

Wimbledon Foundation Community Fund

Multi-year & Single-year Fund guidelines issued September 2026

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CHARITY PARTNER



Fund guidelines

Important Changes to the Wimbledon Foundation Community Fund

In response to [research on local needs](#)*, the Wimbledon Foundation will start offering multi-year grants to better support local organisations who are providing benefit to Merton and Wandsworth residents. The economic downturn has put additional pressure on the sector, and in response, the Foundation have determined that greater long-term support is required to enable groups to concentrate their efforts on supporting their communities, rather than repeated application bids for smaller amounts.

*For the full report please click [here](#).

Unlike in the last round, there are both multi-year (three-year) and single-year grants available. This will be the last time that single year grants will be available through this fund. **Multi-year grants are only available for organisations who have a registered address in Merton or Wandsworth.** PLEASE READ THESE GUIDELINES THOROUGHLY.

About the fund

The London Community Foundation is pleased to manage the Wimbledon Foundation Community Fund (WFCF). This fund has been set up to benefit the community and provide support for local organisations to meet local needs in the boroughs of Merton and Wandsworth.

Since its launch in 2014, the WFCF has awarded **over £2.6million through 359 grants**, benefitting over **50,000** local people in Merton and Wandsworth. **In the most recent round (the first multi-year), the Fund received 76 applications requesting £2.1million. In total, 14 grants were awarded (a success rate of 18%) and £408,301 will be allocated over the three-year funding period.**

The Wimbledon Foundation is the charity of the All England Lawn Tennis Club and The Championships. Its mission is to use the collective strength of The Club and The Championships to make a positive difference to people's lives. One of its principal goals is to strengthen the local community by tackling social disadvantage in the boroughs of Merton and Wandsworth. For more information, please see www.wimbledon.com/foundation.

These guidelines set out the new focus of the fund and the grants that are available. It also outlines who may apply and what activities you may apply for. Please read the following carefully.

Before the WFCF specific criteria, the next four sub-sections outline The London Community Foundation's (LCF) **core eligibility criteria**, which is also contained in <https://londoncf.org.uk/apply/eligibility>. All applicants must meet this criteria before proceeding to read the Wimbledon Foundation Community Fund (WFCF) guidelines.

LCF's Core eligibility criteria

(i). Who can apply?

- **Eligible 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.
 - **For multi-year grants: An organisation must be registered in Merton or Wandsworth**

(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.
- **Safeguarding:** You must have a safeguarding policy in place that has been **reviewed in the last year**, is dated and states it is reviewed annually. The policy must also meet LCF's minimum requirements – please see <https://londoncf.org.uk/apply/lcfs-safeguarding-checklist>
- **Previous LCF funding:** You cannot have any outstanding monitoring due for any previous London Community Foundation grants at the time of application. You can still apply if you have an open grant with the London Community Foundation as long as you are not overdue for any reporting requirements. If you are unsure about your previous London Community Foundation grant status or monitoring requirements, please contact applications@londoncf.org.uk.
- **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).
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.

(iii). Relevant exclusions

- The grant funds 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),
 - individual sponsorship or redistribution of a grant to individuals or other organisations,
 - activities where people are excluded on the basis of religion, sexual orientation, sex or ethnicity (unless the issue is group-specific).
- 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.
- If you are unsure whether your proposed project and/or the expenditure requested meets the aims of the Fund, please contact us prior to submitting your application.

(iv). Who is 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
 - NHS bodies
 - Co-operative Societies
 - Schools

Wimbledon Foundation Community Fund (WFCF) guidelines

If your organisation meets the core eligibility criteria, please read the WFCF guidelines below. Note that the eligibility criteria for the multi-year grants differ from those for the single-year grants, so we will provide separate criteria for the two options:

Multi-year (three-year) awards - location

The three-year grants are strictly **only available to organisations with a registered address in Merton or Wandsworth**. They must also deliver work in Merton or Wandsworth for the benefit of local residents. Unlike the single-year grants, organisations registered outside the two boroughs are ineligible for these awards. The decision to restrict access to local organisations is due to the limited number of grants available, the fund priorities to support local, grassroots organisations and the high demand for core funding, as demonstrated by the aforementioned Community Needs Report.

Multi-year grant size

- Organisations can apply for 3-year grants of up to £10,000 per year, with a maximum award of £30,000.
- There will be a budget of £180,000 per year to award to multi-year grants in this round, amounting to approximately 18 grants.
- Core and/or project costs can be requested (see 'Proposal costs' section on page 8).

Single-year awards - location

As in previous years, these grants are available to all organisations delivering work in Merton or Wandsworth that fit the core eligibility criteria. Please note that organisations registered outside the two boroughs are less likely to be prioritised for funding. If applying, these groups must demonstrate previous experience of delivering work in either of the two boroughs and have key local partnerships in place.

