



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT FUND

Grants Guidance



St Giles & St George

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Introduction & Overview

What is the Youth Empowerment Fund

The Youth Empowerment Fund is a new grants programme giving young people in Westminster funding to design and lead their own social action projects.

Social action is when individuals or groups take voluntary action to make a positive difference in their communities, address social issues or improve lives.

This grant of up to £500 supports ideas - big or small - that make a positive difference in your community and we're excited that you're thinking about applying.

Projects can start from October 26 and must finish by March 2027.

The guidance below explains what you can apply for and how the process works, so you can feel confident completing the application form.

It's worth reading everything through to the end before you get started.

Need any support?

We know this might feel like a lot of information to take in - don't worry, you're not on your own!

If you'd like someone to talk things through with or have any questions, just get in touch - we're happy to help.

You can find our contact details on [Page 12](#).

We are committed to making reasonable adjustments where needed.

Eligibility & Funding Information

Who can apply?

- Young people who are 16–25 years old
- Young people who live, study, work or regularly attend an activity in Westminster (e.g. attend a youth club once a week).
- Young people who want to apply as an individual or a small group of up to 4 people max.

Please note if you are under 18 you will need parent/carer's consent if you are successful in receiving the grant.

How much funding can you get?

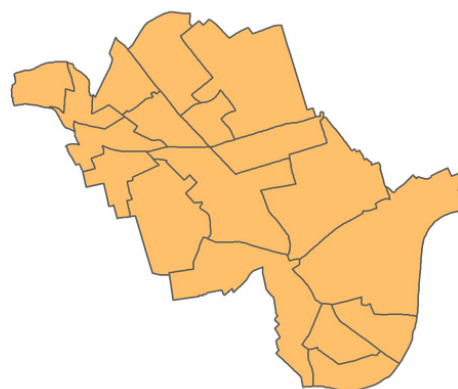
You can apply for **up to £500** for your social action project. If you are successful, payment will be split in two instalments through a pre-paid payment card that you will be given. One payment will be made at the start of the project and the other will be made midway through.

How long do you have to spend your grant (money)?

Your project can be a one-off event or something that runs regularly - whatever fits your idea. However, your project needs to be fully completed by **March 2027**. Make sure your plan is realistic and doable within this time.

Where can my project take place?

Your project must happen in Westminster - anywhere in the borough is fine. We'd love to see projects spread across both the **north** and **south** areas.



Whether you identify as part of the Global Majority, LGBTQI+, neurodivergent or disabled communities, or live at the intersection of several identities, we want to hear from you

Success Criteria

Your project must meet all the criteria below:

Tackles an issue you care about and matters to your community

Improves the lives of young people or residents in Westminster

Takes place in Westminster

Is well planned, safe, realistic and achievable

Uses the grant money responsibly & in a way that clearly supports your project

Makes a positive difference in your community

Clearly shows why the project is needed and who will benefit

Clearly shows enthusiasm, commitment and ownership of the project

Decision Making

Who decides which projects get funded?

A Youth Panel of 5 trained YWF Youth Associates will review all eligible applications. The YWF Youth Associates are all young people who live, work or study in Westminster. **This is what makes this fund special - the decisions are made by young people, for young people.**

They will:

- Read or watch your application
- Score how well the project meets the fund's criteria
- Discuss the ideas together and decide which projects receive funding

If applications are equally strong, the panel will look at funding projects from different parts of Westminster & supporting a mix of ideas, and communities.

What is Social Action?

Social action is when individuals or groups take voluntary action to make a positive difference in their communities, address social issues or improve lives.

Here are some examples of the kinds of projects you could do:

Campaigning or raising awareness about an issue.

Example: The Black Lives Matter movement began as a campaign against racial injustice and police violence, raising awareness and inspiring action around the world.



Community activities or events that bring people together

Example: Our Youth Voice & Engagement Manager, Jade Barnett, organised a community social action event to highlight the importance of youth provision in South East London.



Local improvement projects

Example: A primary school launched a social action campaign to raise awareness about speeding outside the school, encouraging safer driving and helping to protect children in their local community.



These examples show that social action doesn't have to be big or expensive! It can be as simple as identifying a problem, bringing people together, and taking positive action to create change.

Need inspiration? Take a look at these social action ideas from [iwill](https://www.iwill.org.uk).

What will this grant fund?

What **CAN** you use your grant (money) for?

Your grant can be used on anything needed for your social action project e.g

- Equipment
- Venue hire
- Software or systems (if needed)
- Food & Drinks
- Travel expenses



Example of a £500 project budget is below

Item	Description	Cost
Venue Hire	Avenues Youth Hub - 4 hours @ £40 per hour	£160.00
Equitment	Pens, Paper, Notebooks & Projector	£140.00
Food & Drinks	Caribbean Food & Drinks for 60 people	£200.00

What **CAN'T** you use your grant for?

To keep everyone safe and make sure the money is used fairly, you can't use your grant for:

- Paying yourself or your team for the time you spend on the project.
- Projects that only happen online or outside Westminster.
- Activities where you're responsible for looking after children. Children can take part, but a responsible adult, or organisation must be in charge of supervising them.
- Projects that promote hate, discrimination, violence, or unsafe behaviour.
- Projects that promote a political party, political viewpoint, or religious belief.
- Personal expenses not linked to the project or require more than £500 to run

What's in it for You?

