



Tackling poverty in London since 1891

Funding guidelines 2007-11 (Consultation Draft)

About the Foundation

We are a charitable foundation which exists to benefit the poor of London. We are very aware of the significant problems caused by poverty and disadvantage in one of the wealthiest cities in the world and we believe this is an issue for the whole of society to address. We aim to enable and empower the poor of London to tackle poverty and its root causes, and to ensure that our funds reach those most in need.

We hope to achieve this by funding charitable work. We make grants through our open programme and we also fund special initiatives. We aim to develop supportive relationships with community and voluntary organisations we fund and to encourage the sharing of learning to influence change.

As an independent funder we are particularly interested in funding work which is viewed as challenging and we are willing to take risks. We also want to make sure that we are able to respond to new issues as they arise and examine creative ways of tackling deep-rooted problems relating to poverty.

These funding guidelines provide information about us, what we will and will not fund and how you can apply to us. We update our priorities every five years to ensure we are responding to the changing nature of poverty.

We work closely with our sister fund, the Trust for London, which supports small, new and emerging voluntary organisations. The Trust is operated by the same staff and trustees but has separate funding guidelines that are available from our offices. We recommend that you check carefully which fund is most appropriate to your organisation as you can only apply to one or the other.

Open Programme

For the next five years we have decided to become more focused by making fewer but larger grants over a longer period. Our expectation is that by doing this we will have more impact and are more likely to create lasting change. This means that we will not be able to support all work which tackles poverty, only those areas listed below.

Our open programme has five priority areas which aim:

1. To improve employment opportunities
2. To overcome financial exclusion
3. To promote the inclusion of recent arrivals to the UK
4. To promote social justice
5. To strengthen the voluntary and community sector

Each of the five priority areas are explained in detail on pages 5-9.

You may find it useful at this stage to look at the areas of work we will not support or are unlikely to support on page 10, to check whether the work you want us to fund is eligible.

Exceptional cases

We will also fund exceptional work which falls outside our open programme. Organisations will need to demonstrate how their work is genuinely exceptional and you are advised to speak to one of our members of staff if you wish to apply under this heading. Generally we will only make a few grants under this category each year.

Funding available

We are one of the largest independent charitable foundations in London. Each year we expect to make grants of over £5 million of which approximately £4 million will be allocated to the open programme. We expect to make between 90 to 100 grants each year through the open programme. There is no minimum or maximum size of grant and the amount you request should be the amount you need. However the average grant will be approximately £45,000, although some grants will be smaller and others will be larger. This amount may be spread

over one, two or three years. For example, £15,000 over three years or £25,000 in the first year and £20,000 in the second. We will not normally make grants that exceed £75,000. You may therefore need to apply to other funders to joint fund your proposal and we encourage you to apply to others.

We want to support long-term strategies of dealing with poverty and therefore organisations which have received funding may return for support for work which is particularly effective and continues to meet our criteria and priorities.

What we will fund

We fund registered charities, industrial and provident societies and friendly societies. We make grants towards work which meets our areas of work outlined on pages 5-9. This may be for a project or for core costs. This includes staff salaries and overheads. We usually encourage organisations to include a reasonable amount of core costs to cover their overheads when they apply for funding. Once we have made a grant we cannot increase it after the award has been made.

Special Initiatives

In addition to the open programme, we will also fund initiatives where we want to make a more strategic impact. These are developed in consultation with organisations and funders working in the areas of work we have identified as important. Examples of special initiatives we have previously undertaken include:

- Employability – an organisation established to work at a policy level to improve the employability of refugees and migrants.
- Count Us In – an initiative to increase the support provided to small disability organisations particularly those from black and minority ethnic communities and people with learning difficulties.
- Preventing Racist Violence Programme – to develop new and creative ways of tackling this issue.

These initiatives will be larger scale than our open programme and we expect to commit over £1 million each year to this work. We have already identified a number of areas we want to fund and will publicise these in due course as they develop.

In some instances we will commission an organisation to deliver a piece of work and in others we will invite applications from the wider sector. We are particularly interested in supporting new approaches to tackling the issues we have identified. More details of the work we are considering supporting are listed on page 11.

