

**The London
Community
Foundation**

M O P A C

MAYOR OF LONDON
OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME

MOPAC VAWG Grassroots Fund 2023 - 2025

Prospectus

July 2023

Fund guidelines

About the fund

The London Community Foundation (LCF) is pleased to launch the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Grassroots Fund. This £3,000,000 Fund is part of the Mayor's commitment to build a safer London for everyone and comes as recent incidents across the UK have highlighted the growing epidemic of VAWG and the need for more to be done to achieve the Mayor's ambition of eradicating VAWG, and to ensure those most vulnerable during the cost of living crisis have access to the help they need.

This fund will build upon the success of the first MOPAC VAWG Grassroots Fund launched in 2020, which supported 41 specialist organisations who focus on ending violence against women and girls by providing two-year grants of up to £100,000. For details of organisations funded by the [VAWG Grassroots Fund in 2020](#). For further information on the background and development of this first round of the fund, please visit: londoncf.org.uk/grants/vawg-grassroots-fund

This new fund will build on the original co-design and [Theory of Change](#) of this

fund, as well as the knowledge, strengths and learning from the last two years, also recognising the changed context. The cost of living crisis follows 2 years of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on services, where VAWG organisations have already seen an unprecedented increase in demand and complexity with no sign of this abating. This cumulative impact of crises has compounded the structural inequalities affecting women and girls, particularly from minoritised communities.

All of this means the need to continue funding and supporting the financial viability of these critical grassroots specialist VAWG service providers is now more vital than ever. The VAWG Grassroots Fund has been developed to respond to these issues and will provide targeted support for specialist VAWG organisations, with a focus on ringfenced funding for specialist VAWG organisations led by and for black women and girls and women and girls from minority ethnic backgrounds.

The Fund will continue to support the development of a grassroots response to VAWG in the capital through a programme of funding for VAWG service delivery, accompanied with support for a co-designed capacity building programme, peer support and networking. The fund will also endeavour to further develop and deepen the understanding and evidence of the value and needs of the minoritised and marginalised VAWG sector in London, and the crucial role that VAWG-specialist grassroots organisations have in tackling violence against women and girls.

Fund objectives

The VAWG Grassroots Fund will support organisations working towards ambitions linked to the Mayor's VAWG Strategy [which you can read here](#).

The objectives of the VAWG Grassroots Fund are to:

- Support VAWG grassroots organisations to deliver their specialised services, especially those impacted by systemic inequalities;
- Build the capacity of existing VAWG services;
- Sustain effective interventions that are facing challenges in continuing service delivery, including maintaining existing services, whilst supporting the stability of grassroots organisations;
- Increase the victim-survivor accessibility of grassroots organisations best placed to respond to the needs of London's diverse communities, and women with no recourse to public funds for whom mainstream, generic provision is not always appropriate or safely accessible;
- Fund services that are responsive to communities of protected demographic groups at a grassroots level and can reach survivors across borough boundaries. Particularly in areas where there are gaps in provision and a specialist service may not be commissioned locally due to low density of users;
- Prevent the development of misogyny and harmful attitudes among young people that enables VAWG;
- Sustain services for survivors to allow opportunity for recovery, gain independence and address the multiple issues they may face;
- Share best practice of supporting survivors to experience better outcomes, e.g. monitoring and evaluation models, recognised safeguarding and clinical and recovery frameworks;
- Develop networks of experts in services tackling VAWG to build overall sector capacity;

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- Support the Voluntary and Community Sector to undertake robust performance monitoring and evaluation methods to demonstrate what difference the funding has made as well as impact;
 - Highlight the value of specialist VAWG organisations by using collective insights to demonstrate their expertise, impact and need.

Key features of the fund

- £3,000,000 of funds are available over two years (November 2023 – 2025)
- The Fund will provide two-year grants of up to £100,000 (£50,000 per year) for individual organisations. Partnerships of up to three organisations can apply for two-year grants of up to £120,000 (£60,000 per year)
- We expect between 35-45 grants to be awarded
- There is no income threshold for the Fund however organisations with an annual income of less than £500,000 will be prioritised

The programme will also include:

- Co-designed capacity-building support programme
- Networking events and peer support across grantees
- Engagement of grantees in evaluation
- Using data, insights and learning from across the funded cohort to feed into the policy, promotion and positioning of grantees work as a critical part of the wider VAWG support services in London.

