

# LBTH Tackling Poverty Fund

A new approach to tackling poverty

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## Micro Grants Guidelines

Tackling poverty in Tower Hamlets is a Mayoral priority. Tower Hamlets Council already does much to tackle the poverty and the causes of poverty in the borough but recognises that more needs to be done. The Mayor is keen to unlock potentially valuable new approaches to tackling poverty and has allocated funds to create the Tackling Poverty Fund which aims to test new approaches to tackling poverty in Tower Hamlets.

Micro Grants of up to £500 are available to local constituted groups and individuals (supported by a local not-for-profit organisation) to trial small community initiatives.

Projects must:

- Take place over a period of no more than **6-months**
- Demonstrate how the proposed activities will improve the lives of local people

Individuals wanting to apply must identify a local organisation which will hold the grant on your behalf e.g. a TRA, housing association, community centre or local voluntary organisation. If this is going to be difficult please contact the EECF Grants Team on 020 7345 4444 to discuss.

## Who Can Apply?

We can fund the following:

- constituted voluntary or community groups
- individuals delivering community activities (grants are not available for personal benefit)
- registered charities
- social enterprises or community interest companies
- companies limited by guarantee
- a group or consortium of organisations, led by a voluntary and community organisation or social enterprise
- schools

We cannot accept applications from:

- individuals seeking funding for personal benefit or sole traders (individuals seeking a grant for a community initiative are eligible)
- organisations based outside the UK
- applications made by one organisation on behalf of another
- for-profit organisations

If you're unclear whether you can be funded, please contact the EECF Grants Team on 020 7345 4444 or [grants@eastendcf.org](mailto:grants@eastendcf.org).

## What We Will Fund

You can apply for funding to cover project activities and staffing, running costs related to the project, as well as small-scale refurbishment and the purchase of any equipment you need. We can fund a mix of project activities, operating costs, organisational development and capital costs. However, the core aims, and outcomes of the project must support the aim of tackling poverty.

## What We Won't Fund

- activities where a profit will be distributed for private gain or projects that have no charitable or community element
- religious or political activity (we are able to fund religious organisations if they are providing benefit for the wider community)
- activity that replaces government funding or is a statutory responsibility, for example, we can only fund school activities that are additional to the curriculum
- activities that benefit individuals, rather than a wider community
- retrospective costs and loan repayments
- expenditure or activities that have already taken place
- foreign travel

## How to Apply

To apply for a Micro Grant, you can complete an online application form by [clicking here](#), book in a phone call or send us an email with a short video. Phone call appointments are available on Tuesday mornings from 9am – 12pm. If you would like to apply by video please send this by [Dropbox](#) or [WeTransfer](#) to [grants@eastendcf.org](mailto:grants@eastendcf.org).

You must be able to tell us:

- what you want to do and why
- what difference you think your idea will make to local people
- how residents and communities will be involved with your project
- the length of your project
- about your budget and how much funding you'll need from us

You will also need to submit the following documents with your application:

- the constitution or articles of association of the organisation
- one bank statement in the name of the organisation dated within the last 3 months
- if you are requesting a grant for equipment, you must submit a quote or evidence of how much the equipment will cost

Your proposal will then be presented to a decision-making panel at Tower Hamlets Council for consideration, taking into account how your idea or activities will make a difference to local people. We expect the Fund to be oversubscribed so this will be a competitive process.

If you are successful in receiving a grant, you will be required to send photographic or video evidence of your activities, along with receipts or evidence of how the grant was spent.

## Timetable

The Tackling Poverty Fund application deadline is **12 noon on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018.** Applications received after this deadline will not be considered.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application in late January 2019.

## Tackling Poverty Fund Priorities

The Tackling Poverty Fund aims, as its name suggests, to reduce and tackle the root causes of poverty in Tower Hamlets, through innovation and testing new ideas. The Fund seeks to support different approaches that particularly address:

- Pensioner poverty (60 years +)
- Unemployment
- Families suffering from in-work poverty, particularly those receiving housing benefit

We want to hear about innovative ideas, no matter how simple, that make a real difference to the financial position and future of Tower Hamlets residents. This could be through the alleviation or prevention of poverty, or activities that offer people routes out of poverty. Particular emphasis will be given to initiatives that build skills, knowledge and resilience, including:

- Skills development to support people moving into work or closer to the job market
- Projects assisting older people and families experiencing housing issues
- Projects addressing the impact of benefit changes on families and older people, especially the impact of universal credit on families with children
- Money management skills
- Food poverty initiatives
- Digital skills enhancement and digital inclusion, enabling residents to improve their personal circumstances through increased knowledge and awareness of support and services

There are many services and initiatives in the borough already working to address these issues, but this fund is about innovation, so applications proposing services that are already established, or commonly available **will not be considered**. By this we mean traditional, or well tested approaches such as CV workshops, job search support, interview training, drop-in advice services, budget workshops, foodbanks or IT classes.

The Tackling Poverty Fund has been established to invest in new and innovative approaches and this means we will **not** support 'business as usual' or projects that are already established. Whilst the actual activities may not be new, there should be innovation in how organisations are engaging participants and addressing the issues they're facing. The project and the activities could be created from scratch, introduced to a new client group, delivered in a new area or trials an original approach to tackle the root causes of poverty. Innovative approaches will include new methods, the introduction of new ideas and perhaps unconventional or experimental ways of helping local people move out of poverty. We want to support activities that are new or innovative to the borough of Tower Hamlets, not only to the organisations themselves.

## **What we look for in organisations we support**

We're particularly interested in supporting organisations that demonstrate they are people-led, strengths-based and connected to Tower Hamlets communities or residents.

*People-led* - We're looking for meaningful involvement of the people you're working with in the development, design and delivery of your project. Tower Hamlets wants to make real its commitment to the co-production of services and projects with the people intended to benefit from those. As a result we want to hear how the people or community you're working with has influenced your project and will continue to shape its delivery.

*Strengths based* - We want to hear how you'll be making the most of, and building on, the skills and experiences of people and what already exists within our communities as experience shows that this makes for greater and longer lasting impact.

*Connected* – Tower Hamlets Council does not want to duplicate what already exists and we want to ensure you have a good understanding of what others are doing and what relationships you have with work that is already taking place. We are keen to understand how your project is connected with other relevant organisations, how your idea complements what they are doing and how you have used these relationships to develop your project.

## **Equal Opportunities**

Tower Hamlets Council and East End Community Foundation are committed to equal opportunities for all, and we expect groups and organisations applying for grants to show that they are aware of equal opportunities and demonstrate commitment to them. Accordingly, organisations applying for grants are required to submit their Equal Opportunities Statement with their application.