We will also develop some of these initiatives with other funders and we believe that there are many benefits in funders pooling their resources to gain greater insight and impact on a particular issue. An example of this is our current work with Bridge House Trust, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, John Lyons Trust and Wates Foundation in tackling the violent use of knives amongst young people.

Research

We occasionally fund research when it increases knowledge of the areas of work outlined in the open programme or of other aspects of poverty in London. We generally commission work and make this available on our website and through other means.

Updates

We highly recommend you visit our website before submitting your proposal. We will update our website on a regular basis outlining any changes made to these funding guidelines and detailing information on our special initiatives as they develop. The website also includes a full list of previous (including recent) grants we have made. The address is:
www.cityparochial.org.uk

Diversity

We want to make sure that our funds reach the people who need them most, especially those who are excluded and are particularly disadvantaged and discriminated against. Some of our work benefits all of those living in poverty and others areas of work are targeted at particular groups. This may include women, black and minority ethnic communities, asylum seekers and refugees, lesbians and gay men, disabled people, young men or poor white communities. We therefore welcome applications from these groups and others who can demonstrate that they are particularly affected by poverty. Please read each open programme area to check your proposal is targeting the groups we have prioritised.

Open Programme

Aim One: To improve employment opportunities

Paid work is one of the most important routes out of poverty. It is estimated that by 2016 there will be a net growth of over 600,000 jobs in the capital. We want to make sure people living in poverty benefit from this growth and are able to tap into the wider labour market, especially industries which are traditionally difficult for them to access.

However helping people into employment does not guarantee that they will no longer be living in poverty. Forty per cent of the households living in poverty have at least one person working. Work is not always a route out of poverty because some jobs are low paid. We believe that there will be little long-term impact if employment services are limited to just finding people jobs, shifting people from workless poor to working poor. Instead we are interested in supporting poor Londoners into rewarding and sustainable employment which provides them with a living wage and/or a stepping-stone in this direction.

Certain sections of the community are more likely to be unemployed or in low paid jobs – disabled people, black and minority ethnic communities (particularly those from Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Caribbean backgrounds), refugees and migrants (particularly from developing countries), women (particularly lone parents), older people, young people and people with no or few qualifications. Therefore, proposals to support these sections of the population are our target groups for this programme area. In addition we will particularly prioritise proposals targeting people who fit a number of these groups who are disadvantaged in several ways e.g. disabled people from black and minority ethnic communities who have no or few qualifications.

We will support a wide range of work aimed at our target groups under this programme area including:

- Employment-related advice and guidance
- Projects developing life skills and basic employability skills as a step to further training
- Schemes which encourage job retention (supported employment projects) particularly in relation to disabled people
- Support and advice by a second-tier organisation enabling the development of small social enterprises
- Work which allows employers to gain a better understanding of the needs of our target groups and results in barriers to employment being removed.

We will particularly support work which mainstream training and employment funders are unlikely to fund.

Aim Two: To overcome financial exclusion

We recognise that the lack of access to necessary financial services can lead to greater poverty and hardship. There are many issues which contribute to people being financially excluded such as difficulty in obtaining financial advice due to geographical or cultural reasons, lack of access to mainstream credit (and therefore dependence on high-cost lenders) lack of knowledge about financial products, and low levels of financial literacy.

We are also concerned about the growing level of personal debt, which in the UK has passed the £1 trillion mark, and we are therefore keen to support work which tackles this issue.

Groups particularly affected by financial exclusion tend to be those on low incomes and this is our target group for this programme area. We will prioritise geographical areas and groups of people who are the hardest to reach and who have been neglected by mainstream financial services such as banks and building societies.

We also want to support work which empowers users of services so that they feel more confident in dealing with their own financial issues in the future therefore avoiding dependency.

We will support a wide range of work under this programme area including:

- Money advice schemes
- Financial literacy projects
- Benefits maximisation programmes
- Financial exclusion work undertaken by community development finance institutions, including credit unions.

We will particularly support work which provides new and creative approaches to dealing with this issue.

