

# Inspiring Communities Fund Application Guidance Notes

## Key points to note:

This is a special round of the Inspiring Communities Fund to support estate based groups to deliver activities that support residents during what is a very difficult time for all. Any proposed activities must comply with government guidelines around social distancing.

The projects we are looking to fund should not duplicate support that is already in place from THH via our community partners or from the council, unless there are exceptional reasons.

Outlined below is the support that is currently available from THH and the council:

### **Support from THH**

#### **Financial Advice & Support**

While the doors to the Financial Health Centre are closed, we know many residents are facing financial difficulties more than ever; we have advisors available over the phone and email every weekday. Advisors can help with debt, benefits, help with utility bills, accessing food, hardship fund or other money advice,

If you know anyone needing help they can call us on 0207 364 2200 or email at [fhc@thh.org.uk](mailto:fhc@thh.org.uk) and they will connect you to a relevant advisor.

#### **Support for elderly and vulnerable residents:**

Working with 3 community partner organisations, we have set-up 3 Community Support Hubs to provide support for our most vulnerable and elderly residents during these extraordinary times. The 3 hubs and the postcode areas they cover are listed below:

E14 & E1W Hub - Neighbours in Poplar

E1 Hub – Darul Ummah

E2 & E3 Hub – St Hilda’s Community Centre & East London Cares

All 3 hubs offer elderly and vulnerable residents 4 things:

1. Regular phone calls to check on welfare and provide befriending
2. Emergency home visits (with safeguards in place)
3. Essential shopping and medication pick-up
4. Cook and deliver meals (3 times a week).

If you know a resident who is elderly and lives on their own, please email us at [community.partnerships@thh.org.uk](mailto:community.partnerships@thh.org.uk) and we will make sure that support is provided to them via one of the partners.

#### **Support from LBTH**

We are also working closely with the council on the support programme, and the council has a range of different programmes to support residents through this difficult period.

As well as those who are elderly or vulnerable, there is also a range of other support for those in poverty, such as free school meals, hardship fund as well as support for those self-isolating. All this information can be found on the council website: [https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ignl/health\\_social\\_care/health\\_and\\_medical\\_advice/Coronavirus/Contact\\_us\\_for\\_help/Contact\\_us\\_for\\_help.aspx](https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ignl/health_social_care/health_and_medical_advice/Coronavirus/Contact_us_for_help/Contact_us_for_help.aspx)

## **General Guidance**

- The maximum grant available is £5,000, although we expect most applications to be for much lower amounts. The average size of grants that we gave last year was £1,050. The full amount is only awarded in exceptional cases.
- This will be a rolling funding round, with no set deadline. Applications are open from now till 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020 and will be assessed on an ongoing basis. We will assess and evaluate fully complete applications within 15 working days of receipt of applications and let you know of the outcome.
- Organisations with a turnover greater than £100,000 will not be eligible to apply for the Inspiring Communities Fund. Instead, you may want to consider partnering with a local resident group. Details of these can be found [here](#).
- Conversely, if you are a resident group and wish to work in partnership with a local organisation, some suggestions can be found [here](#).
- You must make it clear how you will ensure that the majority of project beneficiaries will be THH residents.
- You must have returned your evaluation forms and followed THH's other monitoring requirements for any previous Inspiring Communities Funded projects. If you do not return the evaluation form within four weeks of the project being completed, you also risk THH recalling the money. If you need support to complete the evaluation form, then please contact [community.partnerships@thh.org.uk](mailto:community.partnerships@thh.org.uk).
- THH will not fund any projects which are not inclusive (i.e. faith based projects which are not open to people from any faith or none).
- THH will not pay staffing costs, with the exception of hiring a trained professional for, e.g. an exercise class. The trained professional must not be the applicant or part of the applicant group.
- For volunteer costs, THH will only fund travel and food expenses where necessary. If all volunteers are local to the estate and the event or activity does not span a period of more than 4 hours, volunteer costs may not be funded.
- For an idea of the types of projects that have received funding in the past, please refer to [this document](#).

### **Section 1 – About you**

1. Tell us where your application is coming from: are you applying as a recognised Tenants and Residents Association, a community group or as an individual resident?

Please note that an individual resident will need a partner group to administer the grant.

2. If you are applying as a Tenants and Residents Association or community group, please provide a copy of your signed Constitution.

3. Complete the contact details of the person organising the project. Please ensure you provide an email address and phone number that is regularly in use.

