

Canary Wharf Group Community Grant Programme

Canary Wharf Group (CWG) understands it has a responsibility to create a positive and lasting impact that goes beyond the buildings and places they create. CWG pride themselves on their ability to create long-standing and meaningful relationships with the communities based around Canary Wharf.

The Community Grant Programme is aligned to the CWG's overarching Social Value Strategy which focuses on the benefits delivered to wider society. As part of this, the Community Grant Programme aims to support local community initiatives that have the greatest impact for those who need it the most.

The programme is centered around three key themes: **Education, Skills and Employment** and, **Wellbeing and Biodiversity** and is open to all not-for-profit organisations operating in and benefitting the residents of Tower Hamlets. The Fund is being managed by the East End Community Foundation (EECF). Before applying, please read the following guidelines carefully and you can contact the EECF Grants Team on grants@eastendcf.org if you have any questions.

Available Funding

The total amount of funding available is £300,000. There will be three grant rounds per year with approximately £100,000 awarded at each round.

Grants of between **£500 and £10,000** are available for projects and activities running a maximum of 12-months.

PLEASE NOTE: This fund is heavily oversubscribed, and we aim to support as many groups as possible. It is expected that for each round one or two proposals within each theme will receive a higher value grant of up to £10,000, and the remaining awards will be for an average of £5,000. Please consider this when making your application.

Aims & Objectives

The Community Grants Programme will support projects delivering within the following themes:

Education: programmes supporting children and young people to fulfil their educational potential through curricular and extra-curricular support and training, including programmes to boost confidence and career aspirations.

Skills and Employment: programmes delivering skills and employment opportunities for local people, particularly those who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) or long term unemployed.

Wellbeing and Biodiversity: programmes creating a healthier community through interventions related to physical activity, mental health and those addressing the impact of poverty, and programmes that provide more green spaces and access to water which will increase the area's biodiversity.

With limited budget, we anticipate more groups applying than funding is available each round. Along with project alignment to these three themes, funding will be prioritised towards projects that have identified a clear local need for their project and how they are best placed to respond and deliver the project. The Fund aims to support a range of projects supporting multiple residents, communities, and areas of the borough.

CWG would like to support a variety of activities that reach a wide community audience including Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) residents, people with disabilities, learning disabled people, Gypsies and Travellers, LGBTQIA+ residents, children and young people, older people and people with mental health issues or long-term health issues.

Project Examples

Examples of projects funded in the previous year include:

An 'Education' grant to a school to purchase new gymnastics equipment for the students to use as part of their PE/ sports lessons. The extra equipment will significantly improve the children's health and wellbeing while also providing indoor gymnastics classes which are currently unavailable.

A 'Skills and Employment' project designed to guide women towards informed choices for their futures, by facilitating a platform for further education, training, work experience and employment.

Projects awarded through 'Well-being and Biodiversity' funding have ranged from massage and acupuncture for people with severe mental illness from ethnic minority groups delivered in a group format to increase their social interactions and friendship, to a food garden enabling residents to volunteer and support a local food co-op.

Who Can Apply

The fund is open to all eligible organisations; however, the fund will prioritise:

Voluntary, Community, Faith, and Social Enterprises (VCFSE) with an annual income of under £2,000,000 per year. Eligible organisations are defined as:

- Registered charities
- Community groups
- Co-operatives, community interest companies limited by guarantee and social enterprises that are not-for profit organisations
- Faith organisations

Schools and statutory agencies delivering services to meet the needs of residents, outside their mandated funding and statutory responsibilities.

We cannot accept applications from:

- For-profit organisations
- Individuals seeking funding for personal benefit, or sole traders
- Organisations based outside the UK

What We Will Fund

You can apply for funding to cover project activities and staffing, running costs related to the project, including contribution to organisational overheads and small-scale purchase of any equipment you need.

What We Won't Fund

- Projects outside Tower Hamlets (although we will support projects providing trips and excursions outside the borough)
- Expenditure or activities that have already taken place
- Religious or political activity (we can fund religious organisations if they are providing benefit for the wider community)
- Activities where a profit will be distributed for private gain or projects that have no charitable or community element
- 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
- Medical research
- Retrospective costs and loan repayments

How to Apply

There will be three grant rounds per year:

Round	Opening Date	Grants Webinar/Q&A	Closing Date	Award Notification
One	24 January 2024	Tuesday 6 February at 11 am	Monday 26 February 2024 at 12 noon	Week commencing 1 April 2024
Two	27 February 2024	Tuesday 12 March at 11 am	Monday 29 April 2024 at 12 noon	Week commencing 3 June 2024
Three	30 April 2024	Tuesday 11 June at 11 am	Monday 2 September 2024 at 12 noon	Week commencing 7 October 2024

The Grants Webinar/Q&A will provide interested groups with more information about the fund, the programme themes, and tips for submitting a successful application

You can submit an application at any time and your application will be considered by the grants panel after each closing date. If you need your funding for a specific time please make sure you submit your application to the grant round to ensure you to receive a decision and funding prior to the start of your project e.g. if you are running a summer holiday project you should submit your application no later than Monday 29 April to receive notification in early June.

The closing date for the next round is **12 noon on Monday 26 February**.

To apply for a grant please [click here to complete an application form](#).

Accessibility

If you experience or anticipate any difficulties with the application process (language or other barriers) or require help to make an application, please contact the EECF Grants Team to discuss the type of support we can provide by emailing Grants@eastendcf.org or calling 020 7345 4444.

If you would like a paper application form (formatted on Microsoft Word), please contact the EECF Grants Team on grants@eastendcf.org

Supporting Documents

To enable us to consider your application you must attach relevant supporting documents to your application. Alternatively, you can send these by email to grants@eastendcf.org. **All documents must be submitted by the application deadline and your application may not be considered if supporting documents are missing.**

Please ensure you have the following documents ready to submit:

- Constitution or articles of association
- Approved accounts or a record of income and expenditure for the organisation for the most recent financial year
- One bank statement dated within the last 3 months showing the organisation's account details.
- Equality & Diversity Policy
- Safeguarding Policy for working with vulnerable adults and/or young people
- If you are working with children and young people, please also provide a risk assessment as part of your application or prior to your project commencing

If you have any questions on these required documents for your organisation feel free to reach out to the EECF grants team at grants@eastendcf.org before the application deadline you are applying for.

Monitoring & Evaluation

If your application is successful, you must be able to spend the funds within 12 months of the grant being awarded.

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 submitted online. The end of grant report will ask questions on your project, and how you delivered against the plans you set out in your application. Please do consider the following to report back on

- The activities you carried out with the funding
- Number of residents supported by the project
- Impact numbers, such as how many people learned new skills, reporting increased well-being, received advice services etc.
- Changes to the delivery of your project and any learning that could help you when delivering similar activities in futures
- Positive changes for residents that you can present through a quote or case study

You will need to keep the following:

- Financial records of how the grant is spent, including receipts and invoices
- Records and evidence of the identified outputs e.g. number of people 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
- Photographs and videos of the project activities (if appropriate)