

**MAYOR OF LONDON**

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# **Community-Led Recovery Programme**

**Community Led Action Grant**

**London Community Story Grant**

Prospectus 2021-22



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City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
More London  
London SE1 2AA

enquiries 020 7983 4000  
minicom 020 7983 4458

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## Summary

The Mayor of London has launched a new programme to ensure that London's diverse communities are part of the city's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Community-Led Recovery Programme invites groups facing barriers to participation to lead projects focused on recovering from the impact of COVID-19 in London.

The 'grand challenge' for the Recovery Programme is to restore confidence in the city, minimise the impact of the pandemic on communities and 'build back better' the city's economy and society.

The Community-Led Recovery Programme is focused on 'collaborating and involving London's diverse communities', which is one of six cross-cutting principles for the wider recovery programme.

The Community Led Recovery Programme **runs until December 2021** and is focused on supporting activity which will enable communities most deeply affected by COVID-19 to share their lived experiences and take action to recover from COVID-19. Programme participants will work with London's decision-makers to share their community insights which relate to one or more of the nine missions of the London Recovery Board and Taskforce.

The programme offers two grant streams which highlight the value of giving people a platform to share their stories about the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on particular groups of Londoners:

- 1. Community-Led Action – 15-20 grants of up to £9,000 to initiate social action projects which gather new insights.**
- 2. London Community Story – 15-20 grants of up to £1,500 to organisations with existing projects which capture Londoners' experiences of COVID-19, supporting them to be presented and shared to a wide audience.**

Learning events and workshops will be hosted for participants in the two grant streams. Project results will be shared online.

The work has an emphasis on those who would not usually participate through mass engagement because they face barriers such as racism, digital exclusion, language, insecure immigration status and mistrust of public institutions.

The Community Led Recovery Programme is an invitation to Londoners to participate in London's recovery. It offers **a starting point to engage, share and act, collaborating with decision makers as they design policies and programmes to support the recovery from COVID19 for Londoners.**

Submissions for the grant programmes are to be made by providing the following documentation to the GLA:

- Application form
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- Due diligence documentation

Submit your application **by midday on Friday 19 February 2021** via the [online form](#).

# Background

## *Programme Purpose*

The Community Led Recovery Programme aims to achieve the following outcomes:

**Valuing** - London's communities feel valued; their work and personal experiences are recognised as a starting point for participation in the recovery process

**Involving** - London's communities are central to defining, delivering and measuring the success of recovery efforts alongside community organisations, neighbourhoods, borough level networks and the GLA.

**Decision Making** - London's communities are informed and connected into the programme to influence power and decision making in relation to the recovery missions.

## *Programme Objectives*

The Community Led Recovery programme will ensure that communities most deeply affected by COVID-19 have an opportunity to act on and share their lived experience with London's decision-makers to influence the missions of the London Recovery Board and Taskforce in the following ways:

- Identifying opportunities to amplify the voices of London's 'hidden' communities and those with the fewest opportunities to participate because of structural exclusion (e.g. racism, digital exclusion, language, insecure immigration status and mistrust of public institutions and other forms of discrimination).
- Supporting communities and grassroots organisations to participate fully in London's recovery.
- Engaging with younger and older Londoners in a way which integrates them into the wider programme of community participation to ensure an intergenerational perspective on recovery.
- Sharing community insight with London's strategic decision-making bodies, informing their understanding of the aspirations and needs of London's communities as the capital recovers from the pandemic.

## *Who does the funding aim to support?*

- Groups representing those most deeply affected by COVID (e.g. BAME, Young People, Disabled Londoners, Londoners with English as an additional language etc.)
- Communities and groups who want to participate in the recovery of London
- Those who would not usually be reached through mass engagement because they face barriers such as racism, digital exclusion, language, insecure immigration status and mistrust of public institutions.
- Organisations who can evidence a community led approach in their work

## ***What support will successful applicants receive?***

### **Training Programme**

Participants in the programme will be provided with the opportunity to take part in **upskilling workshops** in reflective learning, data collection and analysis, safeguarding, community organising and leadership.

