



Strengthening the Youth Sector Fund

Funding guidelines and priorities

<p>Aim of the Fund</p>	<p>Since the Covid-19 pandemic started it became more apparent that the Youth sector needs access to sustainable funding deliberately designed to give them capacity to strengthen their organisations. With this fund Young Westminster Foundation and Westminster City Council want to give 5 local youth organisations the space to develop their offer, strengthen their operating models and give some sort of security and space to navigate these difficult times.</p> <p>We aim to build centres of excellence in relation to youth provision to become leaders in supporting the development of the sector across London.</p> <p>Organisations will be expected to deliver outcomes in line with Westminster’s Early Help Strategy.</p>
<p>What are we looking for?</p>	<p>We are looking to fund organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - with a strong track record of delivery in Westminster - who are ambitious to help attract additional funding for the Youth Sector in Westminster - who are willing to develop and improve - who are willing to work in partnership with the Council and other local delivery partners - who have shown initiative and creativity in adapting their practice and delivery particularly within the new Covid-19 context - who have found ways to continue serving their young community and who are willing to go the extra mile to ensure young people continue to be supported.
<p>Background</p>	<p>This Funding was made available by Westminster City Council and facilitated by the Young Westminster Foundation. The investment in youth services sits at the heart of the Council’s ambition to create a City for All and contributes to the growing community of like-minded stakeholders investing in young people in Westminster.</p> <p>It builds on the funding made available to establish the Youth Hub Model locally as well as the Brighter Futures Fund. The Council want to use this to support the vibrant network of the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations working in Westminster.</p>

	<p>Funding was designed to support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Young people to lead healthy and safe lifestyles with a focus on Serious Youth Violence - Better knowledge of other organisations' offer - A thriving community of practitioners - Better transitions towards adulthood with an emphasis on employability skills - A variety of opportunities on offer for young people built around outcomes that matter to them 	
Geographical Area of Benefit	Projects must benefit children and young people living in the London Borough of Westminster.	
Total Funding Available	£100,000	
Eligible organisations	Members of Young Westminster Foundation (as of 26 th November 2020)	
Size of grants	<p>We offer two year grants of up to £20,000 per year</p> <p>To encourage wider participation the five organisations identified as Westminster Youth Hubs are excluded from this funding stream.</p>	
Type of grant	This grant may be spent on Core Costs to meet the outcomes of Westminster's Early Help Strategy i.e. staff costs, training costs, fundraising costs, evaluation costs, marketing costs, and/or overheads.	
Application process	<p>This is a two stage process. We ask organisations to express an interest in this fund by submitting a short cover letter to nora@youngwestminster.com by Wednesday 25th November outlining your organisation's track record of working in Westminster and giving a broad sense of short to medium term ambitions. Please write no more than 1 A4 page.</p> <p>We will offer a funding surgery on Zoom on Thursday 19th and Friday 20th November. Please email Nora if you are interested to attend.</p> <p>If successful at this first stage, we will invite you to submit a more detailed application form. This information will be taken to a decision making panel.</p>	
Timeframe	Open for expression of interest	Monday 16th November 2010
	Funding surgeries	Thursday 19th and Friday 20th November 2020
	1st stage application deadline	Wednesday 25th November 2010
	Applicants invited to 2nd stage	Wednesday 2nd December 2020
	2nd stage application deadline	Monday 14th December 2020
	Panel Meeting	Thursday 17th December 2010
	Applicants informed	Friday 19th December 2010

Funding criteria

It will be a condition of these grants to work with the Council and YWF to produce the following for sign off by the Council within 6 months of the initial grant award:

- digital engagement strategy
- a commitment to engage, and demonstrable process in engaging with a youth sector training framework
- Up to date safeguarding policies including digital safeguarding

Within 11 months we expect the following will be produced for sign off by WCC and YWF:

- A full business plan including financial audit
- an annual delivery plan that includes a section on quality
- correlated evidence that you have engaged with local partnership work
- evidence of building on the core funding to access additional support for your organisation

Outcomes for year 2 will be agreed with providers based on their business and delivery plans.

Other key elements of continued funding will be:

- Working in partnership: we want to see how your work is embedded in the local context.
This means:
 - Being an integral part of the local family hubs and their integrated leadership team and through this beginning to extend work with families
 - we would like you to demonstrate how your organisation works with others, learns from others or shares resources with others to ensure you give young people the best service possible, minimising duplication of services.
- Ensuring youth voice: Young people must be involved in informing the development of your service (e.g. through consultation) to ensure your offer is accessible, affordable, wanted and valued by young people.
- Evaluation: We want to see how the results of your outcome measurement informs your practice and your overall aims and objectives

We will not support applications for:

- Work that takes place outside of Westminster
- Individuals
- Political activities
- Activities promoting religious beliefs
- National organisations with no track record of delivery in Westminster
- From organisations who are not a member of the Young Westminster Foundation (to sign up for free please [register](#) online)

Other considerations:

Organisations funded through Strengthening the Sector are unlikely to be eligible for the full amount of Brighter Futures project based funding which will open for applications on Thursday 26th November.