

# LBTH Tackling Poverty Fund

## A new approach to tackling poverty

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### Large 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.

Large Grants of up to £20,000 are available to not-for-profit organisations to trial new or innovative interventions to tackle the root causes of poverty in the borough.

### 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.

## Who Can Apply?

We can fund the following:

- constituted voluntary or community groups
- individuals delivering community activities (not 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 (unless for an individual seeking up to £500 for a community initiative and subject to due diligence)
- 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

## 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.

## How to Apply

This is a two-stage application process, ensuring a more rigorous assessment. To apply for a grant initially you must submit an expression of interest. This should be submitted via email to [grants@eastendcf.org](mailto:grants@eastendcf.org) and must be **no more than 2-sides of A4. Additional attachments will not be accepted.**

Your expression of interest should detail:

- your organisation name, contact details and legal status (i.e. registered charity, constituted voluntary group)
- your project proposal, and how the idea came about
- why / how your planned approach is an innovative or new response to the Tackling Poverty Fund priorities
- what difference you think the project will make and what you expect the outcomes to be
- the duration of your project, including the proposed start date
- a budget outline, and how much funding you'll need from us

Projects must:

- take place over a period of no more than **9-months**
- demonstrate how the proposed activities will address the Tackling Poverty Fund priorities and have a positive impact on local residents
- have measurable and demonstrable outcomes related to tackling poverty

The expression of interest will then be reviewed by a panel at Tower Hamlets Council who will consider proposals based on their innovation and potential impact on poverty issues. The panel will shortlist proposals for the next stage. Applicants that make it through to stage two will be invited to submit a full application. We expect the Fund to be oversubscribed, so this will be a competitive process.

If your application is successful, you must be able to spend the money within 9-months of receiving the grant and the project must commence between March and April 2019. You will need to keep financial records of how the grant is spent including receipts and invoices for expenditure. You will also be required to keep records how many people benefit, and the difference the project has made to them. We will also ask you to provide any learnings or developments from testing a new approach.

## **Timetable**

Expressions of interest must be submitted to [grants@eastendcf.org](mailto:grants@eastendcf.org) by **12 noon on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018**. **Expressions of interest received after this deadline will not be considered.**

Large Grant applicants will be notified whether they've been shortlisted for a full application in January 2019. Final decisions on Large Grant applications will be made in March 2019.

## **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.