



Camden Resilience Fund 2024

A handy guide to applying to funding for VCS organisations

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Introducing the Resilience Fund

[We Make Camden](#) is our refreshed vision for the future of Camden. It sets out what we want to collectively achieve and lead together, and was developed following conversations with residents, partners and community leaders.

We Make Camden highlights the big issues facing Camden that we all agree are important, alongside practical ways we can make change together – it reflects how we need to work together, and how the people and institutions of Camden make it the special place that it is.

The Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) have long played a critical role in Camden with a rich history of tackling some of the most pressing issues facing the borough.

Camden is home to more than 2,000 VCS organisations ranging in size from informal groups of neighbours coming together, through to multi-million-pound charities, working across our diverse communities and tackling multiple social challenges.

These organisations play a hugely valued role in Camden in delivering much needed services; in creating innovative solutions to some of our most intractable social challenges; and in working with our diverse communities to help their voices to be heard and take action.

A strong, sustainable and well run and independent VCS that responds to people's need, is central to our ambitions for Camden. The VCS Resilience Fund is an important part of our overall £4m per annum VCS grants programme. It has been designed to support Camden's VCS to be sustainable and resilient in a rapidly changing, and increasingly challenging economic and social context so that we can collectively delivery our shared ambitions for the borough.



N. Shah

Councillor Nadia Shah
Cabinet Member for Voluntary Sector, Equalities and Cohesion

How to use this guide

This guidance will help you decide whether to apply to Camden's VCS Resilience Fund and will provide you with the information that you need to make your application.

About the Resilience Fund

Background

In April 2024 Camden Council launched its £4 million per year VCS Investment Programme 2024-2031. This programme aims to support a thriving, responsive and diverse VCS, in recognition of the critical role that the sector plays in supporting residents and communities by prioritising prevention, building community strength and tackling inequality.

The VCS Resilience Fund is one of a number of programmes within Camden's £4 million per annum VCS Investment Programme. It has been designed to support Camden's VCS to be sustainable and resilient in a rapidly changing, and increasingly challenging economic and social context.

The overall principles for the VCS Investment Programme are:

- Prioritising Prevention
- Empowering Communities and supporting social action
- Tackling Inequalities and Disproportionality
- Collaboration
- Sustainable Organisations.

The Resilience Fund 2024 provides support to Camden's Voluntary and Community Sector organisations through one-off grants that will enable organisations to address risks affecting their sustainability.

Aims of the Fund

The Resilience Fund 2024 fund aims to support Camden's Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations to address immediate risks in the short-term and to make changes that will increase organisational sustainability and resilience in the medium to longer term.

Who is eligible to apply?

This fund is open to not-for-profit organisations in Camden who can demonstrate a track record in delivering for Camden communities.

Please check your eligibility before spending time on an application, as we will not be able to proceed to offer a grant to organisations who don't meet the minimum criteria.

Your organisation is eligible to apply if:

1. You can demonstrate that you are a local Camden based charity, with your main base in Camden and the majority of your organisation's focus, time and money spent on delivering for Camden residents.
2. You are a not-for-profit organisation, such as a: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Registered Charity• Community Group• Co-operative• Social Enterprise with a 'not for profit' distribution clause• Community Interest Company <p>We are unable to consider applications from private companies e.g. Companies Limited by Shares, private partnerships or sole traders.</p>
3. Your organisation had a turnover of less than £2m in the last financial year, based on your most recent published accounts. In exceptional cases this may be waived. Contact yca@camden.gov.uk to discuss before proceeding.
4. Your organisation has up to date independently examined or audited accounts in line with Charity Commission requirements.

You will not meet our eligibility criteria if you / your organisation:

- Is not based in Camden and/or is not primarily focussed on delivering for Camden residents
- Is a statutory body or organisation
- Makes a surplus or profit which is not reinvested for social benefit
- Are an individual or sole traders
- Is applying on behalf of another organisation
- Promotes political or religious beliefs
- Does not pay all of your employees or contracted staff the London Living Wage as a minimum
- Has an income over £2 million and you've not discussed your suitability for the fund with us

What can be funded?

