FAQ's for the Community Led Recovery Programme Grants

Questions from Information Session on 18 Jan 2021

Q. The project launch meeting has been set during the Easter term break, is there an alternative date you could hold this on?

We have provisionally set the date for the project launch meeting on Wednesday 14th April, 10am -1pm so it doesn't fall in the Easter break.

Q. Can you give an example of the types of projects you are looking to fund for both grants?

Example one: Mission: Robust Safety Net
Community-led Action: A project which works with Latin American community to deliver a targeted campaign to inform members of the community on their rights and entitlements.

London Community Story: A project which has collected audio interviews providing insights into how Covid- 19 is affecting low income and other disproportionally affected households.

Example 2: Missions Health (Mental Health) & Young People
Community-led Action: Young people's peer support programme focussed on connecting young people to appropriate mental health services/activities

London Community Story: A visual diary made of graphic illustrations demonstrating personal experiences and interactions with the health service throughout the Covid-19

Q. What do you mean by community-led?

Our team defines this in two ways – one in relation to your organisation and one in relation to your project:

1.) Your organisation

We define 'led by' as at least 51% of an organisation's leaders (trustees and senior managing staff) are people with lived experience. e.g.

- Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME)
- Deaf and Disabled
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT+)
- Older People

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- Women

  Etc.

2) Your project

The community you are working with are actively involved in the design, planning and delivery of the proposed project.

Please note, for the purposes of the Community Led Action grant the project must be community-led but your organisation is not required to be.

Q. How much is for the research and how much is for the action itself?

E.g. My project aims to provide access to healthy food and work with cafes who have stuff left at end of the day. Communities could get food from cafes at the end of day but we don't want to budget for this if the communities feel there is a stigma attached.

Q. Can you fund engagement/insights?

The Community Led Action grant programme aims to support community and faith organisations, especially smaller grass roots organisations. These organisations and faith groups will be deeply embedded in their communities and already engage with the community they wish to focus their social action project on. They will have an existing understanding of what solutions/social action projects will support them to recover from the impact of COVID19. There should be a degree of co-leadership with the participants of the programme where they are actively involved in the design, planning and delivery of the project.

This will enable most of the grant to be used for community action.

The reflective learning network events will offer an opportunity for further learning about your project and help shape your project throughout the delivery

Q. The application page says CLA grant is for 'social action projects which gather new insights'. Does this mean that projects can be about asking questions and doing research that will help test hypothesis about what effective initiatives might be, rather than roll outs of initiatives themselves?

We are looking to fund applications where the research has already been undertaken. The application could include a small element of further research, but the main bulk of funding should be used for community action.

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Q. What will the training and learning network involve and how should I factor that into my application?

We are finalising the training offer and expect organisations to factor in their time/resource to participate in these sessions in their grant application.

We expect the training offer to include upskilling sessions on:

- Reflective learning*
- Qualitative data analysis and presentation*
- Safeguarding
- Community organising
- Leadership

* For London Community Story these 2 sessions are compulsory

The Learning Network will comprise of up to 4 x 'facilitated' shared learning events which will provide opportunities for participants to reflect on learning and experience from the projects.

Q. Who will facilitate the training and learning network?

We will work with an external provider to facilitate the training and learning network sessions who will embed a trauma-informed approach into this part of the programme's delivery. We aim to have a delivery partner in place by end of March 2021.

Q. What is Groundwork's role in the programme?

Groundwork is our grant management partner. They will provide support to applicants who require help or guidance to fill in the application form[s] and will be part of the scoring panel for applications. However, GLA will make the final decision on the successful grantees. Groundwork will also manage payments of grants to grantees.

Q. Where can I find out more about the nine recovery missions?

You can find more information about the nine recovery missions [here](#).

Q. Would you rather us focus in on one of the 9 aims or approach a few? Or no preference?

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There is no preference, but it is more helpful to focus on a couple of missions rather than trying to incorporate all nine. We want to be led by you and your community. Projects may naturally sit across several of the missions.

Q. Many communities affected by COVID19 don't have access to technology e.g., laptops etc., is there support for this for families to gain access to valuable IT equipment to enable them to feedback?

Technology costs can be factored into your budget but you will need to provide a strong rationale for funding. We would need to understand in more detail how the provision of the equipment to families will for e.g., help develop ongoing relationships with people involved, enable families to be actively involved in the project (rather than just feedback) and how it will help create a legacy for the project.

Q. Will you give IT training to do the relevant paperwork work?

Groundwork is hosting an application workshop on Wednesday 3 February, from 4.30-6.30pm on Zoom for potential applicants who have questions about the form, online system and process. If you require further support, do get in touch with Groundwork who will be able to assist.

Q. For access costs - our project involves working with people who likely will need this support. Do we include these costs as project costs, or on top of the project total?

The access support is separate to the programme funding available. If you need funding for access (such as translation, BSL) you can note that in your application form. However, it doesn't need to be costed within your budget.

Q. If the organisation does not have accounts yet can we still apply?

If your organisation is new and does not have accounts, you won't be able to apply unless you partner with an organisation who can accept funds on your behalf.

Q. What quantity of participants are you expecting from projects? E.g., would you rather us work with 16 people in depth over a few weeks for a voiced outcome, or 50 people in less sessions? Or no preference.

