

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Violence Reduction Unit

Knife Crime Seed Fund

Guidelines July 2019

Fund guidelines

The Mayor announced his intention to establish a London Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) in autumn last year with the stated aims:

- To reduce and stabilise violence across London – violence is a concern for us all; we will all play our part to reduce it.
- To increase feelings of safety - recognising that London is one of the safest cities in the world.
- To put community at the heart of our work – only by doing so do we have a sustainable long-term approach towards reducing violence.

Investing in grassroots initiatives to combat knife crime is a top priority for the Unit. Building on the work undertaken by grassroots organisations over the last 12 months, the VRU is now offering those groups funded in Rounds 1 and 2 of the Knife Crime Community Seed Fund the opportunity to apply for funds to deliver their work for another year.

Timeline

The London Community Foundation will email invited groups a link to their previous online application form on 31st July 2019.

Invited applicants will have 2 weeks to update their application and submit a continuation proposal by the 14th August 2019.

Applications will be assessed by The London Community Foundation in late August/early September and recommendations reviewed and ratified by the Violence Reduction Unit.

Applicants will be notified of the decisions in writing by the end of September 2019.

About the Fund

The Mayoral Knife Crime Strategy launched in 2017 commits a provision of funding to support grass-roots community groups involved in protecting young people and tackling violence in our communities.

In 2018, £1.4m was awarded to 43 projects across 41 organisations (Rounds 1 & 2) of the MOPAC Community Seed Fund (Knife Crime) with an average grant size of £33,000.

These organisations were selected based on the extent to which they fall within priority boroughs and their ability to demonstrate that they address one or more of the below:

- Target those who are already engaged in offending behaviour (intervention projects);
- Address disproportionality issues amongst knife crime victims/offenders to include supporting groups who are particularly affected by knife crime;
- Services for under 18's (prevention or intervention projects) that promote safeguarding;
- Support the parents and families of those who have been impacted/affected by knife crime;
- Work in partnership with other projects and services already being delivered in the local area.

Organisations funded in Rounds 1 and 2 of the MOPAC Community Seed Fund (Knife Crime) will be invited by the London Community Foundation to re-apply.

Priorities

All applications must demonstrate that they respond to the challenges of tackling knife crime within communities in London.

The objectives of the Fund align with the commitments stated within the Mayor's Knife Crime Strategy which include:

- Supporting communities in London disproportionately affected by knife crime to respond better to their needs and issues;
- Building a better understanding of the impact of grass roots services on accessing and supporting young people affected by knife crime;
- Providing relevant diversionary and support services for young people engaged in knife crime in London;
- Supporting small organisations in start-up and development of services and developing and growing their contacts to build more sustainable delivery models.

Criteria

Only one application per organisation will be considered for an award of up to £50,000.

The fund will not support new work but may support ongoing projects and completed projects, funded through the initial rounds, to be delivered again. Applicants can apply for one-year grants only.

Requests of a similar size to the previous grant received are expected, however some scaling up or down of activities based on current need, demand and learning from the previous year will be considered.

Requests of over 50% of the organisation's total income in the previous financial year are unlikely to be successful, apart from in exceptional circumstances.

Grants cannot cover activities taking place before any grant is awarded.

The London Community Foundation is a Living Wage Funder and as such, expects all applicants to pay workers at the London Living Wage or above.

Funded activities must be completed by September 2020.

All successful groups must submit interim monitoring in April 2020 and end of grant monitoring in October 2020.

Decision-making

Applications will be assessed by The London Community Foundation against the following areas:

Project plan

Assessment of whether the proposal for continuation funding is appropriate, fits the VRU's strategic priorities and is based on local and current need, user-feedback and organisational learning. This will be informed by each group's application answers and a review of the updated budget.

Previous performance

Assessment of performance on the previous year, outputs and outcomes achieved, and demonstrable learning when overcoming challenges. This will be informed by interim and end of grant monitoring reports, recorded engagement with groups and LCF knowledge of track record.

Due diligence

Assessment of income size, fund dependency risk and each organisation's capacity to deliver and manage a continuation grant. This will be informed by a due diligence process to review the latest set of accounts. Organisations presenting significant financial, management or governance risks will not be eligible for continuation funds.

Recommendations will be reviewed and ratified by the Violence Reduction Unit.

The London Community Foundation

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