

Better Mental Health Grants Programme Round 2

Application guidance

Is your organisation a not-for-profit group working with people who have complex mental health needs in Hackney and/or the City of London? Funding is available for projects that will create lasting change for people with complex mental health needs.

£450,000 in grants is available, for approximately eight projects.

Please read this guidance and eligibility criteria carefully before you begin your application.

Is this the right funding for you?

Programme background

Evidence indicates that people already vulnerable to poor mental health are at increased risk of it worsening as a direct result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Public Health England's Beyond the Data report provides clear evidence that Londoners who were already experiencing poorer social, economic and health outcomes have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic: it has exposed, exacerbated and solidified existing inequalities in society and made some individuals and communities even more vulnerable than before. This funding is for projects that will create lasting change for people who live in Hackney or the City of London and who have complex mental health needs.

Funding is being distributed by Hackney Giving, then programme management will be handled by Mind in the City, Hackney and Waltham Forest.

Outcomes and expectations

Funding will be awarded for work to achieve the following outcomes:

- Make a significant difference to the mental health and wellbeing of residents with complex mental health needs
- Reduce inequality in access to mental health services

The greatest need often arises where there are issues of intersectionality. Therefore, in your project design, you are encouraged to take a whole-person approach to your proposed activities.

Common areas of concern that have been identified include:

- Cultural stigma and shame
- Experience of trauma
- Domestic violence
- Isolation
- A need for learning, volunteering and employment opportunities

This is not exhaustive; your project may address other areas of concern.

You can decide what activities you will do as part of your project to contribute to the outcomes listed above. You will need to describe what you will do in the application form.

Priority will be given to proposals that can demonstrate that the provision will have a long-lasting impact. In addition to the impact on individuals, your project may have an impact on their families or the wider community.

For the duration of the grant, all providers will benefit from being supported through the structure of the City and Hackney Wellbeing Network, which is run by Mind in the City, Hackney and Waltham Forest.

Funding available

The total available for distribution is £458,611, via approximately eight grants. Although there is no formal upper limit on how much you may apply for, please note that we do not envisage awarding any grant more than £80,000. Smaller projects that can make a lasting impact are also welcome.

Priority populations

This funding is part of a wider programme, developed by Public Health England (now the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities), which identified over 30 priority groups to consider when working to tackle mental health inequalities. Feedback from local partners via the VCS Assembly has highlighted eleven groups with comparatively high levels of mental health need, which are a priority for this funding:

- Refugee and migrant communities, especially those with no recourse to public funds and where there is additional complexity
- LGBTQi+, including LGBTQi+ migrants with mental health needs, the Trans community, domestic violence and the need for safe spaces.
- Families experiencing poverty
- Homeless people
- Older adults, especially those who are socially isolated
- Disabled people
- People with a learning disability
- People with long term conditions
- People who are digitally excluded
- African and Caribbean communities
- Other ethnic minority communities. Provision for other Middle Eastern, Eastern European and Latin American communities have been highlighted as gaps, although there are likely also others.
- Young People

This list of populations is not exhaustive and it is likely that there are other groups with high unmet needs relating to mental health. Therefore, proposals supporting the needs of other groups are also welcome. The Public Health Team, Mind and Hackney Giving recognise that the available funds will not be able to address all needs in Hackney and the City.

Eligibility and repeat applications

This funding is open to organisations that are not already part of the City and Hackney Wellbeing Network and did not receive funding through Better Mental Health Grants Programme Round 1 (also known as the Wellbeing Network Expansion).

To be eligible for a grant, your organisation must:

- Work in Hackney and/or the City of London
- Have a formal constitution or governing document
- Be constituted to be not-for-profit
- Have a turnover of under £300,000 in its last financial year
- Have at least two people on its Board of Trustees or Management Committee
- Not be in overall financial deficit
- Have a bank account, requiring at least two signatories
- Be able to declare that all bank account signatories are unrelated (by blood or marriage) and living at separate addresses

Your proposal must:

- Be for a project operating in Hackney and/or the City of London
- Not be for the benefit of a single individual

Applications are welcome from all eligible organisations.

Your proposed project should be additional to any work previously funded. This can include increasing your organisation's capacity so that you can do more of an activity that is already running, extending an activity that would otherwise finish or restarting provision that has ended, as well as proposing a wholly new activity.