Fund priorities

The Fund will prioritise organisations which:

- Are run **by and for** the communities they serve, where the client group is reflected in staffing, management and governance structures. **This means at least 80% of trustees and staff are from the protected characteristic the organisation aims to work with;**
- Have a **track record** of meeting the increased/diverse needs of the following minoritised and marginalised service-users;
 - Black women and girls and women and girls from minority ethnic backgrounds
 - Women and girls with disabilities
 - Neuro-diverse women and girls
 - LGBTQ+ women
 - Young women and girls
 - Older women
 - women with no recourse to public funds (NRPF)
 - women involved in prostitution
 - women and girls involved in modern slavery and human trafficking
- A **minimum of 60%** of funding will be prioritised for grassroots, specialist organisations for which:
 - Ending VAWG is their organisation's priority
 - Can demonstrate they are led by and for black women and girls and women and girls from minority ethnic backgrounds
- Up to **a maximum of 40%** of this funding will be awarded to grassroots organisations who are specialist VAWG community organisations who provide ending VAWG services for other marginalised groups (see priority groups listed above).
- Can demonstrate deep **understanding** of their community need and context;
- Deliver services which are **co-designed** with survivors, and delivered *with* survivors, not to or for;
- Can demonstrate their **need** for organisational investment to drive increased services/accessibility/reach/caseload or continuity/inclusivity of

engagement;

- Recognise that VAWG is preventable and affects women and girls disproportionately due to unequal power relations (**gender-informed**);
- Deliver interventions that connect VAWG to wider **intersectional** inequalities including ethnicity, class, gender identity, age, disability, sexuality, religion, belief and immigration status which impact on experiences of abuse and access to safety, support and justice;
- Demonstrate an understanding of and responsiveness to the impact of trauma, that emphasises physical, psychological and emotional safety for both providers and survivors, and that creates opportunities for survivors to rebuild a sense of control and empowerment (**trauma-informed**);
- Have a commitment to **collaboration** and developing partnerships.

About grassroots

LCF defines grassroots organisations as rooted in, and led by, the communities that they serve. In this context we mean communities of women and girls who may or may not live in the same local area but who are connected by their social identity and shared concerns, e.g. a community of disabled women or a network of black women and women from minority ethnic backgrounds who are survivors of sexual violence.

In line with this definition, we include grassroots organisations as:

- Specialist organisations addressing VAWG
- Women's community organisations delivering services to address VAWG as a core aspect of their work; and, or
- Specialist community organisations (e.g. disability rights groups providing services that address VAWG as a core aspect of their work or groups providing support for women involved in prostitution)

Preference will be given to organisations which are led by and are for communities experiencing inequity. **This means at least 80% of trustees and staff are from the protected characteristic the organisation aims to work with.**

Funding split

- A minimum of 60% of this funding will be prioritised for specialist grassroots VAWG organisations who can demonstrate they are **led by and for black women and girls and women and girls from minority ethnic backgrounds**.
- Up to a maximum of 40% of this funding will be awarded to **grassroots organisations who are specialist VAWG community organisations who provide ending VAWG services for other marginalised groups** (see priority groups listed above).

This priority means that if your organisation is not a VAWG-specialist organisation led by and for black women and girls and women and girls from minority ethnic backgrounds, there is likely to be higher competition for the available funds, i.e. a maximum of 40% can be awarded to specialist grassroots organisations. You should carefully consider this prior to making an application.

Location

Women and girls suffer violence regardless of borough boundaries; they live, study, work, socialise and travel across London and can experience violence at home, in educational institutions, workplaces and public spaces. Women and girls may also move across different localities as part of their survival and help-seeking strategies. Their movement can relate to immediate safety issues, such as fleeing a local area as a result of violence; as well as seeking/accessing support appropriate to their individual need.

Applications will be accepted from any London Borough. Organisations based outside of Greater London may be considered for funding, but only activity within London and for Londoners will be considered and a track record of delivering your services within London must be demonstrated.

Commitment to the Programme

The VAWG Grassroots Fund is built on the desire to respect the expertise and experience of successful organisations. This is reflected in the Fund's objectives to support organisational development, build networks, share insights and raise profile.

This means each successful applicant will be expected to engage in the wider programme as part of their grant award. **Applicants should consider this commitment and the engagement required before applying to the Fund.** LCF and MOPAC recognises that this requires a time commitment. Therefore, we recommend you allocate a minimum of half a day each month throughout the two-years to participate, and budget accordingly.

This wider programme will be partly designed based on the learnings from the first VAWG Grassroots Fund (delivery period April 2021 – March 2023) and partly co-produced with the successful grantees following the grant awards.