Grants from the Resilience Fund 2024 can be used for initiatives that address immediate risks and that enable organisations to make changes that increase organisational sustainability and resilience. This could include initiatives that support:

- **Financial Resilience:** Increasing and diversifying income or reducing running costs to ensure financial viability.
- **Strategic and Business Planning:** Taking time to review and develop your organisational strategy and business model to ensure strategic clarity and sustainability.
- **Effective Governance and Leadership:** Ensuring that your trustees, staff and volunteers have the skills, knowledge, experience, diversity and ability to lead your organisation effectively and sustainably.
- **Organisational Efficiency:** Developing, reviewing and updating your operational systems and processes to create efficiency in the way you work.
- **Partnership and Collaboration:** Undertaking the developmental work required to collaborate more closely with partners, for example, sharing services, staff or space.
- **Staff and Volunteer Recruitment and Retention:** Undertaking work that will lead to improved staff and volunteer recruitment and retention.
- **Non-Capital Premises Costs:** Reviewing and making changes to the way that space is used, upgrading technology or equipment, exploring ways to improve energy efficiency or undertaking feasibility studies or options appraisals related to the use of space.
- **Addressing Deficits or Historic Liabilities:** Establishing an in-year (2024/25) balanced budget and address liabilities that present a risk to your organisation, provided you also present clear plans to create sustainability and viability in the medium- to longer-term.

We will not fund:

- New services, projects or expenses that create an ongoing need for future funding – our project fund will be more suitable for this.
- One-off deficits, debt or other liabilities where the organisation has not demonstrated plans to make future changes which will increase the likelihood of sustainability over the medium to longer-term.
- Capital works or improvements to community facilities – S106 and CIL Funding offered by the council will be more suitable for this.
- Requests for funding to cover costs already incurred.

Available funding

A total grant pot of £500,000 is available for the 2024 Resilience Fund.

Grants awards will be between £6,000 and £30,000. However, we are only likely to award grants at the maximum £30,000 level in exceptional cases.

The level of grant that you can apply for will depend on the size of your organisation.

Organisation	Annual Income band	Funding eligibility and amounts
Small Camden organisations	Up to £100,000	Grants of between £6,000 and £10,000 are available.
Medium and large Camden organisations	Between £100,000 - £2 Million	Grants of between £6,000 and £30,000 are available. It is highly unlikely that we will award grants of greater than 10% of your annual income (as per your latest accounts). Please consider when developing your proposal and funding request.
If your income is over £2 million it is unlikely that you will be awarded a grant from this programme, however, grants may be made in exceptional cases. If you are considering applying and have an income over this level contact vcs@camden.gov.uk to discuss before proceeding.		

If you are successful, the grant provided will be restricted to the proposals that you have included in your approved application. We anticipate that the funds will be used for activities in the year to September 2025.

How to apply

Please complete the application [form](#) and submit by **12 noon on Wednesday 19 June 2024**. You will not be able to submit an application form after this deadline.

You will need to register for an account on the application portal [Plinth](#) (previously known as Time To Spare) to be able to complete the application form. This will allow you to save your application form on the portal and come back to it at your convenience.

You can complete sections in any order that you wish, however you must complete all the required questions before submitting your application (these have a star - * - next to them).

If you have any technical issues with the form, there is a chat button at the bottom right of your screen. This will enable you to speak to Plinth directly for assistance. If you have applied via Plinth before you can use same log in details and certain questions will be pre-populated with your previous answers. Please do review these answers in case your situation has changed.

Assessment criteria

Before applying for this fund, please check that your organisation meets the eligibility criteria in section 1.3. Applications from organisations that do not meet the eligibility criteria or who are subject to mandatory exclusions will not be considered.

Check the Frequently Asked Questions below for further information.

The following five areas will form the criteria for assessment. These are based on the aim of the fund.

