatories
- Provide a signed copy of the organisations most recent bank statement
- Have an income of £250,000 or under in the most recent financial year

Priority will be given to small, community organisations in areas of social, financial and welfare disadvantage.

### Size of Grant:

Grants are available between £5,000 and £10,000.

Funding from the Provident Social Impact Fund must be at least 50% of the total project cost.

### What can the Fund support?

Projects working with NEET young people aged 18-30 that seek to alleviate the underlying problems that prevent social inclusion and enjoyment of a full modern life. Projects should meet one of the following themes:

- Improving people's personal finance capabilities (debt and financial advice/education)
- Improving physical and/or mental health
- Providing support which enhances, creates and sustains positive family relationships
- Addressing issues of low educational attainment and improving learning outcomes
- Providing people with opportunities to reduce inequality, exclusion and disadvantage, including projects which increase access to employment

### Types of activities that can be funded

The grants panel will look to fund projects and activities that are addressing need identified through consultation and/or engagement with potential beneficiaries and have a clear focus on the positive results they plan to achieve. Projects need to be inclusive of people in the locality regardless of their background.

### Exclusions

Based on Provident Financial's funding exclusions grants will not be awarded to or for:

- Commercial organisations
- Sponsorship (including sports kit) or marketing appeals

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- Individuals – including students
  - Food banks
  - Mainstream activities and statutory requirements of hospitals and medical centres (including NHS Trusts), universities, colleges and schools (unless out of school activities)
  - Establishment/preservation of endowment/welfare funds
  - Organisations that redistribute funding for subsequent grant-making to other organisations and/or individuals
  - Expeditions or overseas travel
  - Single religious or ethnic groups – we don't support organisations who are promoting their own values. We would however consider supporting the activities of such organisations if they are aimed at supporting the wider community in accordance with these guidelines
  - Political or military groups or activities – although we would consider supporting organisations who support veterans in accordance with these guidelines
  - Capital appeals for building projects, e.g. for rebuilding a community centre, heritage centres, visitor centres, museums, theatres or places of worship
  - Historic restoration/historic publications
  - Overseas organisations – this is about supporting our local communities
  - Animal welfare organisations
  - Projects currently in receipt of funding through Provident Financial Group
  - Organisations that have income over £250k in the most recent financial year

### When can you apply?

The fund opens in December 2018 and the deadline to apply is **5pm on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019**.

Decisions are due to be made by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019

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## Grant Making

### How do you apply for a grant?

To apply you need to complete an online application form available [here](#). You will also need to submit required documentation as set out in the online application guidelines.

We strongly suggest you submit your application at your earliest opportunity. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

### What happens after you've applied?

We will assess your application and may need to contact you during this time. Any community groups seeking funding by way of a grant from the Fund will submit a full application to LCF which will be subject to LCF's standard internal assessment procedures. LCF reserves the right to make any necessary further enquiries about the applicant. This assessment will take place prior to any group being submitted to the Fund grants panel for approval.

### Monitoring

If you are successful, the grant offer will include any additional conditions set by the panel. The grant must be spent within 12 months of the grant payment. You must also complete an end of grant monitoring report telling us how the grant has been spent and what was achieved. The deadline for doing so will be specified in your offer letter. Please note that failure to provide appropriate monitoring information will exclude your organisation from applying to future LCF grant programmes.

Please note we have limited funding available and we are not able to fund every application we receive. The decisions made by the grants panel are final.

### To Apply

Click for access to the online application.

<https://ukcf.secure.force.com/forms/LondonCF/ProvidentSocialImpactFund>

Please read the instructions carefully, tick to say you agree and have understood, enter your e-mail address and click on the "Send e-mail and continue".

Once you have done this you will be sent an e-mail with a link to your unique online application form. You should receive the email within a couple of minutes (please check your spam or junk folder). If you do not receive an email it may be that you have not entered your email correctly – please check the address before submitting.

To begin your application, please click on the link within the email that you have received from us. There are help notes available as you go through the online application form and you can save your application at any point and come back to it to complete it at any time before the closing date. The help notes are also available as a separate document via the website. You must remember to click the save button before closing down your application.

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At the end of the application you will be asked to upload your supporting documents. If you have applied to LCF within the last two years you do not have to resubmit your documents, unless they have been updated. Please submit a copy of your most recent annual accounts.

Once you get to the end of the application form there will be a 'Submit' button. Please note the submit button is after you have verified your budget. Once you press this it will automatically send your application through to the Foundation and this will be accepted as a completed application. Please do make sure you submit everything before the deadline.

Please contact us if you would like help or are unable to complete an application online. If you do not currently have access to the internet, call us on 020 7582 5117 for support.

### Need help?

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to discuss your proposal prior to making an application, if you need help with completing the form or providing the supporting documents.

The London Community Foundation: [info@londoncf.org.uk](mailto:info@londoncf.org.uk) / 020 7582 5117

You can also download resource packs on what to include in your governing document and safeguarding policy from The London Community Foundation's website at:  
<http://londoncf.org.uk/apply/resources>

**The London  
Community  
Foundation**

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