If your project is selected, you'll receive:

Up to £500 in funding

To help deliver your project and bring your idea to life

Turn Your Idea into Action & Create Real Change

Make a positive difference in your school, neighbourhood or community by addressing an issue that matters to you and inspire others to get involved.

Develop New Skills

Build confidence and gain experience/support in:

- Project planning
- Budgeting
- Teamwork / Leadership
- Communication
- Problem solving



Meet New People

You'll have the chance to meet the YWF and SGSG team including the YWF Youth Associates who reviewed all applications and made decisions on which projects were funded.

Boost Your CV & Personal Statement

Leading a funded project is a fantastic achievement to include on your CV. We can provide a reference on successful completion of the project.

Celebrate Your Success

Share your achievements, inspire others, and be recognised for the difference you've made.

Next Steps - How to apply

You can choose one of two ways **to apply**

Option 1 - Application Form

You can apply through our online application form



Option 2 - Video & Application Form

You can apply by answering questions within sections 2 & 3 via video and then complete the remaining sections via our online application form. You must include your video's sharing link in the application too.

Option 1: Application form

Option 1: Fill in the application form

Complete the [application form](#) and answer all questions.

Please note the application form doesn't save your progress, so you'll need to complete and submit it in one go.

We recommend writing your longer answers somewhere else first, then copying them into the form when you're ready.

You can use the [Word template](#) to draft your answers.

Once you are ready you can copy your answers into the [application form](#).



Next Steps - How to apply

Option 2: Video & Application Form

Option 2: Send us a short video

If you prefer talking instead of writing, you can apply by making a video. It doesn't need to be fancy - we're interested in your ideas, not your editing skills.

Your video must be **no longer than 5 minutes**. Anything over 5 minutes won't be accepted.



In your video, please state:

- Your full name and the name of your project
- Your answers to the questions in section 2 & 3 from the application form - these cover your idea and how you'll make it happen.

If you choose the video option, you still need to fill in part of the application form.

Within the application form you must still complete:

- Section 1 - About You
- Section 4 - Funding request and project budget
- Section 5 - Upload your video link
- Section 6 - Before you submit

You do not need to complete questions in section 2 or 3 as you'll cover both sections in your video. You can find the link to the application form above.

If you are submitting a video:

- **Please name the video file with your name and the project title**
- **Upload your video to a Cloud Service e.g Google Drive, Dropbox, One Drive or as an unlisted YouTube Video**
- **Copy & paste the link to your video within question 30 of the application form.**

Next Steps - Important Dates

KEY DATES FOR ALL APPLICANTS

Grant applicant information sessions

In-person sessions for anyone interested in applying for the grant to ask questions and find out more.

26th August & 9th September 2026 at 5pm

You can sign up to attend **one** of these sessions [via this form](#)



Application Deadline

30th September 2026 at 5pm



Date of Panel :

w/c 12th October 2026

When you'll know the outcome of your application

w/c 19th October 2026

KEY DATES FOR SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

GRANTEE INDUCTION & BRIEFING SESSION

This session will be in-person for successful applicants only.

w/c 26th October 2026

SOCIAL ACTION PROJECT DELIVERY

October 2026 - March 2027

MONTHLY 1:1 SUPPORT CATCH UPS

Grantees must attend one 1:1 support catch up in

November & December 26

Optional monthly 1:1 support catch ups from January - March 2027

CELEBRATION EVENT - 2nd June 2027

Attend and celebrate the achievements of the fund

We are committed to making reasonable adjustments, if needed, to help you to take part.

AI Support

AI can be a helpful tool when completing your application, especially if you want help with:

-  Checking your spelling and grammar
-  Making your writing clearer
-  Organising your ideas

Just remember:

 Your ideas and experiences are what matter most. Make sure the application reflects your voice and your project.

 AI isn't always right. It can make mistakes or sound generic, so always read through what it suggests and make changes where needed.

 Use AI to support your application - not to write it for you. The strongest applications are authentic and show your own passion for making a difference.

Top tip: If you use AI, think of it like a helpful proofreader rather than the person writing your application. Your unique perspective is what we're really interested in.

Contact Us

If you have **any questions** about this opportunity/fund, please email:

- jade@youngwestminster.com



St Giles & St George

YWF are happy to assist with any questions.

Thank you for reading this guidance.

The panel look forward to hearing your ideas and learning how you want to make a positive difference in your community.

Good luck!

Further Information

The fund aims to:

- Empower young people to lead and shape change in Westminster
- Support grassroots ideas that benefit the community
- Increase access to funding for young people, especially those who don't usually get these opportunities
- Build confidence, skills and leadership
- Try a new model of youth-led funding

Where is the funding coming from?

The grant is made possible through a partnership between **St Giles & St George** (SGSG) & **Young Westminster Foundation** (YWF) who are providing the funding for the projects and managing the programme.

Together, SGSG and YWF are committed to putting youth voice at the centre of decision-making in Westminster, ensuring young people have real influence over the changes they want to see.

Young people told us they want more say in decisions that affect them and their communities.

The Youth Empowerment Fund (YEF) is a new way of doing things- putting young people in Westminster in the driving seat - as local change-makers.



St Giles & St George