### **Learning Network**

We will also deliver up to 4 'facilitated' Learning Network events which will provide opportunities for participants to reflect on learning and experience from the projects.

A trauma-informed approach<sup>1</sup> will be embedded into the design and delivery of the Training Programme and Learning Network.

### **Insights Hub**

The results and insights gathered from all of the grant funded projects in the Community Led Recovery Programme will be shared publicly on a dedicated digital platform hosted by the GLA. The site will be a resource for the community and civil society organisations, London Recovery Board partners, policy makers, local authorities etc.

This will be launched in Summer 2021.

### ***Supporting Resources***

Below is a list of resources you can access to help you to design your project idea and write your grant application form:

#### [Recovery Missions](#)

The London Community Story and Community Led Action Grants will support the London Recovery Board's nine Recovery Missions. This missions-based approach is a way of breaking down how we support London through a grand challenge 'to restore confidence in the city, minimise the impact on communities and build back better the city's economy and society'.

#### [Map of Community Views on COVID-19](#)

Throughout 2020, the GLA Community Engagement Team hosted over 20 roundtables with community groups to better understand the issues they have been facing during Covid-19. We mapped these community insights and have used them to inform policy. The issues raised are useful ways of seeing the gaps in support as well as identifying opportunities for collaboration.

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<sup>1</sup> Trauma-informed approach recognises, understands and seeks to address the influence and impact of factors such as racism, poverty, violence and bereavement

## Rapid Evidence Review

The Greater London Authority (GLA) commissioned the University of Manchester to conduct a rapid evidence review to document and understand the impact of COVID-19 (in terms of both health and the broader impacts on existing social and economic inequalities) on those with protected characteristics<sup>2</sup>, as well as those living in poorer, or more precarious, socioeconomic circumstances, paying particular attention to its effect in London. The report provides the outcomes of the review, as well as a series of recommendations, which are focused on identifying policy solutions in order to prevent, or mitigate, the inequalities in relation to protected characteristics and socioeconomic position that result from the COVID-19 pandemic and policy responses to it.

## Insights Collections

A range of insights through partner collections are available for applicants to the programme to use. These have been used as source material to develop a resource for grantees that will be shared at the programme launch and offer some suggestions on what programme outputs could look like:

- Toynbee Hall: [Pandemic Stories](#)
- Museum of London: [Silent London Soundscapes](#)
- Tower Hamlets Archives: [Life During Lockdown](#) and Making History: Documenting Coronavirus in the East End.
- Autograph ABP: [A Call to Care](#) and [Rights in Light of COVID-19](#)
- Camden LA: [Isolating Together](#), Camden residents' experiences of lockdown
- Monique Jackson: [Still Ill Corona Diary](#)

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/equality-act/protected-characteristics>



## Community Led Action Grant

**Community Led Action grants** aim to ensure that communities that have been most impacted by the pandemic are at the heart of London's Recovery programme over the coming months and years.

**Community Led Action grants** will support community organisations to propose their own solutions to the challenges facing London using a mix of action and reflection to identify learning which can be used to support the successful delivery of the recovery missions.

Community organisations and groups of individuals are invited to apply for up to £9,000 grant funding which will support them to build their capacity to act on the issues that concern them and the communities they support.

Project proposals will respond to one or more of the mission objectives and will support communities to take action and then to build on the learning from their experience. Learning from the projects will be shared with the GLA and wider London Recovery partners via regular reflective Learning Network events, directly with the London Recovery Board and learning and insight 'products'.

The **Community Led Action** projects will be led by **groups that can evidence reach** into a community that has been disproportionately affected by the pandemic and who are facing barriers to involvement.