Single-year grant size

- Organisations can apply for a grant of up to £10,000 for 12 months.
- There will be a budget of £180,000 for single-year grants in this round amounting to approximately 18 grants.
- Project costs can be requested with the 'full cost recovery' principle (see 'Proposal costs' section on page 8).

When deciding on the amount you are applying for either option, please reflect on your organisation's income in the previous financial year or your forecast if a new group. As a part of our assessment, we will need to consider how you might manage your award, and this will be partly based on your financial history.

Fund themes and priorities

All organisations applying for funding should be seeking to deliver work **which tackles social needs and supports local people facing disadvantage.**

Applicant organisations should aim to achieve the above fund objective by focusing on one of the two core themes:

1. Addressing financial insecurity / cost of living
2. Supporting mental health and wellbeing

Alternatively, organisations can aim to address the additional WFCF theme for 2026 which is:

3. Promoting and supporting digital inclusion

1. What do we mean by financial insecurity?

- Addressing underlying issues such as employability
- Addressing immediate needs such as food insecurity, benefits advice and guidance

Please note that WFCF grants cannot be redistributed in financial payments/donations to individuals.

2. What do we mean by mental health and wellbeing?

- Supporting people's mental health and/or wellbeing
- Addressing social isolation and loneliness
- Providing specialist mental health support
- Healthy eating sessions and food costs can be accepted as an element of wellbeing

Please note that sports, dance or physical activity projects cannot be funded by WFCF:

- The Wimbledon Foundation supports sporting, dance and physical activities through its '**Get Set, Get Active Fund**'. Please visit [the Wimbledon Foundation website](#) for details.
- Projects which have physical activity as a small element of the work, such as youth groups, can apply for funding through WFCF as long as the costs applied for are **not** related to the delivery of the physical activity.

3. What do we mean by digital inclusion?

- Digital Inclusion refers to the activities necessary to ensure that all individuals and communities, including the most disadvantaged, have access to and use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)
- Providing organisations with internet-enabled devices for users to access
- Providing digital literacy training for people, individually or in groups

We welcome applications from organisations supporting any groups facing disadvantage including:

- Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups
- Disability groups
- LGBTQIA+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, intersex, asexual, +)
- Young people
- People not in education, employment or training
- Older people

Current Wimbledon Foundation grant-holders

Please note that current holders* of a Wimbledon Foundation **grant** from any of their programmes (listed below) are not eligible to apply to this fund:

- Get Set, Get Active Fund
- Health & Wellbeing Fund
- Wimbledon Foundation Homelessness Fund
- Current Wimbledon Foundation Community Fund (WFCF) or WFCF+ recipients with live grants*

*Current holders/live grants means that you have had a previous grant which has not been reported on or that you have not submitted adequate reporting for the grant to be closed.

Grant outcomes

We would like all funded organisations to contribute to **one or more** of the following outcomes, noting that Core Costs are only available to Multi-year Grant applications. Please select one or more (as relevant) which are appropriate for your proposal and list them in your application form under **‘What would the benefits and outcomes be as a result of the funding’**.

Outcome Type	Outcome	Examples
Core Cost (Mutli-year Grants only)	Improve organisational development and capacity	Staff training, policy development, strategic development and implementation, monitoring and evaluation frameworks, leadership and governance training
Core Cost (Mutli-year Grants only)	Maintain key organisational services	Cost going towards maintaining established services and programmes
Core Cost (Mutli-year Grants only)	Improved organisational service quality	Programme reviews, upgrading systems and technology, expanding and developing programmes and delivery of work
Core Cost (Mutli-year Grants only)	Improved organisational financial sustainability and resilience	Costs towards a fundraising position or development of income streams
Project Funding	Improved beneficiary financial security and immediate needs	Employability programmes, training opportunities, financial advice, food banks, housing services, benefits advice
Project Funding	Improved beneficiary mental health and wellbeing	Counselling sessions, healthy eating clubs, activities for older people, groups for isolated or marginalised people
Project Funding	Improved beneficiary digital inclusion	Digital skills training for vulnerable groups, accessible digital platforms, device access and connectivity programs, community digital hubs

Through their proposals, the WFCF encourages organisations to show how they will:

- Engage individuals and groups with the greatest social needs
- Assist their beneficiaries to become active citizens in the community
- Interact with the community and improve inter-community relationships and cohesion
- Build connections across the two boroughs, Merton and Wandsworth
- Sustain their project beyond any grant award from this Fund
- Provide potential progression routes for some or all of the project beneficiaries after the grant funding period has ended

Proposal costs

Total proposal cost: Organisations can request the total cost of their core/project costs from the fund. However, the fund will look favourably on those applications for projects which have received matched funding, or a contribution has already been raised towards the total cost.