Aim three: To promote the inclusion of recent arrivals to the UK

London is an international city attracting people from across the globe. Nearly 30 per cent of Londoners were born outside of the UK. There are sections of the London economy which rely on the input of migrants, including the NHS, public transport, and the catering and office cleaning sectors. For some the main motive for coming to the UK is economic and for others it is because they are fleeing persecution and violence. We are keen to support recent arrivals to the UK who are disadvantaged and settle in London.

This includes asylum seekers, failed asylum applicants who cannot be returned to their country of origin, refugees, migrant workers (particularly from developing countries) and undocumented migrants. We will prioritise groups of people who are particularly vulnerable to poverty, discrimination, isolation and exploitation, are at the margins of society, and find themselves outside mainstream systems of social protection.

We will support work which provides help to these groups of people in the initial phase of their arrival so that they can gain a better understanding of UK systems and to assist with their immediate needs to improve their quality of life. However we are unlikely to support work which helps individuals with material needs such as provision of clothing and food.

We will support a wide range of work under this programme area including:

- Linking individuals into services. For example outreach work to asylum seekers in hostels or undocumented migrants who are being exploited
- Activities supporting mental health such as counselling
- Immigration advice at a specialist level.

Aim four: To promote social justice

Although there is a need to fund direct services, charitable trusts on their own do not have the resources to make significant inroads. Government spends vastly larger resources than charitable trusts, and can tackle the causes of poverty, not just alleviate its effects. There is therefore a need to influence government if more fundamental change is to occur in relation to tackling poverty. And not just government, but other institutions such as the media and the general public as well. We want a better understanding and stronger commitment from society as whole in prioritising some of the issues we have identified.

We also believe that there is more to charitable work than just providing public services and delivering contracts. We are concerned that a concentration solely on the latter type of activity could lead to the sector becoming neutralized in the interests of financial survival.

We want to tackle these two issues by funding policy change and campaigning work. Through this work we hope to deal with some of the underlying causes relating to poverty.

We are particularly interested in campaigning and policy change work which

- gives a voice to excluded communities
- brings first hand experience of poverty to opinion formers and policy makers
- links policy groups/think tanks to grass-roots groups to strengthen their voices. Many of the latter are unable to take up issues because of pressure to deliver direct services and lack the resources and skills to undertake this work, but they have a strong evidence base which could be used to affect change. We will support policy groups working on particular issues to work with these groups in a supportive way.

We will fund policy change and campaigning work which tackles the first three areas of our open programme:

- To improve employment opportunities
On issues such as low pay, 'living wage' schemes, and tackling discrimination in the workplace.
- To overcome financial exclusion
On issues such as the Social Fund, pensions, debt, welfare benefits and excessive lending charges.
- To promote the inclusion of recent arrivals to the UK
On issues such as the exploitation of migrant workers, the detention of asylum seekers, the needs of destitute asylum seekers.

We will also consider funding policy change and campaigning work on other issues related to poverty and discrimination. For example on prisons, traveller's rights, homophobia, and civil liberties. This list is not exhaustive.

The work we fund under this category is very broad but you need to ensure it complies with the Charity Commission's guidelines on campaigning and political activities by charities. Please check their website for further details.

Aim five: To strengthen the voluntary and community sector

We are aware that in order to deliver our aims that London needs to have a strong and diverse voluntary and community sector. We will therefore fund infrastructure, networking and second-tier organisations which can help groups to improve their skills to deliver their work and to respond to the changing needs of the sector. This may include support with governance issues, finance, staffing or campaigning.

We are aware that there are a large number of infrastructure support bodies in the capital and we cannot fund all of them. We will give priority to organisations providing support to groups working in our open programme fields listed on pages 5 to 8. We will also give priority to organisations providing good quality, ongoing and specialist support to groups.

Proposals we consider will need to demonstrate that they have a strong fit with local and/or regional infrastructure development plans.

In some cases we will commission an organisation to deliver training and advice to some of the organisations we are funding.

Approximately ten per cent of our open programme funding will be used under this aim.

