Life Chances Housing Association Consortium (LCHAC) Grant Programme

A consortium of Housing Associations has been formed as part of a pilot to support East End Community Foundation’s (EECF’s) Life Chances Campaign. Led by Peabody Housing, the consortium is currently focused on Tower Hamlets but with potential to extend to other boroughs. The Life Chances Campaign aims to address the critical themes of wellbeing and work for young people, digital exclusion and pensioner poverty and isolation.

Current Housing Associations involved in the consortium:

- Clarion
- Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing
- One Housing
- Peabody
- Poplar HARCA

What funding is available?
A total of £35,200 is available to grant to community organisations supporting residents in Tower Hamlets and specifically around the housing estates managed by the above Housing Associations in the consortium. The Fund is open to organisations based in/delivering projects in the following wards in the borough of Tower Hamlets:

- Canary Wharf, Cubitt Town and Millwall
- Stepney
- Bow East & Bow West
- Aldgate
- Whitechapel

Organisations may apply for grants of between £500 and £3,000.

We expect to award between 10-25 grants, depending on the amounts applied for. Funding will be awarded in August-September 2022, so please make sure this is reflected in your project plan and proposed timeline.
What can the grants be used for?

Priorities of Fund
We are keen to fund projects working to help residents become better equipped to access support and opportunities that lead to:

- increased confidence
- development of new skills
- securing employment
- financial security

This Fund, in line with EECF’s Life Chances Campaign, is focused on skills development and employment opportunities for young people, wellness and support services for older people and digital inclusion. However, organisations can apply for funding to support residents of all ages and backgrounds for projects that illustrate positive community impact and the outcomes listed above.

Applications must be able to demonstrate that the activities will be in Tower Hamlets and for the benefit of the residents of one or more of the estates managed by this consortium of Housing Associations. We anticipate the strongest applications will demonstrate community consultation with the residents they aim to reach through their projects and/or existing relationships with those living on the relevant estates.

The Consortium recognises the far reaching impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the lives of local residents, particularly its impact on local residents’ mental health and wellbeing. Organisations are encouraged to submit applications for projects that respond to the specific mental health needs of local residents as a result of this.

Project activities could include, but are not limited to:

- Access to the arts and new cultural experiences to support lifelong learning and skill development of residents
- Activities that engage young people with their local community including intergenerational activities
- Courses that offer accreditation, development of social skills, personal finance management, digital skills training
- Evening or weekend provision for youth or older people
- Learning and training activities to improve skills and opportunities for local people, including mentoring and coaching, increasing Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) provisions or support for Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) young people
- Small events including festivals, workshops, exhibitions, talks and showcases etc. to help connect the local community to local employment/training opportunities
- One-off workshops or longer-term mentoring that helps to upskill residents or connect residents with work and education placements
Projects should be inclusive. The Fund is interested in supporting a variety of activities that reach a wide community audience including Black, Asian and minority ethnic residents, people with disabilities, learning disabled people, Gypsies and Travellers, LGBTQIA+ residents, children and young people, and residents with mental health issues or long-term health issues.

**What types of activities can and cannot be funded?**
Direct project costs and apportioned core costs that support project delivery are eligible for funding.

The programme will not fund:
- Grants to individuals
- Expenditure or activities that have already taken place
- Services which are a statutory responsibility (i.e. are the responsibility of the Council, Government or Health Authorities)
- Projects that have no community or charitable element
- Projects that take place outside of the target area. If the proposed project is taking place just outside the area but is still benefiting residents within it, contact EECF to discuss whether this would be eligible
- Projects that are purely for the advancement of religion or politics
- Foreign travel

The Consortium may be able to provide a venue to support the delivery of your project. If you are interested in this opportunity, please ensure that you tick the box on the application form relating to venue hire needs. Please also note that there is no guarantee of securing a venue space.

**Who can apply for funding?**
To be eligible to apply, organisations must:

- be a not-for-profit organisation that is formally constituted i.e. have a signed governing document in the group’s name. This includes unincorporated associations and community groups, registered charities, social enterprises, schools, Community Interest Companies (CIC) limited by guarantee, Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIO), companies limited by guarantee and faith groups where the project clearly does not promote a particular religious or political view.
- be connected with and meeting the needs of the local community.
- have good financial management procedures, including a record of income and expenditure. Applications from organisations that have a financial deficit will not be considered.
- have a bank account in the name of the group, with at least two unrelated cheque signatories.
- have a comprehensive safeguarding policy in place if working with children and young people under the age of 18, or vulnerable adults.
If you are an un-constituted voluntary group, or a group of local residents, you will need to identify a constituted organisation to act as your accountable body or ‘parent organisation’. For example, this could be a local charity that is willing to accept any grant money on your behalf. The application form must be completed by the un-constituted group and you must have agreement from the parent organisation confirming they can support you.

**How do I apply for funding?**
The Fund opens on Monday 16 May 2022 and the deadline for applications is **12 noon on Monday 20 June 2022**.

You can submit applications at any time before the deadline and if you have any questions or would like to talk to the Grants Team please email us on grants@eastendcf.org. We’re happy to help. You can also contact us if you have any specific accessibility needs.

Please fill in **one** online application form based on the size of your grant request:

**To apply for a grant of £1,000 or under please** click here to complete an application form.

**To apply for a grant of over £1,000 please** click here to complete an application form.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application early August 2022 and projects are expected to start no sooner than October 2022.

**Supporting Documents**
You must attach relevant supporting documents to your online application. Alternatively, you can also send these documents to grants@eastendcf.org.

Please ensure you have the following documents ready to attach to your online application:

- A copy of your governing document (e.g. articles of association or constitution)
- A copy of your most recent annual accounts (or income and expenditure records or management accounts if these are unavailable)
- A copy of one bank statement dated within the last 3-months that clearly shows the account holders details, bank account number and sort code. The bank account must be in the name of the organisation applying and have two unrelated signatories
- A copy of your Safeguarding Policy, if applicable
- A copy of your Equality & Diversity Policy*

*East End Community Foundation and the LCHAC Grant Programme is committed to equality and diversity for all, and we expect groups and organisations applying for grants to show that they are aware of equality and diversity and can demonstrate commitment to them. Accordingly, organisations applying for grants are required to submit their Equality and Diversity policy with their application.
**Monitoring**

If your application is successful, you must be able to spend the money within 12 months of the grant being awarded. You will need to keep financial records of how the grant is spent including receipts and invoices. These must be submitted to East End Community Foundation in accordance with the monitoring timetable indicated within the grant offer letter.

You will need to keep and provide the following:

- Financial records of how the grant is spent, including receipts and invoices
- Records and evidence of the identified outputs e.g. which housing estates the participants are from, the number of people from the estates benefiting, number of sessions, audience numbers, records of attendance etc.
- Records of the identified outcomes e.g. the difference the project has made to participants, participant feedback, staff observations, external reports from partners
- Anything that your organisation has learned from delivering the activities
- Photographs and videos of the project activities (if appropriate)
- A case story from at least one participant

It is important to gather information throughout the duration of your activities. These pieces of information must be submitted in an end of grant report.

Please also note that the Consortium is keen to build working relationships with grantees and partake in project visits. You will have the option to confirm whether your organisation is willing to facilitate these visits and will be asked to put forward some suitable dates at the time of grant offer.

The contribution of the LCHAC Fund must be acknowledged in any promotional literature or annual report issued on your behalf within twelve months of receiving the grant or any instalment of the grant. We reserve the right to use any photographs or details of the project in any future literature and/or promotion.