

# Grant opportunity: Funding differently – Neighbourhood Health Grants Inclusive, unrestricted and light touch (Closing date: 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023)

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## Welcome

Community Southwark, Partnership Southwark and United St Saviour's Charity have worked with VCS groups, the statutory sector, and funders to develop a grant process that aims to break down barriers to funding that VCS organisation experience in Southwark as highlighted in Community Southwark's recent [state of the sector research](#).

This grant opportunity seeks to reduce health inequalities at a targeted neighbourhood level through strengthening small, local VCS groups.

## Funding differently – inclusive, unrestricted and light-touch

This grant is a pilot with VCS groups involved in the decision-making process about how funds are distributed. It is a learning opportunity for all involved and following the first round of funding, there will be opportunities to look at the learning and further develop the pilot for the second round of funding.

## Eligibility criteria

In refining criteria, we have focused on the most deprived areas of Southwark and those that are most likely to be further impacted by the cost-of-living crisis. The intention is to direct funding to where it is most needed. You can see the data [here](#). It also recognises that funding challenges disproportionately affects smaller groups which don't have sufficient capacity or existing relationships with funders.

To apply you need to be/have:

- A not-for-profit organisation operating in Southwark and supporting people in at least 1 of the following wards: Camberwell Green, Faraday, Old Kent Road, Nunhead and Queen's Road, Peckham.
- An annual income of £50,000 or less.
- A group that supports people with disabilities and/or mental health needs. This can be preventative work and doesn't have to be the main focus of an organisation's work.
- Your organisation will need to confirm they have the following: **A safeguarding policy, constitution, a bank account in the name of your organisation.**

## Other information:

- There is a pot of £100,000 available for VCS groups in the financial year 2023/2024.
- There will be two rounds of funding distribution in the financial year 2023/24. The first will distribute **£5,000 to 10 groups - £50,000 in total.**
- Funds granted will be on an unrestricted basis to fund whatever the organisation needs, including core/overhead costs. Grant applicants do not need to detail how they intend to use the funds when they apply.
- There is no timescale for funds to be used but we'd like to be able to report on its impact by March 2024. This does not mean grantees should spend all the funds by then but it would be helpful if grantees had an idea of how they might use the funds and/or what impact they think they might have.
- Groups who are successful with receiving funding do not have to complete a monitoring report.
- If a group is not successful in the 1st round, they can apply in the 2nd round.
- We would expect that groups submit one application only in each round.
- If your group does not have the required documentation (A safeguarding policy, constitution, bank account) Community Southwark can help you get these documents ready for future funding rounds. Please contact Katherine de Kretser – [katherine@communitysouthwark.org](mailto:katherine@communitysouthwark.org).

## Timeline:

<b>First Round</b>	<b>£5,000 to 10 groups</b>
Applications open – 6 weeks to apply	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2023
Applications close	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2023
VCS panel meeting (if needed)	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2023
Final 20 VCS groups agree how funding distributed	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2023
<b>Second Round</b>	<b>£5,000 to 10 groups (may be amended)</b>
Applications open	Early November 2023 (may be adapted based on learning from 1 <sup>st</sup> round)

## Applying for a grant:

You'll need to apply for a grant online here:

<https://ustsc.flexigrant.com/startapplication.aspx?id=11723>

The online form will ask you to confirm your eligibility. Once you have confirmed you are eligible, you will need to answer the following question:

### Why should funding be provided to your organisation?

- You can submit your response via a written document or a video recording. Please choose one format.
- Those reviewing your submission will score your response based on the following:
  - 1) How does your work make a difference to the community?
    - 1 – No difference shown, 5 – significant difference shown
  - 2) How will the funding help you to survive, adapt and/or thrive?
    - 1 – no help indicated, 5 – significant help
- If you like, you can add a case study (an example of your work or of someone who has benefitted from your work) to help answer these questions.
- You may want to consider the following when answering the question: The purpose of your organisation, the activities or projects your organisation has delivered, how you help residents in Southwark, your future plans.
- You do not need to use the funding for a specific project and it can support core costs or running costs. You do not need to explain how you will use the funding in your response to the question. The intention is for this funding to be flexible and meet the needs of your organisation as you see fit.

### Guidance for written document

- There is a 500 word limit but you can write less than this. The important thing is not the word count but that you answer the question clearly and concisely.

### Guidance for video

- Your video submission does not have to be professionally made. It can be a video recorded on a smartphone. There is no time limit but we suggest the video should be no longer than 2-3 minutes.

## Decision-making

VCS groups who helped design the grant pilot made it very clear that VCS groups should be involved with decision-making and also stated that they wanted the decision-making process and criteria available at grant application stage and to be clear and transparent.

### Stage 1 – if required

- If more than 20 groups apply, Community Southwark will create and facilitate a decision-making panel consisting of 5 VCS representatives from Southwark-based organisations who are independent of those who have applied.
- Community Southwark will do an open call-out to organisations who are Community Southwark members. Our members are all not-for-profits operating in Southwark.
- Panel selection will mostly be on a first come, first served basis but will also ensure geographical representation and organisations representing different areas of work. Panel representatives cannot be from an organisation that has made an application. The panel will be chosen by the 'Funding Differently' working group which consists of representatives from Community Southwark, Partnership Southwark and United St Saviour's Charity. We will be open and transparent as to how representatives are selected.
- The panel will select the top 20 applications according to the following criteria and graded 1-5

How does your work make a difference to the community?

1 – No difference shown, 5 – significant difference shown

How will the funding help you to survive, adapt and/or thrive?

1 – no help indicated, 5 – significant help

- Scores will then be added up for each group and the top 20 will go forward to the next round.

### Stage 2

#### Decision – making – top 20

- The 20 groups will receive the final 20 applications via email and be asked to review each application apart from their own and submit their scorings and feedback electronically.
- Each organisation will grade each other's submissions according to the same criteria as the panel (stage1).

## Feedback

- Feedback will be collected and shared with groups at both stages so that groups who have applied can also learn about what makes a good application and how to improve (if needed) in the future.
- We will aim to let groups know whether they have been successful or not at both stages within 1 week. Depending on the number of groups who apply, providing further feedback may take a little longer but we will endeavour to share this as early as possible.

## Payment for VCS engagement

We recognise that VCS time is valuable and the skills and experience of VCS representatives should not be undervalued. Therefore, we will pay for VCS engagement in the grants process as we have also done when planning this pilot project.

- A payment of £400 will be made to VCS representatives (to their organisation) involved in the first stage of decision-making.
- A payment of £100 will be made to VCS organisations involved in the second round of decision making.

## Support from Community Southwark

We will support groups if they want advice on their safeguarding policy, constitution or bank account.

We will also advise about the grant application process, if groups have particular questions. To make the process fair, however, we will not help groups write their application.

Please contact [Katherine@communitysouthwark.org](mailto:Katherine@communitysouthwark.org) for more information.

## Monitoring and measuring impact

- VCS groups who are successful in receiving funding will not be required to submit a monitoring report.
- Community Southwark, United St Saviour's Charity and Partnership Southwark will collect information on the impact of the grant and the process itself through in-person visits and phone calls.
- We will seek to understand how the funding has helped, collect case studies where appropriate and get feedback on groups' experiences on being part of the project – what worked well, what could be better.
- A reflection session including all groups involved in the process after the first round will be organised to share learning and help develop the process for the 2nd round.
- Information collected will be collated into a learning report to show the impact of this type of grant funding.