



CITY BRIDGE
FOUNDATION

LGBT+ Fund: London Fund Guidance

Key Summary

- This is a new, three-year fund open to organisations/groups supporting LGBT+ people in London. Please see this key summary, and subsequent sections for an in-depth breakdown.
- This fund is a collaboration between The LGBT+ Fund, powered by Consortium, and City Bridge Foundation.
- £785,000 will be awarded to organisations and groups across 3 years.
- The fund launches to applications on **Wednesday 17th June at 12pm midday**.
- The fund closes to applications on **Wednesday 12th August at 12pm midday**.
- The fund is open to LGBT+ organisations/groups working in one or more of the 32 London boroughs that have been in operation for a **minimum of 1 year**.
- We will accept applications from wider organisations/groups that have been supporting the LGBT+ community in London for at least 1 year if they can demonstrate that supporting the community is a large element of the work that they do, and are addressing a need in the community or working in boroughs with less provision.
- **We can only accept applications from organisations with a yearly income of £500,000 or less.**
- Groups can apply for a 1, 2 or three year grant for amounts between £2,000-£20,000 yearly.
- We will be prioritising organisations/groups supporting the following intersectional communities of focus that are underserved currently in UK grant-making - D/deaf, disabled and/or neurodivergent LGBT+ people, LGBTQIA+ women, LGBT+ people



of faith, LGBT+ people of the global majority, Older LGBT+ people, Trans, non-binary and/or intersex people

- **Please note, we expect the programme to be oversubscribed. Based on similar programmes we have delivered, approximately 1 in 5 applications may be successful.**

About the fund

Thanks to the generosity of City Bridge Foundation, The LGBT+ Fund will be awarding a total of £785,000 over a 3-year period to organisations and groups supporting London's LGBT+ communities.

The launch date for applications is Wednesday 17th June at 12pm midday, and the fund will close to applications on Wednesday 12th August at 12pm midday. We will notify applicants of decisions by the end of November 2026.

City Bridge Foundation is a world-class bridge owner responsible for five Thames crossings - including the iconic Tower Bridge - and London's biggest independent charity funder. Since 1995, the charity has awarded over £840 million to charitable organisations working to tackle inequality and injustice across London. City Bridge Foundation has been bridging London and connecting communities for over 900 years. Its sole trustee is the City of London Corporation - the governing body for the Square Mile.

City Bridge Foundation has partnered with The LGBT+ Fund to create this fund in response to the clear need for more targeted investment in LGBT+ organisations and groups across London. Too many groups are delivering vital work while operating with very limited resources and facing significant structural barriers. Consortium's membership data shows that 70% of our members have an annual income of £10,000 or less, while our 2024 London report found that 58.1% of organisations are entirely volunteer-run, 50.7% have no paid staff, and 47.3% have serious concerns about staff and volunteer burnout. Provision is also uneven across the capital, with many outer London boroughs having far less LGBT+ infrastructure and support than inner London.

This fund has been designed to provide accessible, flexible, and community-informed funding for LGBT+ organisations and groups in all 32 boroughs. We have a particular focus on groups that are grassroots, volunteer-led, under-resourced and often excluded from mainstream funding. It aims to strengthen support for communities facing the greatest inequity, including trans-led, global majority-led, faith-inclusive and other intersectional groups. We want to support groups that provide a wide range of activity such as frontline services, community spaces, collaboration, leadership, organisational resilience, and work addressing housing insecurity, health inequalities and access to trans-affirming care.



Who can apply?

Organisations/groups with a yearly income of £500,000 or less in the last financial year are eligible to apply to the fund.

Applicants must be a UK based non-profit organisation/group delivering activities and services to the LGBT+ community in one or more of the 32 boroughs of London. Ideally, applicants will be based in London, however we appreciate that many organisations/groups are based just outside of London, or do not have a permanent address/base. In these instances, the majority of your work should take place in London and benefit LGBT+ Londoners. Organisations/groups must have been supporting the LGBT+ community in London for a minimum of 1 year to apply to the fund.

We primarily seek to support LGBT+ led by and for organisations/groups, but understand that for some organisations/groups, supporting the LGBT+ community in London is a large element of what they do, but isn't their sole purpose for existing. For example, a mental health charity based in London that runs a regular LGBT+ group. In this instance, for wider organisations applying, any provision for the LGBT+ community should be led by an LGBT+ person.

Eligible organisations include CIOs, Registered charities, Co-operative Societies, CASC, CBS, CICs, Companies limited by guarantee, Informal groups or Unincorporated Associations.

We welcome applications from across London, however, we are seeking to particularly support organisations and work based in the following boroughs where there isn't a huge amount of provision:

Barking & Dagenham, Barnet, Bexley, Brent, Bromley, Croydon, Ealing, Enfield, Haringey, Harrow, Havering, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Kingston Upon Thames, Merton, Newham, Redbridge, Richmond Upon Thames, Sutton and Waltham.

We will also be prioritising organisations/groups supporting the following intersectional communities of focus that are underserved currently in UK grant-making:

- D/deaf, disabled and/or neurodivergent LGBT+ people
- LGBTQIA+ women
- LGBT+ people of faith
- LGBT+ people of the global majority
- Older LGBT+ people
- Trans, non-binary and/or intersex people



You do not need to be a member of Consortium to be eligible to apply.

