

ECOSYSTEM COLDHARBOUR

WORKING TOWARDS REDUCING YOUTH VIOLENCE

MICRO GRANTS GUIDELINES

The Ecosystem Coldharbour Micro Grants programme has been set up to support local grassroots organisations and unincorporated community groups to enable them to respond to the needs of local people, especially in relation to the reduction of youth violence. The micro grants programme received money from the Mayor of London's Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) and therefore aims to address the root causes of violence affecting young people and families and to provide positive opportunities for them.

The total funding available is £30k, to be distributed over the next 10 months and will support at least 12 local projects.

The area of focus is Coldharbour Ward and we will be focused on the ward's largest estates of Angell Town, Loughborough and Moorlands as well as central Brixton. The micro grants programme seeks applications from grassroots organisations with a turnover of up to £20k who are ready to run 6 months projects in alignment with the aims of the fund. The grant award is for £500 to £2,500 per project. The funding will be flexible but must address the overarching aim of reducing youth violence.

We will be developing a network of community organisations in the Coldharbour ward through offering them training and grants. All applicants and other groups will also benefit from a wide range of our networking and capacity building activities. Our aim is to be inclusive and to help develop a network of sustainable local organisations and groups.

If you are interested in receiving more information, please email Jedidah.onchere@biglocalimpact.org.uk.

Dates

Opening date for Round 3 commences **09 May 2022** and closes **13 June 2022 at 12pm** (midday).

The area of Focus

The area of focus is Coldharbour Ward and while the spread of this work will be fluid and inclusive, it will be focused on the ward's largest estates of Angell Town, Loughborough and Moorlands as well as central Brixton.

Grant Criteria

For us to consider you for a grant, your organisation or community group must be based in (or near to) the Coldharbour Ward and/or must benefit residents of the ward. Your application must address the strategic objectives of the fund and you must demonstrate that your activities are focused on or relate to working with young people and/or families, especially in tackling youth violence.

You can apply if your organisation is a:

- Registered charity
- Constituted community group or club
- Community interest company (CIC)
- Company Limited by Guarantee (non-profit)
- Voluntary or Community Group – if you are not constituted, you need to apply through a Host that meets the above constituted forms.

You cannot apply if your (and partners) organisation/group is:

- Sole traders
 - Generating profits for private gain
- or
- you are an Individual

You must also meet the following criteria to apply:

- Be a Coldharbour based/operating organisation
- Your organisation has at least two unrelated people on the board or committee
- You are applying for an amount up to £2,500
- Your project will finish within 6 months
- Your spending starts within 12 weeks of a grant being issued
- You have a UK bank account in your organisation's name or your Host organisation's name
- You produce and can provide annual accounts, or if you are less than 18 months old and can provide draft accounts and a financial forecast.

Applicants will be required to hold (or work towards) and provide the following on offer of grant:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures
- Equal Opportunities & Diversity Policy and Procedures
- Constitution/Governing Document

What will the fund do?

The fund will provide micro grants to community/voluntary sector organisations to strengthen their ability to deliver meaningful youth crime/violence intervention activities, projects and services in the short term, which may include developing their thinking, resources and skills to expand on their current offer to young people. We would like to see small spending that can make a big difference and have a meaningful impact.

The VRU priority Outcomes and Ecosystem Impact

VRU Overarching Outcomes

1. Increased sustainability of community networks
2. Stronger Trust and Collaboration between Local Communities and Statutory Agencies

VRU Strategic Outcomes

1. Stronger Community Networks have a shared commitment to reducing violence
2. More inclusive decision making between local stakeholders, statutory agencies and community
3. Greater capacity within community led networks – what help is available and how to access it

Ecosystem Coldharbour Impact

Reduced Violence in the Coldharbour Ward Lambeth - historically affected by high and sustained levels of youth and gang violence

What projects are we looking for

We are looking for innovative projects that come from the community. We are particularly interested in projects that have been formulated or suggested/discussed by your community or residents. We are hoping to give grants to a variety of projects, for example, your project could be on skills building, employability, enterprise, aspirational, self-help or therapeutic work, etc. These listings are not exhaustive and should be viewed as examples.

Your activities should be focused on reducing youth violence. For example, training your volunteers to engage and work with young people and to motivate them.

If you have an idea that you feel could be developed into a project and need support in developing it, please email us to discuss it or book our 1-2-1 support session. You can also email us grow@ecosystemcoldharbour.org to book a session.