## Section 2 – About the Project

4. Please give us a short title for the project or activity. Try to make it unique to your project.
5. Provide specific information about the project or activity. Include as much detail as you can to help the panel make an informed decision.
6. Provide evidence for why the project is needed, such as the results of any consultation with other residents or observations about the lack of current opportunities for certain groups.
7. Outline the expected results or changes to where you live, your neighbourhood or the community. Please be specific: *for example, 20 more children aged 9-12 years old from Bethnal Green will have improved reading/English as a result of attending after school classes for 6 months.*
8. It is important that we know THH residents will benefit from the funding. Please estimate the number of THH residents who will take part and outline how you will promote the project to them.
9. When do you hope to start the project and how long do you think it will last? Your project must take place within the same financial year (April-March) as the funding was received.
10. How will you let us know how well it went? THH has a project evaluation form which you will be required to complete. A case study is required so you are advised to identify someone early on. You must also provide receipts for the entirety of the project and give details about participants.
11. Please ensure your project is in line with the NHS guidelines on covid 19. Please refer to the website - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Please make sure you are liaising with a Community Partnerships Officer ([community.partnerships@thh.org.uk](mailto:community.partnerships@thh.org.uk)) who can go through the evaluation form with you if you are awarded a grant.

12. Please tick all of the groups that will benefit from the project.

## Section 3 – About the Funding

12. What is the budgeted cost of delivering the project? Please provide a breakdown of the full cost of the project and how much funding you require.

*The following is an example of a budgeted item:*

*Entertainment: 20 acts @ £50 each per set = £1,000*

You may need to budget for insurance to cover your activity or event. For more information, take a look at <http://www.streetparty.org.uk/insurance.aspx/> or contact [community.partnerships@thh.org.uk](mailto:community.partnerships@thh.org.uk).

As far as you can, please be specific about the breakdown of costs, and give as precise an estimate as you can for any unknowns.

**13.** Have you got any funding from elsewhere? Please give details.

If the total cost exceeds £5,000, please highlight what item(s) you require the Inspiring Communities Fund to pay for.

#### **Section 4 – Additional Information and Declaration**

**14.** Is there anything else you would like to say about your project?

**15.** Whether you are an individual or a community group, you will need to provide details of at least three THH residents who can support your application and who will be actively involved in the project.

**16.** Please provide the correct bank details of a formally constituted group and sign and date the form. Without this information, the application form cannot be processed.

**17-19.** If you are an individual resident applying for this funding, then you will need to provide the details of a recognised Tower Hamlets Homes Tenant and Residents' Association which will support your application.

They will need to agree to act as a sponsor organisation for your project and agree to receive the funding on your behalf, helping you to spend and account for the money as required by Tower Hamlets Homes, using their own financial and monitoring systems.

If you require help in finding a sponsor organisation then we will be happy to help. Please contact [community.partnerships@thh.org.uk](mailto:community.partnerships@thh.org.uk).

**20.** Please sign and date the application.

#### **Risk Assessment**

In order to ensure the health and safety of people taking part in events or activities we require groups to complete and submit a risk assessment which tells us that you are committed to Tower Hamlets Homes recommended safe working guidelines. This also includes matters related to child protection: a condition of funding is that volunteers working with children or vulnerable people must have an up to date DBS check. It is your organisation's responsibility to arrange and manage these checks.

Groups have an obligation to ensure participants and workers are in a safe environment. The types of safety measures your group should have will be dependent on the type of people you engage with, the types of activities that you do and so forth. For example, checking the venue is safe and has a food hygiene certificate, making sure that you have a first aid kit and first aid trained organiser at your event, making sure that you have any necessary insurance cover, etc.

The risk attachment attached to the application is an example form. You can attach your own risk assessment form if you wish.

Think about the potential risks in running the project, what their potential outcomes might be, and how likely they are to happen. Then consider what could be done to reduce this risk.

For example:

Potential risk	Potential outcome	Assessment of risk	Actions to reduce risk
Not attracting participants	Low attendance; project will not meet aim of bringing people together	Low risk	Resident consultation on activities, widespread publicity

### CHECKLIST items

The items in the checklist must be submitted with your application. Failure to include any document will cause your application to be incomplete. These are:

- Latest available audited accounts
- Constitution, Terms of reference, Memorandum of Association
- A signed declaration form
- A risk assessment for your project
- A signed application declaration and bank details

### Support with your application

We hope that this guidance note will help you complete your application. However, if you need any additional help or have any questions please contact us:

**Tel:** 020 7364 6911

**Email:** [community.partnerships@thh.org.uk](mailto:community.partnerships@thh.org.uk)