1. Capacity building

A survey to assess the specific requirements of your organisation will need to be completed by successful grantees following grant award along with participation in a co-design and networking session expected by January 2024. This will be followed by involvement in a variety of sessions delivered through interactive webinars and face to face events. Successful applicants will be expected to attend at least one session every quarter.

2. Networking

LCF and MOPAC are committed to learning from the expertise, insights and perspectives of grantees on the Fund. This will include attendance at networking events and profile-raising opportunities, facilitated by LCF to platform your work and promote your voice.

3. Sharing insights

LCF will actively engage with the successful grantee cohort to capture data,

insights and learning that can be used to highlight the value of specialist organisations and promote the expertise of grassroots organisations and the needs of minoritised and marginalised communities to best position the VAWG grassroots sector to influence policy. Successful applicants will be expected to contribute towards sharing insight and best practice, this may include completing surveys and attending workshops which will also serve as an opportunity to network, engage in peer support and collaboration.

4. Engagement

Successful applicants will benefit from having a dedicated LCF VAWG Programme Manager that will support grantees with their commitments to the Fund. This will include regular catch ups, in-person visits and monitoring report guidance.

5. Evaluation

MOPAC is committed to understanding and measuring the impact of this Fund as it is an important part of the Mayoral VAWG Strategy. Evaluation of the Fund will be managed independently from MOPAC and LCF. Successful applicants will be expected to participate in at least one evaluation interview.

Who can apply?

Only one application per organisation will be accepted, including partnership bids.

Applicants must:

- Currently be providing services to address VAWG
- Be able to demonstrate a minimum of three complete years of operation
- Be delivering the work they are requesting funding for in London, with a preference for organisations based in London
- There is no income threshold for the Fund however organisations with an annual income of less than £500,000 will be prioritised.

Eligibility criteria

- **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.
- **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.
 - The organisation must have submitted required financial information to the Charity Commission/Companies House for 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.
- **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.
- **Safeguarding:** you must have a safeguarding policy in place that has been reviewed in the last two years.

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- **Previous LCF funding:** all conditions from any previous The London Community Foundation grants must have been met, and any monitoring that is past its due date must have been submitted on time at the point of application. This means that we cannot fund an organisation that has overdue monitoring, but we can fund organisations with future monitoring due on other grants with us.
 - **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 with the Charity Commission or the relevant regulator (e.g. Companies House, CIC regulator or Financial Conduct Authority). 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.

Who and what are not eligible

- The following types of organisation are not eligible:
 - Companies limited by shares (including CIC limited by shares)
 - Statutory organisations, such as local authorities
 - Statutory agencies in the criminal justice system, including the Metropolitan Police Service
 - NHS bodies
 - Co-operative societies
- Grants cannot be used for:
 - activities that promote religious or political views
 - purely commercial ventures (for profit)
 - spending that has already taken place (i.e. retrospective funding)
 - activities where people are excluded on the basis of religion, sexual orientation, gender or ethnicity (unless the issue is group-specific)
- There must be no [personal benefit](#) attached to the grant.
- 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.

Grant size

Individual organisations

- For individual organisations, two-year grants of between £30,000 (£15,000 per year) and £100,000 (£50,000 per year) are available. If your organisation has an annual income of less than £30,000 you may need to demonstrate that you have the capacity, experience and/or contingency plans in place to manage the risk of dependency on one source of funding.
- Organisations with an annual income of less than £30,000 are encouraged to call the VAWG Fund Manager to discuss an appropriate size of grant request.

Partnerships

- Established partnerships of up to three organisations can apply for two-year grants of up to £120,000 (£60,000 per year) for the partnership.
- Lead partners (those organisations leading on a partnership bid) are subject to all the eligibility areas listed in the prospectus. Other Partners are also subject to the eligibility criteria listed, with exception of the point below which will be considered on a case by case basis.
- Lead partners must be able to demonstrate a minimum of three complete years of operation. However newer organisations, for example those set up in response to a particular need, are able to be considered if they are applying under a partnership. A track record of delivering VAWG services is still required.
- Intended financial distribution of the grant to partners should still be limited to up to 50% of their individual organisation's annual turnover – but smaller organisations (with less than £30,000 annual income) are eligible to apply as a partner and have contributions of less than £15,000 a year if appropriate. The lead partner will be awarded the funds and then deploy the relevant amount to the sub-grantee.
- If applying under a partnership bid, the lead partner must be confident with the sub-grantee organisation's capacity to be able to deliver the proportion of the project which is assigned to a partner. Mitigation actions should be

considered by the lead partner to ensure outcomes can still be achieved should the partner organisation be unable to deliver the planned services for any reason.