General Guidance

- This is our third and final round for the period 2021 – 2022, with grants ranging from £500-£2500. Please request only what you need to deliver your project
- The grants can cover the whole cost of your proposal or act as match funding within a larger proposal, however in the latter case the organisation must demonstrate that they have secured funding for the balance. Grants must be spent within a six month period maximum.
- An organisation can hold one successful grant per funding round and unsuccessful organisations/applications may apply again as early as the next open date.
- Single organisations may apply for a maximum of £2,500
- The minimum application amount is £500
- Successful applicants cannot apply for more than one project in the same funding round
- Big Local Impact and Ecosystem Coldharbour partners reserve the right to amend the application process, restrictions and/or guidelines for next open dates of the fund
- The panel's decision to award or not to award grants is final. Appeals will not be considered.

What cannot be funded

- Activities that have already taken place
- Payment for trustees or board members

- Payment to individuals running individual projects
- Activities that exclude people and do not meet the equality and diversity policies
- Activities that have a religious or political focus
- Activities that are the responsibility of Statutory Bodies
- Costs incurred in the application process or before we issue a grant
- Costs which someone else is already paying for, whether in cash or in kind
- Spending for projects outside of the designated area
- Spending not in alignment with the aims of the fund.

You can spend the money on

- Salaries of project workers, including on-costs, if applicable to the project
- Expenses of project staff and volunteers, including travel and subsistence
- Expenses for project venue or space hire and stationery
- Training of staff and volunteers working on the project
- Monitoring and evaluation of the project
- Marketing and publicity for the project.

If you are not sure of your spending, please clarify with Big Local Impact.

Grant Payments and Reporting

- There are stringent financial arrangements involved in the payment and spending of this fund. Ecosystem Coldharbour will require final project reports from grantees. Expenditure templates will be provided on award for your returns. If successful, you will be required to attend a workshop on reporting before the grant amount will be paid on grant award (up-front). *This might be too stringent for a small grant.*
- Supporting expenditure evidence is required, which may include payslips, invoices, bank statements, purchase receipts and so on. These must be stored securely for 3 years after the spend.
- Your monitoring and evaluation will help us demonstrate to the funder, VRU, the impact the grant had in the community and the difference it has made in young people's lives. Please ensure that you attend the Monitoring and Evaluation workshop to help your reporting.

Online Application

The online application form cannot be saved, so it is important that you prepare and save your application fully on your computer/software of choice for transfer to the online form. Please ensure that you allow enough time to transfer your answers to the online form in one session.

An example copy of the Application Questions can be found at the top of the online application. It is encouraged to familiarise yourself with the online form before completing.

Recorded Application

You can video record your response for Section 2 (questions 2.1-2.5). Please email the recording to Jedidah.onchere@biglocalimpact.org.uk before the deadline. You must keep your video response to 5 minutes maximum. Any information that goes over the specified time will not be considered. The format must be compatible with

You still need to complete and return the other sections (1, 3, 4, 5 and 6) of the application form by the due date.

Documents Required

Make sure you have in place the documents listed below. If you are successful, we will require them. If you do not have them in place, you can still apply. We will be able to help you produce/develop them.

- Constitution/Governing Document
- Annual Accounts for the last year
- If less than 18 months old - draft accounts and a financial forecast
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures
- Equal Opportunities & Diversity Policy and Procedures

Questions

For questions on the fund and application process please email:
Jedidah.onchere@biglocalimpact.org.uk

The Round three funding will continue our:

- a) Capacity Building programme for Grass Roots Organisations
- b) Building a new connected community network that is well informed.

Both the above elements are open to all organisations – whether successful or unsuccessful in being awarded funding, or those that have not applied for funding but meet our Coldharbour Ward criteria. We aim to improve the sustainability of reduction in youth violence through our networking and forming a local ecosystem. The groups and organisations can benefit from:

- Skills and confidence of grass roots groups
- Enhanced community decision making and problem-solving processes
- Common vision for the future
- Practical strategies for creating change and our community agenda
- Inclusive community participation
- Expanded leadership base
- Strengthening individual skills
- Creating effective community organisations and institutions
- Promoting resource sharing and utilisation by the community
- Decreasing risks – through changing communities, systems and environments in which youth people and families behave, thereby creating protective factors.

Thank you!