Costs which can be considered include: Staff/sessional* and volunteer costs, contribution to office costs and core organisational costs, venue hire for project delivery, contribution to running costs apportioned to project, and materials/small resources.

*The Fund encourages all posts to be paid at or above the London Living Wage (see page 11).

For project only applications, the WFCF also encourages applicants to follow the principles of 'full cost recovery' and include core costs within the project budget, i.e. including an appropriate portion of the organisation's rent, administrative costs and utility bills. For further information please see: [full-cost recovery](#).

Costs which cannot be funded by WFCF:

- Capital costs including expensive equipment will not be considered by this fund.
- One-off/annual events or activities will not be considered by this fund as we are keen to support projects which encourage longer-term participation and benefits.

Monitoring and evaluating your work

If your application is successful, you will be required to:

- Acknowledge support from the Wimbledon Foundation and The London Community Foundation (LCF). If you are offered a grant, guidance on publicity and logo use will be provided
- Complete your spending within 12 months or 3 years depending upon the award type.
- For multi-year grants, complete and submit an annual monitoring report in March 2028 and March 2029, and an end of grant report in April 2030. The annual monitoring reports will be submitted to the Wimbledon Foundation.
- Complete and submit a full project review form about the project within four weeks of completing your grant, and no later than 13 or 37 months after receipt of grant respectfully.
- Maintain financial records for all grant spending and submit requested information to LCF.
- Comply with all relevant legislation and all codes of best practice applicable to the grant activities (including but not limited to legislation and best practice relating to personal data and safeguarding of children, vulnerable adults, staff and volunteers)
- Be available for a potential LCF monitoring visit, or visit by Wimbledon Foundation representatives

Monitoring and evaluating our grants enables both The London Community Foundation and the Wimbledon Foundation to better understand the impact of our grant making. It helps us all to understand community need, enables us to learn from our grant making and inform future strategies.

For further information and tips on monitoring your work, there are several useful websites, such as <https://knowhownonprofit.org/organisation/impact> and <http://www.evaluation.org.uk/>

Application deadline and decision date

The next application deadline is:

- **Wednesday 28th October 2026 @ 12 noon**

The Panel will meet in February 2027 and:

- **Decisions will be released by 5th March 2027.** Project/core activity should therefore start from mid-to-late March 2027 onwards, and not before.

Please ensure that your completed application and supporting documents are submitted no later than the deadlines given above.

How to apply

Please note this is an online application form

To check eligibility and then apply for a grant, please follow this link:

Wimbledon Foundation Community Fund Eligibility Checker and Application Form

Please read the instructions carefully. *You can save the form as you go* before submitting it to LCF. You can also jump to different sections if you want to complete some before others, as well as share the access link with others in your organisation if they need to complete some sections.

Applying for a three-year award

While there is only one application form, eligible organisations will have the choice to apply for either a single-year or three-year award. This can be toggled via the question:

‘Are you applying for a three-year grant?’

This question will appear in Section 2 of the form for eligible organisations. As stated in the previous section, eligibility for multi-year awards will be determined by your organisation’s registered address*. Upon checking this option, additional questions will become available on the online form. Please note, falsifying your registered address in order to complete a three-year grant application may result in your application being disqualified.

*The address stated on your application form will be compared against those on your company documents and official registration sites, such as Companies House and the Charity Commission, to verify eligibility.

Budget Breakdown Section

For your proposed budget you will need to break down your annual project and/or core costs and requested amounts into seven categories:

- Staff Costs
- Volunteer Costs
- Operational/ Activity Costs
- Overhead Costs
- Capital Costs (for small capital purchases)
- Publicity Costs
- Other Costs

For each category, you should enter the total proposal cost per year, the amount you are requesting, and a breakdown of how you will spend the requested amount. To save on space within this section, the budget breakdown section only appears when you have entered a value greater than zero into the associated 'Requested Amount'. For Multi-Year applications, you will need to provide separate details for each year. If possible, we would recommend accounting for inflation when considering your total proposal costs over the duration of the grant to avoid funding shortfalls.

Support when filling in the application form

Should your organisation have any technical issues with filling in the application form, please use the **chat function** in the bottom right of the page, **clicking on the icon with the smile in it**.



An advisor will then respond within an hour or so.

Queries on the guidelines and project queries

As always, the LCF team will be able to answer any specific questions about the programme guidelines and/or discuss your project proposal on: applications@londoncf.org.uk.

