

Eligibility Criteria and Funding Priorities

(Version 1A)

What is the Grassroots Grants programme?

The Grassroots Grants programme, funded by the Office of the Third Sector, is a key element of the Government's strategy to build stronger and more active communities by increasing small grant funding to community groups and making them more sustainable.

A huge range of organisations in the community sector plays a vital role in strengthening communities and bringing people together from different backgrounds and empowering them to achieve change in communities.

The Grassroots Grants programme is operated locally in the London Boroughs of Hammersmith and Fulham, Hounslow, Kingston, Merton, Richmond, Sutton and Wandsworth by the Thames Community Foundation (TCF).

For the purposes of Grassroots Grants, TCF is known as the "Local Funder".

There are other Local Funders for all top-tier local authorities in England.

The programme started in July 2008 and runs to March 2011.

Who can apply?

The purpose of the Grassroots Grants programme is to support small informal voluntary and community groups many of whom depend on volunteers. This may be the first grant for many of the groups that apply to Grassroots Grants.

To be eligible to apply to Thames Community Foundation, your group must:

- Be a small not-for-profit, third sector voluntary or community group, active in their local community for not less than twelve months before the date of your application.
- Be based in and providing services to residents and communities in one of the seven London Boroughs in the Fund Area.

- Have an evidenced income, as shown in the group's accounts, of no more than £30,000 per year taken as an average over the last three years (or over the life of the group if it is less than three years old).

Income means income from any source that is credited to your group's bank account and appears in your group's financial statements. Income will include, but will not be limited to, any of the following: membership fees, subscriptions, sponsorship, donations, grants received, payment received for goods or services (such as room hire) and interest earned. If in any doubt, please call Thames Community Foundation.

- Be volunteer-led
- Be connected with and/or meeting the needs of the local community
- Have a governing document (constitution or a set of rules) that has, as a minimum requirement, the name of the group, its aims/purpose, objects, a dissolution clause, a list of Trustees/Committee members and Trustees and Committee members' signatures and names of at least two unrelated cheque signatories.

Please note that you do **not** have to be a registered charity in order to apply.

Who can't apply

Sorry, but we won't be able to fund the following:

- Statutory organisations such as Local Authorities, schools or the Police
- Regional or local offices of a national organisation unless they are locally managed with their own constitution, bank account, fund-raising powers and management committee
- Arms-length public sector organisations that are controlled wholly or in part by, for example, a Local Authority or a Primary Care Trust or related agencies
- Any party political or religious activity
- Organisations that are for the sole benefit of animals or plants. Grassroots Grants are for the direct benefit of communities of people. This does not preclude City Farms or other groups and organisations that work with animals and/or the environment in order to benefit people.
- Commercial ventures
- Work which is not based in and directly benefiting residents and communities in one or more of the seven boroughs listed

- There are some restrictions on the types of activities that can be supported for Asylum Seeker Groups. This funding cannot be used for the provision of services to asylum seekers when those services are inconsistent with immigration laws or Home Office policy. For the purpose of this fund, an 'asylum seeker' means a person who has brought an asylum or human rights claim in the UK which has not yet been determined by either the Secretary of State, or, as applicable, any relevant appellate authorities. Further information can be found at <http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk>
- Projects which have already started or been completed. A grant is a payment in advance. Therefore you can't apply for funding to pay for costs and services that you have already bought, ordered, committed or provided before you have been awarded a Grassroots Grant.

What size grants are available?

Eligible groups can apply for a minimum grant of £250 and a maximum grant of £5,000.

The maximum available to any one group during the three year life of the programme is £5,000. This can be awarded as one or more separate grants over one or more years.

What will Grassroots Grants fund?

The grants available from this fund are intended to respond to needs of community organisations and can be used to fund a very wide range of activities.

Examples of what can be funded are:

- The purchase of equipment such as a computer, oven or furniture
- The costs of putting on a local event or workshop
- Staff costs to employ someone such as a supervisor or a co-ordinator
- Contribution to the cost of rent
- Cost of attending a conference or event
- Training for volunteers
- Expanding an existing project
- Activities that support local community activity
- Activities that meet needs in the local community
- Funding to support a group to achieve a quality or other standard relevant to their activities.

These are just a few examples of the many types of activity that can be funded. We expect that the priorities for Grassroots Grants will be led by the needs identified by local groups and local people.

Fund Area

Thames Community Foundation runs the Grassroots Grants programme in the London Boroughs of Hammersmith and Fulham, Hounslow, Kingston, Merton, Richmond, Sutton and Wandsworth.

Fund Themes

Given below are the key themes for Grassroots Grants in your area. Your project or activity should fit one of these themes. We've also given a small number of examples to give an idea of the types of projects that can be funded under each theme. If your idea isn't listed, don't worry. We still want to hear about it!

1. Personal and Economic Development

Projects that tackle: income poverty (e.g. through benefits advice): employability (e.g. through skills training)

2. Community Development

Projects that tackle: housing issues and homelessness (e.g. counselling, housing advice): environment (e.g. community recycling, murals, tidying up, providing community facilities such as benches): crime and safety (e.g. crime prevention, improvement of unsafe areas)

3. Community

Projects that: promote community integration (e.g. bridge-building, sharing culture or history, co-operation on common issues): encourage people to play an active part in making their neighbourhood a better place to live: increase the level of participation in governance and decision making.

4. Capacity Building

Projects that: promote volunteering and community engagement (e.g. increasing volunteer recruitment and volunteering opportunities): increase volunteer skills (e.g. training): encourage new voluntary groups (governance): develop management and development skills (fund raising, bookkeeping, evaluation, project management)

5. Youth

Projects that: cater for 0-11 year olds (e.g. play schemes, after school clubs): 12-19 year olds (e.g. youth clubs or similar including uniformed groups, drop outs from school, after school programmes, crime diversion): meet one or more of the Every Child Matters outcomes: engage with disaffected or alienated youth: provide constructive activities such as sport and exercise, music, crafts, drama; tackle addiction or other health issues among young people.

6. Health and Well-being

Projects that tackle sexual health issues (e.g. prevention, counselling and support): addiction/substance abuse (e.g. prevention, counselling and support): physical and learning disabilities (advice and advocacy, reduction in isolation, increasing access, tailored activities): mental health (advice and counselling, tailored activities): domestic abuse (support and counselling): older people (increase in social interaction via lunches, outings, exercise etc).

If you would like to apply for a Grassroots Grant.....

There are two Grassroots Grants application forms - one for grants up to £900 and one for grants of £901-£5,000. There is also a separate set of Guidance Notes for each size of grant. They are not interchangeable! Please make sure you have the relevant application form and Guidance Notes for the size of grant you want.

We strongly recommend that you read the Guidance Notes before and during completion of the application form. The Guidance Notes also contain details of closing dates for sending in applications.

Please contact Thames Community Foundation for an application pack.

Call: 020 8943 6039

E- mail: grassrootstcf@btconnect.com

or go to www.thamescommunityfoundation.org.uk where you will be able to download all relevant documents in order to apply to Grassroots Grants.

Registered office:

Thames Community Foundation
NPL Building 1 – Rooms 201-206
Hampton Road
Teddington
Middlesex
TW11 0LW

Company limited by guarantee
Company registration number 6251399
Registered Charity no: 1122432