- **Criteria 1: Organisation has a clear purpose and is able to demonstrate the difference it makes for the people of Camden**
 - *Clear articulation of organisations purpose*
 - *Strong understanding of needs for a Camden community*
 - *Commitment to prevention, building community strength and tackling inequalities*

- **Criteria 2: Current organisations risks and approach to risk management**
 - *Risks to the organisation's sustainability and resilience clearly identified and significant*
 - *Clear understanding of why and how risks have emerged*
 - *Effective approaches to identifying, assessing and prioritising risks*

- **Criteria 3: Current financial situation**
 - *Clear understanding of organisations financial position*
 - *Clear understanding of the financial risks affecting sustainability*
 - *Clear financial need for funding*

- **Criteria 4: Deliverability of the grant**
 - *Plans proposed address and respond to the identified risks*
 - *Plans are clear and achievable*
 - *Budget proposals are clear, reasonable and aligned to the proposed plans*

- **Criteria 5: Impact of the grant**
 - *Proposals address organisational risks in the short term.*
 - *Proposals make a clear and significant difference to organisational resilience and sustainability in the medium and long term.*
 - *Proposals set out how the impact of the grant will be measured*

Scoring

All applications will be assessed by two Camden officers and moderated by a grants panel.

We will assess your application using the criteria above. Your application will be awarded a score of 0-5 for each criteria based on the information you have provided. To obtain a '5', the highest score, responses will need cover more than one essential point, present clear solutions, and give clear thorough examples.

Assessment process

The Resilience Fund 2024 has a one-stage assessment process.

All applications will be checked to ensure that the organisation meets the essential criteria and is not subject to any mandatory exclusions.

All applications will be assessed against the reward criteria detailed above. After assessing all the applications, submissions will be ranked according to their scores to identify those organisations that will be recommended for an award. At this stage we will also identify the indicative level of funding to be awarded.

We are particularly encouraging organisations that have not previously received a Resilience Fund grant or Community Partner Funding to apply for this fund.

As part of our assessment process, we will also consider whether you have received Resilience Fund grants in the past and/or whether you receive other grant funding from Camden.

If you have received Resilience Fund grants in the past, you will need to make a compelling case that your organisation continues to face risks to its sustainability and what steps you have already taken to mitigate these risks.

Successful applicants may not get the full amount requested. Award recommendations will depend on the case you have made for funding in your application, the overall number of eligible applications and total level of funding requested.

In making these recommendations, consideration will also be given to:

- Geography and Index of Multiple Deprivation: In order to ensure a spread of funding support across the borough, in particular towards areas with higher levels of deprivation.
- Equalities: In order to ensure that the organisations funded through this programme reflect the borough's diversity.

The final decision on the funding awards will be made by the Executive Director, Corporate Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Voluntary Sector, Equalities and Cohesion.

Key dates

Event	Date
Launch of Funding announced	Wednesday 8 May 2024
Information sessions (Registration Details here)	Monday 20 May 2024, 12 – 1pm Thursday 23 May 2024, 4 – 5pm
Deadline for submitting completed application:	Wednesday 19 June 2024, 12 noon
Applicants informed of funding decision in writing	September 2024
Funding start date	October 2024
Six month review	March 2025
Evaluation report	October 2025

Key contacts

For further information please email vcs@camden.gov.uk or call a member of the team on 0207 974

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do I submit the Resilience Fund application form?

All applications will need to be made on [Plinth](#). You will need to register for an account to be able to complete the application form. This will allow you to save your application form on the portal and come back to it at your convenience.

If you have any technical issues with the form, there is a chat button at the bottom right of your screen. This will enable you to speak to Plinth directly for assistance. For any other queries please email vcs@camden.gov.uk

Forms must be submitted by **Wednesday 19 June 2024, 12 noon**. You will not be able to apply after this deadline.

2. What support can the Community Partnerships Team offer our organisation?

The team are happy to answer any questions you may have; however, we won't be able to read and comment on your application.

Voluntary Action Camden provide expert advice and direct support to community groups needing help with fundraising and income generation. If you require fundraising support, please refer to their [website](#) for more information and to check for any upcoming training.

3. I already have grant funding from Camden Council, can I still apply?

Yes, you are eligible to apply, however, in making final recommendation we will consider whether you have already received a Resilience Fund grant and/or are in receipt of other grant funding from Camden.

4. I am not sure if this funding is for me. Are you planning to launch any other funding?

A range of grants will be launched in 2024 and 2025. These will include project funding and funding to support organisational development and sustainability. Please do continue to check on our [website](#) and sign up for our newsletter [here](#) for the latest announcements.