- We are unable to accept an application from an organisation who is also listed as a partner in a partnership bid, as only one bid can be allowed per organisation.
- In order to qualify as a partnership, applicants must have a formal partnership agreement in place at the point of application submission. Partnership applications must be submitted by one lead applicant, **with all required supporting documents for all partner organisations provided by the lead.**
- We recommend you carefully consider the expectations for each partner when engaging in the capacity-building programme if successful. All organisations will need to engage in the wider programme. It may be preferable to apply as an individual organisation and pay another organisation for the specific service they deliver in relation to your project.

Eligible costs

Applicants can apply for costs in relation to the continuation or expansion of existing VAWG services, or a new element of their work in tackling VAWG. For example: staffing, volunteers, training, publicity, equipment, small capital items, office/overheads/premises costs.

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 the additional elements of the programme, such as capacity building.

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 aims to pay all grant-funded staff posts at or above the real Living Wage (currently £11.95 per hour in London).



If you are applying for funding for any staff costs (this could include existing staff members, sessional workers, part time or full-time posts, freelance workers), you should budget these at the real Living Wage or above. This will be reviewed during the assessment process. You can find out more about The Living Wage Funder Scheme [here](#).

Timeline

Programme Timeline	
Open for applications	12 July 2023: 12 noon
Application deadline	<u>30 August 2023: 12 noon</u>
LCF checks all applications for eligibility and shortlists eligible applications against fund criteria and priorities	04 – 15 September 2023
Shortlisted organisations assessed	18 September – 13 October 2023
Panel meeting to decide awards	w/c 30 October 2023
All grant decisions communicated	w/c 06 November 2023
Programme delivery period	Date of offer letter / w/c 06 November 2023 – November 2025

After the deadline, all applications will be checked to ensure they are eligible and then shortlisted based on the priorities in this document and how well the proposal meets the aims of the Fund. Shortlisted applications will be assessed by assessors with VAWG expertise in detail using the [assessment indicators](#). A decision-making panel (including VAWG experts and fund priority groups expertise) will meet to review the full assessments of shortlisted applications and agree funding awards, ensuring that sector expertise is included in decision-making. Decisions will then be communicated to all applicants in line with the timetable given above.

Monitoring and reporting

Monitoring and reporting on your funded work is important both for your own reflections and project planning, as well as sharing learnings so that LCF and MOPAC can position the expertise and experience of the funded cohort.

Grantees will be required to complete proportionate, twice-yearly online monitoring forms, linked to funding instalments. The forms will capture a combination of project activities, budget updates, service user demographics, referrals, outcomes for users/survivors, case studies, organisational learning and details of any additional funding secured during the reporting period.

Reporting schedule

Interim reports will be due ahead of the fund instalment payment in recognition that small organisations often need to closely manage cash flow.

Stages	Deadline
Grant Start Date	November 2023 (first payment on signing of grant agreement)
Interim Report 1	15 May 2024 reporting on November 2023 – April 2024 (to enable second payment in June 2024)
Interim Report 2	15 November 2024 reporting on May – October 2024 (to enable third payment in December 2024)
Interim Report 3	15 May 2025 reporting on November 2024 – April 2025 (to enable final payment in June 2025)
Final Report	November 2025 Reporting on May – October 2025
Grant End Date	November 2025

How to apply

The online application form can be accessed by clicking on the '**Apply now**' button on the [fund webpage](#).

1. Enter your e-mail address.
2. Click on the "Send e-mail and continue" box.
3. Once you have done this you will automatically be sent an e-mail with a link to your unique online application form. You should receive the e-mail within a couple of minutes (please check your junk mail folder).

The deadline is 12pm on Wednesday 30 August.

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. Please do not send attachments directly to the VAWG Programme Manager or any other LCF team member unless they have requested this. If you have any concerns or experience any problems attaching key documents – please get in touch with LCF before the deadline.

Contact details

LCF is running a range of applicant support options for eligible applicants including online webinars and 1:1 advice surgeries. Detail of these can be found on the [fund webpage](#).

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to discuss your proposal prior to making an application, if you need assistance with completing the form or providing the supporting documents, or require an alternative format for this information: contact VAWGGrassrootsFund@londoncf.org.uk / **020 7582 5117**

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