The number of people you involve in your project is up to you as an applicant to decide. We know that this will depend on many factors e.g., the community you are working with, the

challenge you are trying to find a solution to and what resources you have. We are interested in the outcomes you seek to achieve and how well they connect with one or more of the 9 recovery missions.

Q. Can you talk a bit about expectation of wages for organisational costs for people running sessions/projects? Or money fully expected to go into project costs?

We understand projects need to be resourced adequately. Staff costs, including sessional coaches and instructors and overheads such as management, administrative and office costs up to 10% of your total grant amount can be incorporated into your budget. Please do read the Guidance documents for more detail on what can be included in your budget

Q. For the community led action grants, do you expect grantees to present lived experiences of our community in a particular way? Or is attendance at the shared learning sessions and written reporting sufficient?

We don't have any expectations about how people talk about/present their lived experience of covid-19. It is for you and those involved in your project to tell their story in the way that they choose. We are very open to how it is expressed e.g. short films, written reports/testimonies, poetry, illustrations, or a mixture of methods are all acceptable. This also applies to the London Community Story.

Other FAQ's

How much funding can I apply for?

The Community-Led Recovery Programme invites groups who have been disproportionality impacted by COVID-19 and face barriers to participation to lead projects focused on recovering from the pandemic in London.

The programme offers two grant streams:

- Community-Led Action (CLA) offering grants between **£2,000 and £9,000**
- London Community Story (LCS) offering grants between **£500 and £1,500**

You can submit an application to any/all of the above grant programmes, however due to anticipated high demand, we recommend that you focus your efforts on applying to one grant stream as we will only be able to fund one project per organisation/individual.

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Who can apply?

We welcome applications from organisations, community groups, faith groups, un-constituted groups and individuals. If you are applying as an individual/un-constituted group then you will need to partner with an organisation to accept the funds on your behalf and be financially responsible for the project.

If you are applying as an organisation, your annual turnover should be less than £250,000. Your project must be based within the Greater London boundary, see **here.**

When can I apply?

You can apply from **11th January** until **12pm on the 19th February 2021**
You should aim to submit at least a day before 19th February to factor in any unforeseen technical difficulties.

Where does my project have to take place?

Your proposed project must involve (or have involved for LCS) communities located within the Greater London boundary, click here for the map.

When can my project start?

Community Led Action – Projects must take place between 01 April – 31st October 2021.
London Community Story – Projects must take place between 01 April – 31st July 2021. Your collection of materials should have already taken place, or should take place by 31st March 2021.

When will I know if I have been successful?

In February 2021 a panel meeting which will include GLA and Groundwork staff will meet to decide on successful applications. You will be informed about the panel decision w/c 15th March 2021. Once your funding agreement is in place you can start preparing and marketing your project straight away.

Please note, the grant cannot cover any activities that happen before the funding agreement is in place.

Do I have to complete an eligibility checker to apply?

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Yes. You need to complete our eligibility checker before accessing the online grant form. When you click 'Apply Now' on our website, it will take you through to a Survey Monkey questionnaire and once you have completed this you will linked to the grant portal login page. If you did not pass the eligibility checker and are unsure why - please contact our team and we can talk you through it.

What happens if the government guidance changes halfway throughout my project?

We understand that the COVID-19 situation is constantly changing and there will be some degree of flexibility with your project deliverables. If your application is successful, we can support you to accommodate any changes needed in order to adhere to the government guidelines at the time of delivery. For example, if your project was going to be delivered outside and you needed to adapt to deliver online instead then we could discuss this with you. To stay up to date with government guidelines then please follow this link.

I am a community organisation/individual but don't have a bank account with two signatories, can I still apply?

If you do not have a bank account with two signatories, you must partner with an organisation to accept the funds on your behalf. Your partner organisation will ring fence the funds for you and offer some guidance and advice in running your project.

If I apply to both Community Led Action and London Community Story, do I stand a higher chance of being funded?

We would advise that you focus on a one application rather than attempting to apply for multiple projects. We will be assessing each application on their own merits, so you may find it more beneficial to spend more time developing and improving one application since only one project per organisation/individual can be funded.

If I have trouble accessing the application form or have access requirements what should I do?

If you experience any issues accessing the form/have any access requirements that you need to let us know about then please get in touch and we can discuss alternative options with you.

You can call 020 7239 1390 or email CommunityLedRecovery@groundwork.org.uk

How can I access the online portal?

You need to complete your application through the online portal called GIFTS. You can find the link to this on the Groundwork website here.

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If you have already started your application and wish to return to it then please follow this link: https://www.GrantRequest.co.uk/SID_123?SA=AM and enter your login details. **Please note, this link will not lead you to an application form if you have not already completed the eligibility checker.**

GIFTS isn't compatible with smart phones or tablets, so you will need a computer or a laptop to access the online portal.

You also have to use Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox when using GIFTS. Google Chrome, Safari or Microsoft Edge will not work.

Who should I contact if I have got a question about my project idea?

You can contact a member of the team at Groundwork London who are administering the grant through the email CommunityLedRecovery@groundwork.org.uk or via phone – **020 7239 1390**