5. We don't meet the eligibility criteria, what shall I do?

Before we fully assess the application, we will check your eligibility against our criteria and if it does not meet the requirements we will not assess the application. If you have any questions about your eligibility ahead of applying, please contact vcs@camden.gov.uk

6. I can't attend an information session, will it be recorded?

We will make a recording of the session available on our [website](#)

7. Can I apply if I am a social enterprise?

We can only provide funding to social enterprises who reinvest 100% of surplus income into the organisation. We cannot fund social enterprises that have a 'profit distribution' clause in its governing documents, which allows it to pay Executive Directors as shareholders.

8. What are the grounds for mandatory exclusion?

There are certain grounds which will exclude an organisation from being a recipient of a grant. The detailed grounds for mandatory exclusion of an organisation are set out on this government [webpage](#), which should be referred to before completing this question. Grounds for exclusion include:

The past five years you, your organisation or any other person who has powers of representation, decision or control in the organisation have been convicted anywhere in the world of any of the offences:

- Participation in criminal activity
- Corruption
- Terrorist offences or offences linked to terrorist activities
- Money laundering or terrorist financing
- Child labour and other forms of trafficking in human beings

If any of these grounds apply to your organisation, please do not apply.

9. Do you need us to submit any documents with the application form?

Yes, we will ask you for the following documents:

- Governing document – Constitution, trust deed or articles and memorandum of association
- Your latest annual report
- Your latest set of management accounts

10. What happens if trustees and/or senior managers are related?

Where there are related parties, we will consider the relationship, conflicts of interest and loyalty, the balance of power of the related trustees, and how this is managed.

11. Do we need to have safeguarding policies in place?

We expect organisations working with Camden residents to have the following:

- If you work directly with children: A Safeguarding children's policy in line with Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership. Visit the [Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership CSCP](#) for training, resources and procedures
- If you work with adults: A safeguarding adults at risk policy in line with the London Multi-agency Safeguarding Adults policy
- Staff working with children and with vulnerable adults must be recruited in a safe manner and be subject to a DBS check where required

12. How can we check whether our data protection policies are in line with Camden Council's?

More information about Camden Council's data protection policies can be found [here](#).

13. We have an equalities policy. How do we know it meets your requirements?

Your Equalities policy will need to be compliant with existing anti-discrimination legislation and not unlawfully discriminate. For more information see [here](#).

14. We don't have staff, why are you asking whether we pay PAYE and NI contributions?

Camden Council reserves the right to use its discretion to exclude an applicant where it can demonstrate the applicant in breach of its obligations relating to the non-payment of taxes or social security contributions.

15. We are in the process of forming a partnership with another organisation to develop a project/ network; can we apply?

Yes, however it is suggested- but not required-that a partnership agreement be in place ahead of the application process. You may want to include developing a partnership agreement as part of the application. Where there is an agreement in place, we will ask you to summarise this in the application form, and a nominated organisation must be the lead and accountable for:

- Managing the grant bid and funding distribution
- Any project delivery of the funding proposal
- Management of any workers funded by the project
- Safeguarding

16. Can we apply for staffing costs such as salaries or sessional worker wages?

Yes, the funding allows for staffing costs. You can also consider applying costs to backfill or cover posts, for example if you have a staff member that needs to attend training, funding can be used to cover a sessional worker to cover their time.

Applications will need to make a strong case for how a request for staffing costs will lead to longer term sustainability for the organisation.

17. Can we apply for funding to cover the core running costs of our project or organisation?

Yes, your application can be for organisational running costs, including day-to-day rent, insurance, compliance, management and on-costs, and/or utilities.

Applications will need to make a strong case for how a request for running costs will lead to longer term sustainability for the organisation.

18. What happens if you award us a grant?

Applicants will be notified by email informing them of what happens next.

Successful applicants will be sent a Standard Condition of Grant Aid and an award letter outlining the terms and conditions of their grant acceptance.

19. Can I get feedback if my application is turned down?

The decision email will provide a brief summary as to the reasons why your application was being turned down. However, due to the volume of applications we will be unable to provide individual feedback.