### Objectives

- Using a mix of action and learning, the communities most deeply impacted by COVID-19 will be supported to develop and deliver projects that enable them to respond to and recover from the pandemic in line with the nine recovery missions.
- Learning and insight from the programme will be shared at local and regional level and directly with the London Recovery Board and Taskforce to help shape London's recovery over the next 5 -10 years
- Community leaders within Faith and community groups will be supported to sustain partnerships with City Hall, London boroughs and Civil Society partners.
- Build capacity of community organisations and individuals to act on the issues that concern them
- Participation in a learning network will enable shared learning and deeper more sustained relationships between Civil society, grass roots community organisations, and statutory organisations

### Why apply?

- To directly participate in and influence London's Recovery from COVID19
- Financial support for organisations to design and develop community led projects that deliver positive change for Londoners

- Access to training on e.g. data storytelling, community organising and leadership
- Access to a peer support network of groups and organisations working on similar projects to share best practice and challenges with
- This is an opportunity and space for community organisations to reflect on their experiences
- A clear dissemination channel to GLA policy teams and the London recovery missions.
- Opportunity to provide you with the material/perspectives to assist with your evaluation and any dissemination work (e.g. blogs) and connect more people to your work.
- A clear demonstration of the use of creative/non-traditional engagement to support you in future grant applications and to build a case for subsequent iterations of your project.

### Funding Available

Applicants can apply for between £2,000 and £9,000 to support their project and we expect to award approx. 15-20 community organisations in 2021/22.

Additional access grants are available. If your application is successful and you encounter any additional access needs during your project (e.g. BSL translation or require any assistive technology e.g. screen readers etc.) you can contact us. We can make additional funds available for these outside of your full grant amount if necessary and this will be assessed on a case by case basis. **If you have any access support needs whilst making your application, then please get in touch and we can assist you.** Please contact the Groundwork on 020 7239 1390 or [CommunityLedRecovery@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:CommunityLedRecovery@groundwork.org.uk).

### Eligibility

This grant is open to all user-led community, voluntary, faith, cultural, grassroots organisations. We are particularly interested in those who would not usually be reached through mass engagement because they face barriers such as racism, digital exclusion, language, insecure immigration status and mistrust of public institutions.

Successful applicants must:

- Be a user-led community, voluntary, faith, cultural, grassroots organisation.
- Be a registered charity, social enterprise or Community Interest Company that can demonstrate a track record of transparent financial accounting processes.
- Have an annual income under £250,000.
- Hold a UK bank account.
- Or be an individual or un-constituted community group nominating a partner organisation to receive the funds on their behalf.

## What are we looking for from grantees?

- Grants will be offered to community organisations that can demonstrate strong connections with communities or groups which are protected under the Equalities Act 2010 most deeply affected by COVID19 (e.g., BAME, Young People, Disabled Londoners, Londoners with English as an additional language etc.)
- Projects should deliver social action that builds the resilience and capacity of community organisations and individuals.
- Organisations should demonstrate a flexible approach so that:
  - ongoing learnings can be integrated into project delivery
  - risks associated with the ongoing COVID-19 crisis can be mitigated against
- Organisations need to be able to evidence a community-led approach in their work. Project proposals will need to relate to one or more of the nine recovery missions [see page 5-6 for more information] and their objectives
- Organisations will be able to show how communities and the learning from the project can help shape the London's recovery programme
- Organisations will have identified potential barriers to participation and have included planning and budget (if required) and how these can be overcome in their proposals
- Organisations will demonstrate how they plan to include younger and/or older Londoners

# London Community Story Grant

## Overview

Londoners' stories reveal the realities of life in the capital. The London Community Story Grant creates a platform to engage with the lived experiences of Londoners throughout Covid-19. These experiences are valuable insights which can take the form of community led reports and interviews, young people's films, cultural collections, poetry, imagery and more. We recognise that these types of insights provide a rich resource when planning how to better support communities through the city's recovery.

**London Community Story offers grants between £500 and £1,500 to organisations with existing projects which capture Londoners' experiences of COVID-19.** The grants will support organisations to share the stories and reflections they have collected with a wider audience including policy and decision-makers at City level. These may be reports, artistic projects, collections of objects, oral/video histories or any other form of collection. Participants will develop skills in storytelling and data visualisation through the programme. The GLA will create a platform for participating organisations to share their work with the London Recovery partners.