Partnership working between organisations

Applications from consortia/ partnerships are welcome. The lead partner will accept the grant and manage the funding. A project can have only one lead partner but there can be more than one delivery partner.

The lead partner should be the organisation making the application and should be eligible according to the criteria above. All delivery partners should be formally constituted, not-for-profit groups with a turnover less than £300,000.

Project start and end dates

Projects can start from 1 September 2022. Projects must end by 30 June 2023.

It's up to you how long your project lasts within this timeframe, depending on what you want to do with the funding.

How to apply

Application process

The application form is in Microsoft Word format. A plain text version that is compatible with screen readers is available on request.

Please send your completed application form in .docx format via email to applications@hackneygiving.org.uk along with the supporting documentation detailed below. We are unable to accept postal copies of the form.

Please meet the application deadline (shown at the end of this document). In the interests of fairness, late applications cannot be considered.

Please note: If you have any technical difficulty with the form, in the first instance please contact us for advice. If you are short of time and cannot contact us to resolve the issue, please submit your answers to the questions in a plain text email. Be sure to answer all questions including those with tick boxes.

Supporting documentation

Please attach electronic copies of the following documents with your application:

- Your organisation's constitution
- Your organisation's most recent set of accounts or financial statement approved at your AGM
- Proof of the bank account that you will use to receive any grant from Hackney Giving
- Your organisation's equal opportunities policy
- Your organisation's safeguarding policy/ policies.

Help available to prepare your application

Hackney CVS is running several online "How to Apply" sessions. Please see the [Hackney Giving](#) website for details. These workshops will explain the programme in more detail and cover how to complete an application.

In addition, Hackney CVS Organisational Development specialists can give you one to one support on completing an application. To book a one to one support session, please go to:

<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/HackneyCVS@hcv.org.uk/bookings/>

Running a funded project

The application process for this funding is being undertaken by Hackney Giving. Subsequent programme management including issuing grant agreements, handling payments and project monitoring will be handled by Mind in the City, Hackney and Waltham Forest.

Welcome meeting

A welcome and on-boarding meeting will be held online in September 2022 for all funded projects.

Ongoing support

Mind in the City, Hackney and Waltham Forest will be on hand throughout the delivery period to offer support to providers and help to overcome any challenges with implementing funded projects.

All funded providers will be offered the opportunity to attend a 5-day mental health awareness training, to give skills and confidence in mental health support. This training will be hosted by Mind.

Reporting requirements for funded projects

Projects will be required to submit quarterly reports according to the following schedule:

- January 2023, covering the period from project start to 31 December 2022
- April 2023, covering the period from 1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023
- July 2023, covering the period from 1 April 2023 to 30 June 2023.

Each project will be asked to report on the numbers of service users (including by ethnicity, age, sex and disability status) and the numbers of staff working on the project.

In order to determine whether the funding has achieved its aims of mitigating mental health impacts arising from the pandemic, all providers will need to collect data on programme beneficiaries and their progress. Providers will be asked to use a wellbeing measurement tool (such as the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS), Patient Health Questionnaire 9 (PHQ9) or Generalised Anxiety Disorder Assessment (GAD7)) to monitor the impact of the projects on participants' mental health and wellbeing at the beginning and end of the project. If required, Mind can assist with selecting the most suitable tool for each project, as well as how to use it.

In addition, each project will have its own set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to report on, which will depend on the nature of the project. You will also be asked to write a summary of project progress.

Mind will provide training on how to use the monitoring spreadsheet and can offer support to complete it as required.

Further information: please read this carefully

Source of funding

This funding has been provided by London Borough of Hackney.

Excluded activities

Hackney Giving will not fund:

- Expenditure or activities that have already taken place. By this we mean that retrospective funding will not be awarded; applications may be for ongoing provision
- 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 are purely for the advancement of religion or politics

Hackney Giving does not make grants to individuals.

Data sharing

As part of the management of this programme, applications and monitoring information will be shared with colleagues from London Borough of Hackney and with Mind in the City, Hackney and Waltham Forest. Applications will also be shared with selected representatives of the Voluntary and Community Sector in their capacity as grants panel members.

And finally...

Application deadline

Applications must be received by **11am, 26 July 2022**.

In the interests of fairness, late applications cannot be considered.

Decision-making timescale

We expect to be able to let you know the outcome within five weeks of the application deadline.

We will let all applicants know the outcome of their application.

