

The Make It Happen Fund

Funding guidelines

About

The Make It Happen fund is a small grants scheme for Islington residents that offers funding up to a maximum of £500 for people to act on things they care about locally. The purpose of the fund is to bring people together and do something that makes them feel proud of where they live.

Social housing landlords Peabody, Hyde, Clarion and Southern Housing Group alongside Islington Giving and other local voluntary organisations in Islington decided to work together with communities to build individual and community resilience and support innovation. We know that people can find grants hard to apply for or don't know who to ask for help. Sometimes our processes can be a bit complicated or slow. The Make It Happen resident's fund aims to help overcome these challenges.

Aims

Projects must align with one of the following aims:

- **Healthy** – helping people with their physical and mental wellbeing
- **Happy** – helping people make the most out of their lives through active citizenship, volunteering and community involvement
- **Connected** – bringing people together making them the heart of the community

Grant size

Grants are for a maximum of £500. You will have **3 months** to begin spending your grant and **6 months** to complete the project. We will also ask you to:

- explain how you plan to keep everyone doing the activity safe (we can help you with this)
- share what you've achieved – for example through pictures or asking people what they think about the project

What we are looking for – our criteria

Your project should meet at least one of the three aims stated above while supporting local people to act on the things they care about.

- The people who benefit must live in Islington
- Projects must be free or offered at a significant subsidy

- You need to show how the project supports the wider community. For example, if you want to buy gardening equipment it should be available for others to use, such as a local gardening club
- Applications can be made by local community groups without paid staff (such as tenants and residents associations, parent-teacher associations, mutual aid groups or friends of parks groups) or groups of three or more residents who will work together to run a project or event. All residents named in the application and/or management committee members or Directors must be **unrelated**
- **Individuals will be supported by an established voluntary or community sector organisation, who will hold the grant on your behalf – if you are not in contact with a local group that could do this for you then we will try to help you find one**
- We cannot fund groups and organisations with an annual income of more than £50,000

We have limited funds but we will try to fund your project if it meets our criteria and our aims of helping people to lead happy, healthy and more connected lives. Some examples include:

- Activities that bring the community together – this could be your neighbours or another community such as people that enjoy playing music together.
- Projects that seek to improve health and wellbeing – this could be anything from a keep-fit class to a workshop on managing stress to a knitting club aimed at helping people relax.
- Something that explores what's important to you and your community – this could be developing an art project to be displayed where you live, an open day to introduce children to nature or a summer party in your communal garden.

Previous applications

We can't accept applications from groups or individuals who are still running their projects from an earlier application or if you applied in the previous Make It Happen funding round (November 2023). You can apply again if you had funding before this, your project is complete and you have sent us some feedback on how it went.

How to apply

Apply through a word application form available to download from here <https://islingtongiving.org.uk/make-it-happen-fund>

If you have any questions before you apply, you don't have internet access, would like to discuss your idea before making an application or are interested in submitting your application in an alternative format, for example a video or audio file, then please contact Islington Giving on **020 7288 6948** or email us at patrick.jones@cripplegate.org.uk

Islington Giving and local voluntary sector organisations can support you through the application process, and during the delivery of your project. This support could include:

- developing your idea
- buying items
- recruiting and working with volunteers
- promoting your project to other residents
- monitoring your project
- applying for future funding

Timeline

Monday 20th May, 10am: Deadline for applying – **this is the last day you can apply!**

By the end of May, we will let you know if your application has been successful

November 2024: you will have spent your grant by now and will share how it went with us.

If you miss the May deadline, we will have a second round of funding for winter projects, with a closing date of 21st October 2024 and you can apply at any time.