Prioritising Applications

We receive many more proposals than we are able to fund. In addition to the priority areas of work listed in the open programme on pages 5-9 we will give additional weight to proposals which can demonstrate the following in relation to the work organisations are seeking funding for:

- has the potential to have significant influence including a wide and lasting impact on policy
 - is difficult to get support for because it is perceived as being challenging or risky
 - targets people and geographical areas most severely affected by poverty and discrimination – this may include pockets of poverty within relatively well-off areas
 - develops new and imaginative ways of tackling an issue
 - involves and consults users in all aspects of the organisation
 - is accessible and targets those who are the hardest to reach
 - shares best practice and learning
 - involves working jointly with others, where it is appropriate
 - the organisation has the skills, experience and capacity to undertake the proposed work and the work is of a high quality.
- **You do not need to meet all of the above but we will prioritise organisations who meet a number of them.**

Non-priority areas

We have limited funding available to distribute and we therefore cannot fund everything. Below are some areas of work we will not support or are unlikely to support.

We will not support proposals

- which do not have a direct benefit to Londoners
- that directly replace or subsidise statutory funding (including contracts)
- that are the responsibility of statutory funders
- from individuals or for the benefit of one individual
- for mainstream educational activity including schools
- for medical research including hospitals and hospices
- for the promotion of religion
- for holidays and respite care
- for endowment funds or to grant making bodies seeking to distribute grants on our behalf
- for work that has already taken place
- that are part of general appeals
- for animal welfare
- for large capital appeals (including buildings and minibuses)
- from applicants who have been rejected by us within the last twelve months
- from groups currently in receipt of funding from our sister fund the Trust for London.

We are unlikely to support proposals

- from organisations based outside of London
- for festivals, sports and leisure activities
- from large national charities which enjoy widespread support
- for children's work including pre-school groups and after school clubs
- for general youth work
- for work that benefits schools during school hours
- where organisations have significant unrestricted reserves (including those that are designated)
- where organisations are in serious financial deficit.

Special Initiatives

As outlined on page three, in addition to the open programme, we will also fund initiatives where we want to make a more strategic impact. In some instances we will commission an organisation to deliver a piece of work and in others we will invite applications from the wider sector. We are particularly interested in supporting new approaches in tackling the issues we have identified.

These initiatives will be larger scale than our open programme and we expect to commit over £1 million each year to this work. We have already identified a number of areas we want to fund and will publicise these in due course as they develop. If you want to know more about any of these please contact us.

Some initiatives we may develop over the next five years include:

Trafficking of people

2007 will be the bicentenary year since Britain abolished the slave trade. However people are still being sold and moved across the globe against their will. Many end up in London and face severe exploitation. They could be forced into the sex trade or forms of cheap labour. We want to tackle this exploitation by assisting these individuals in a supportive way and to examine some of the policy issues relating to trafficking.

Older people

Although London has the lowest ratio of older people in England and Wales, we are aware that there are significant unmet needs regarding this population. Many face isolation and a high number live in poverty. We are interested in integrating hard-to-reach elders, particularly from black and minority ethnic communities, refugees, and lesbians and gay men, into established mainstream support networks and social activities. We are also interested in services for older carers from these target groups.

Hate Crime

We want to continue working in this field even though it will no longer form part of our open programme. In 2006 we are planning to commit £1 million to develop two special initiatives which will continue during part of this funding cycle (2007-11). These will focus on domestic violence advocacy and preventing racist violence. From this work we will consider what further gaps there are in this field and develop further work.

Young People

Since we started our work in 1891, young people have been a priority group for us. We will develop work which helps young people to reach their potential. This may include a focus on developing young people's leadership skills and work that promotes human rights and citizenship.

London Olympics

In 2012 London will be hosting the Olympic games. This is the largest event the capital will have staged. We want to make sure the poorest sections of London benefit, though our focus here is not in involving people in participating in the Olympic sports events. Rather we are interested in the economic gains generated by the games and the long-term benefits for the capital.

Social Cohesion

There has been a growing concern in recent years about divisions in society and on the need to promote greater contact between communities. We recognise that there are many aspects to this work and that voluntary and community organisations have an important role to play in building stronger social cohesion. The potential benefits of bringing different communities and age groups together are significant such as helping to reduce community tensions, reducing crime particularly hate crime, and encouraging a greater interest in the neighbourhoods in which people live.