These collections of non-traditional insights are rarely seen or connected to those creating policy or providing grants and support for communities. Collectors also rarely interact with each other to share their experiences, insights and best practice. London Community Story aims to connect collectors and their insights to policy makers, funders and civil society groups who are helping to support London's recovery from the pandemic. In collaboration with civil society, creatives, data scientists we have developed a resource to outline how these non-traditional insights could become outputs, which will be shared with grantees as part of the programme, and more widely disseminated in Autumn 2021.

Through a London Community Story grant in 2021, your insights will;

- generate easily and quickly accessible outputs (e.g. data visualisations, short text, soundbites, film clips) to sit alongside your original collected material, created by you and with the support of experts, through up skilling workshops
- then be made public on an Insights Hub as a bank of social evidence
- form part of an online exhibition co-curated with other grantees alongside your original collected material
- support policy makers, funders and civil society groups to shape their work
- be added to the London Community Resource – a document that will share case studies of grantees work, as well as the work of earlier partner organisations, and act as guidance for others trying to do similar work

## Why apply?

- Learn more about your collected insights and how they can be used to influence change
- Financial support in the form of a grant to participate in the programme

- Access to data storytelling, community organising and leadership training
- Access to a peer support network of groups and organisations working on similar projects to share best practice and challenges with
- A clear dissemination channel to GLA policy teams and the London recovery missions.
- Opportunity to provide you with the material/perspectives to assist with your evaluation and any dissemination work (e.g. blogs) and connect more people to your work.
- A clear demonstration of the utility of creative/non-traditional engagement to support you in future grant applications and to build a case for subsequent iterations of your project.

### **Funding Available**

We have approximately 15-20 grants available of up to £1,500 to enable participation in The London Community Story programme. Funding is available for already collected insights only, not to collect new insights.

You can apply for funding based on how much time you think you need; the size of your insights collection and what you want to achieve with it.

- We estimate that participation in the set support; shared learning events and upskilling workshops will take 2 days.
- £500 would be the equivalent of attending the set support and spending one additional day on the work.
- £1,500 would be the equivalent of attending the set support and spending six additional days on the work.

Additional access grants are available. If your application is successful and you encounter any additional access needs during your project (e.g. BSL translation or require any assistive technology e.g. screen readers etc.) you can contact us. We can make additional funds available for these outside of your full grant amount if necessary and this will be assessed on a case by case basis. If you have any access support needs whilst making your application, then please get in touch and we can assist you. Please contact the Groundwork on 020 7239 1390 or [CommunityLedRecovery@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:CommunityLedRecovery@groundwork.org.uk)

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- Have an annual income under £250,000.
- Hold a UK bank account.

- Or be an individual or un-constituted community group nominating a partner organisation to receive the funds on their behalf.

**In addition:**

- That you are the owner(s) of your collection – you must have evidence that you have permission to share your participants' contributions and that insights were collected ethically.
- You, or a designated representative from your organisation/project will need to attend two training sessions (see table below). Failure to do so could require part, or all of your grant being withdrawn.
- A desire to analyse, present and share the insights that your collection holds.

## How to apply

### Programme Timeline

Milestone	London Community Story	Community Led Action
Launch of Community Led Recovery Programme	Monday 11 January 2021	
Information Sessions	Monday 18 January 2021, 12 – 1.30pm Thursday 28 January 2021, 5 – 6.30pm	
Application Support Workshop	Wednesday 3 February, 4.30 – 6.30pm	
Submission Deadline	Midday, Friday 19 February 2021	
Grantees Notified of Application Result	March 2021	
Community led Recovery Programme grants delivery period	April – July 2021	April – October 2021
Project launch / Learning Network event	April 2021	
Mid-point project review	June 2021	July 2021
Project outputs made public; Programme summary report published	September - December 2021	

## **How to apply**

If you are interested in applying for this grant, you should submit your application **by midday on Friday 19 February 2021** via the online form.

Specific guidance for due diligence requirements and application forms can be accessed directly on the Community Led Recovery Programme webpage.

If you have any questions about any stage of your application process. To get in touch with us you should either call or email on the details below:

Phone: 020 7239 1390

Email: [CommunityLedRecovery@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:CommunityLedRecovery@groundwork.org.uk)



## **Other formats and languages**

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