



The Merton Giving Fund Guidance and Criteria

Introduction

Merton Giving is a charitable venture improving lives in the London Borough of Merton.

Based on the notion that everybody has something to give, no matter how small, Merton Giving provides the opportunity for you, your business or organisations, to give money or in-kind support, including time and skills, to help local people and make a positive difference to their lives. Merton Giving is part of a growing movement across London **helping to address inequality -** (<http://www.londongiving.org.uk/>)

We champion the work of charities that work tirelessly to solve issues such as poverty, exclusion, loneliness and mental health by partnering with businesses, community groups and individuals.

What we do

Shine a light

We raise awareness of the issues which exist and affect our Borough; making local people aware of local issues.

The Merton Giving Fund

We fundraise to build the Merton Giving Fund and distribute funds to provide financial support to charities and not-for-profit organisations that help local people.

The Merton Giving Fund is administered by Merton Voluntary Service Council (MVSC).



Our **Small Grants Programme** makes **award of between £500 and £-1,500** to local charities and not-for-profit organisations. The total of the Fund for this round of funding is £20,000.

As the Fund grows, we plan to award larger grants in future rounds.

Who can apply

Before you consider applying for a grant, you need to be sure that your organisation and your project are eligible for a Small Grant Award.

The Merton Giving Fund Grants programme will only fund not-for-profit, voluntary, community & faith organisations, based in or delivering services in Merton. We will not fund individuals, sole traders or organisations established to make a profit.

This round of the Fund will support the delivery of projects that **address one or more of the priorities** outlined below. The fund will not support day to day organisational running costs.

- Priority will be given to small organisations (with an income of under £75,000 per annum) and not currently receiving other funding from the Merton Giving Fund;
 - organisations must be delivering services that generate a quantifiable benefit to Merton residents;
 - organisations must operate in accordance with the principles of the Merton Compact to provide quality services to the people of Merton and recognising that there is added value in working in partnership towards common aims and objectives.

- **The priority for this round of funding is to support projects that seek to address one or more of the following themes;**
 1. **Developing Our Future Generation** – Grassroots community initiatives to positively engage with diverse groups of young people to promote active citizenship and a reduction in negative lifestyles and behaviours.
 2. **Build Healthier Communities** – A focus on preventative services and/or activities that address key issues of health inequalities in the borough, including those between East and West Merton.



- 3. Connecting our Communities** – projects that deliver services and/or activities that bring neighbourhoods and communities together and strengthen and promote community cohesion and social capital.

We are looking for your own ideas for services and projects that meet the above priorities. Therefore, the following examples are not exhaustive:

- **Developing Our Future Generations - provision** of a sport or performing arts activities, mentoring, information, advice and guidance services, gang intervention programmes, personal and career development and support, STEM initiatives.
- **Building Healthier Communities** – Services and activities to improve people’s health and wellbeing, for example exercise sessions for older adults, walking group, activities that address social isolations, etc.
- **Connecting Our Communities** – Community events, family and inter-generational activities, street parties that connect the diverse residents living in a particular neighbourhood,

The following links takes you to borough data that you may find helpful in supporting your evidence of need when completing your application:

<https://data.merton.gov.uk/>

<https://www2.merton.gov.uk/health-social-care/publichealth/jsna/ward-health-profiles.htm>

https://www2.merton.gov.uk/Merton%20Story%20FINAL_June_2018.pdf

Decision making, deadlines and closing dates

All applications will be assessed and decisions made by a grants panel using a score sheet.

Timetable for applications:

- Fund Launched: **Monday 13th May 2019**
- Submission deadline: **Midday(Noon), Monday 1st July 2019**
- Panel meeting: **week commencing 1st July 2019**
- Decisions announced: **week commencing 8th July 2019.**