At the end of your application, you will be asked to upload ALL of the following supporting documents*:

- Governing document, i.e. your constitution or memorandum and articles.
- Annual accounts OR actual or forecasted Income & Expenditure (I&E) if you are a new group. For new organisations with no income, please provide an I&E forecast, and a bank statement.
- An Income & Expenditure forecast for the current financial year – you can provide your own document or download and complete the Excel template on the WFCF home page: <https://londoncf.org.uk/grants/wimbledon-foundation-community-fund>.
- Your Safeguarding Policy which must have been reviewed within the last year, is dated and is reviewed annually. The policy must also meet LCF's minimum requirements – please see <https://londoncf.org.uk/apply/lcfs-safeguarding-checklist>.

*Please note that organisations **must** submit **ALL** of the required supporting documents, otherwise your application **cannot** be considered. If you experience any difficulties uploading your documents, please send them via e-mail before the application deadline, to: applications@londoncf.org.uk.

If you are e-mailing your documents, please clearly state your organisation's name in the subject line along with the fund name. e.g. Wimbledon Foundation Community Fund application. Please try to keep all e-mails to below 2MB as if they are larger they may not be accepted by the e-mail system. Where possible, please try to send all your attachments in one e-mail by zipping your documents. Please contact us if you would like help or are unable to complete an application online.

Some top tips for top applications:

- Draft responses before completing the online form and save them in a Word document.
- Make sure that every question has been answered in full (the form will prompt you).
- Ensure your budget section has a clear breakdown of all the costs associated with your funding request.
- Ask somebody to read through the application before sending, preferably someone who knows nothing about the project. This is a great way to pick up on any mistakes or lack of information and rectify it before submitting.

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, 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.

Find out more about [The Living Wage Funder Scheme here](#).

What happens next?

Upon submission, all applications are subject to an **Eligibility Check** where they will be reviewed against the core criteria mentioned earlier in this document. Organisations that fail to meet these conditions or who have not submitted the required documents may be eliminated at this stage.

For those who pass these checks, they will go through a **Shortlisting** process, where they will be reviewed alongside all remaining applications to find those that best fit the fund's aims and themes and will be presented to the decision-making panel. Key areas that are considered at this stage are:

- How well does the application fit the criteria?
- Are the key elements, such as venue and partners, in place?
- Are the targets and proposed impact realistic?
- How sustainable is the proposal?

Shortlisted groups will then go through a full **Assessment** where a member of the LCF team will conduct additional checks, so that they can produce a report for the decision-making panel to consider. During this period, the assessor may contact you to request additional context around your application, so please monitor your email inboxes, and be cooperative with them during this time. The assessment report will largely follow the questions in the applications form:

- **Proposed plan:** Is the proposal clear and comprehensive and does the project fit with the fund themes?
- **Demonstration of Need:** Has the applicant built a strong case for the project and how well does the proposal address these issues?
- **Organisational expertise:** How has the applicant demonstrated their ability to deliver the project and what connections do they have within Merton & Wandsworth?
- **Outcomes:** What is the potential impact of the proposal and how will they be measured?
- **Financial:** How sustainable is the organisation, what impact would the grant have and does the budget align with sector standards?

These reports are presented to a decision-making panel, made up of Wimbledon Foundation Trustees and up to three independent members who have knowledge and expertise in the charity sector within Merton and Wandsworth. The decisions will be made during a hybrid in-person/online meeting, where panel members will debate the points raised within the reports, determine which projects will receive support, and provide feedback to those who are not.

Through this process we aim to let you know the outcome of your application within around four months of the closing date.

- Please note that the Wimbledon Foundation Community Fund Panel's decision is final.
- Successful applicants must complete their spending within 12 months or 3 years depending on the terms of the agreement.
- Three-year grantees will be obliged to complete and submit an annual monitoring report in March 2028 and March 2029, and an end of grant report in April 2030. Single-year grant holders will be required to submit a monitoring report in April 2028.
- The three-year grantees will be asked to report against the activities, outputs, indicators and timelines that you will have completed with your application form, so, please ensure they are achievable and measurable.
- Successful applicants will receive the funds within 10-15 working days of accepting the award, provided that all grant conditions are met.

Some top tips for applications

- Draft your responses before completing the online form
- Make sure that every question has been answered in full (the online form will prompt you)
- Be clear about how you propose to meet the fund criteria and reach your target beneficiaries
- Ensure your budget section has a clear breakdown of all the costs associated with your project
- Get somebody to read through the application before sending, preferably someone who knows nothing about the project. This is a great way to pick up on any mistakes or lack of information, and rectify it before submitting

Need help?

Please do not hesitate to contact The London Community Foundation Grants & Impact Team if you would like to discuss your proposal prior to making an application, and/or if you need help with completing the form, accessibility requirements, or providing the supporting documents.

General enquiries: info@londoncf.org.uk

Specific application queries: applications@londoncf.org.uk

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