Organisations/groups who have been past recipients of grants from Consortium that have fulfilled all reporting requirements are eligible to apply. Applicants are not excluded from applying to any other available funds that City Bridge Foundation or the LGBT+ Fund launch, but the applications would need to be for separate work - we are unable to double fund the same work. Organisations/groups currently in receipt of a grant from City Bridge Foundation or LGBT+ Fund are eligible to apply to the LGBT+ Fund: London Fund.

All applicants must be able to demonstrate that they are working in an inclusive, non-discriminatory way.

How much can I apply for?

In **2026**, organisations can apply for grants of between £2,000 and £20,000 per year for projects lasting 1, 2 or 3 years.

Funding available in 2027 and 2028 will be informed by the applications received in 2026, including consideration of geographic spread and communities currently underrepresented in funding.

This means **2026** applicants can request:

A single year grant (1 year): between £2,000 and £20,000 in total.

Or a multi-year grant:

2-years: between £4,000 and £40,000 in total.

3-years: between £6,000 and £60,000 in total.

For single year (1-year) grants, successful organisations will have 12 months to spend the grant. For multi-year grants, funding for years 2 and 3 will be released on receipt of a completed short report on how the work is progressing.

Please be aware that funding is limited, and we expect the programme to be oversubscribed. We are unlikely to be able to fund all applications received, and only a limited number of larger grants are likely to be awarded. Based on similar programmes we have delivered, approximately 1 in 5 applications may be successful.



What we can fund

- Core or running costs such as staff salaries, building rent, utilities, management, administration and training costs.
- Project and activity costs such as a venue hire, refreshments, volunteer expenses or participant transport costs.
- Activities can take place in-person in London and online, if you can evidence that online attendees are based in London.

Examples of types of eligible orgs and work:

A trans and non-binary group in Barnet seeking funding to secure venue hire costs to host weekly social groups.

A support group for LGBT+ refugees and asylum seekers in Enfield applying for funding towards a salary for a new part-time support worker role for 2 years.

An LGBTQIA+ women's organisation which has a registered address in Essex, but the majority of their work takes place in the London boroughs of Redbridge and Havering.

Examples of ineligible organisations and work:

An LGBT+ organisation based in Cardiff that wants to host a one-off event or trip in London.

An LGBT+ group based in Brighton that hosts occasional events and workshops in London, but the majority of their work takes place in Brighton.

An LGBT+ organisation based in Hackney that had an income of £1million in the last financial year.

Outcomes

The funded work should aim to achieve one or more of the outcomes below (there is no requirement to seek to achieve them all):

- LGBT+ people in London have increased access to safe, inclusive and relevant services, support and community spaces.



- Underserved LGBT+ communities and boroughs have improved access to provision where little currently exists.
- Grassroots, volunteer-led and under-resourced LGBT+ organisations are stronger, more resilient and more sustainable.
- LGBT+ communities facing the greatest inequity receive support that is shaped by and responsive to their lived experience.
- LGBT+ organisations and groups are better connected through collaboration, shared learning and resource-sharing.
- Staff, volunteers and community leaders have improved wellbeing, confidence, skills and capacity to sustain their work.
- LGBT+ people facing issues such as housing insecurity, health inequalities and barriers to affirming care are better supported.
- Funded organisations are better able to embed inclusive, anti-oppressive and community-led practice in their work.

What we cannot fund

Whilst we are keen to fund as many LGBT+ organisations and groups as we can, there are several types of organisations, groups, projects and work that we cannot fund. Please ensure that you read the list carefully. If you are unsure if your organisation or proposed work is eligible, please get in touch with the Giving Team.

- Organisations and groups that have been delivering work in London for less than 1 year - applicants will need to demonstrate that they already have strong, established experience of supporting LGBT+ communities in London.
- Multiple applications from an organisation. In the interest of fairness, Consortium can only consider one application from each organisation/group per fund.
- Organisations which charge fees for attendees to access their activities, unless there is a strong reason for doing so. Where possible all activities should be free to attend so that all community members can participate.
- Individuals.
- Statutory organisations, such as local authorities and schools.
- NHS bodies.



- Organisations which cannot demonstrate that they are working in an inclusive, non-discriminatory way.
- Organisations based outside the UK.
- Activities that take place outside of the UK.
- Standalone or large capital purchases.
- Research.
- Party political groups.
- Work that promotes religion (i.e. work that evangelises or proselytizes).
- Organisations or groups that will distribute the grant money to others.
- Retrospective costs, i.e. costs already incurred prior to receiving a grant including the repayment of loans.
- Work that duplicates existing local or thematic work.
- Any organisation currently or previously in receipt of a grant from Consortium which has a history of non-compliance with grant conditions and/or monitoring requirements.

How do I apply?

To view the application form and apply online by written or video application, please visit this [link](#)

Applications are primarily via the online application form here, but we have worked hard to minimise the amount of time it will take for organisations to apply. Applications do not need to use formal or technical language. We welcome applications written in your own words.

Applicants will be required to have the following in place when applying. If your group is missing any of these documents but is eligible to apply, do get in touch with the Giving Team for advice:

- A constitution/governing document which outlines the aims of the organisation/group, who it is for and the rules for running it.
- Contact information for two or more unrelated trustees, committee / board members or directors.
- An organisation correspondence address and contact details.
- **If supporting vulnerable adults or young people under 18, an up to date, relevant and appropriate Safeguarding Policy which has been reviewed within the last year.**



- A set of recent accounts.
- A budget for the amount being requested.
- A bank account in the organisations name. If you do not have an organisational bank account, you have the option to set one up, ask another trusted charitable organisation to hold a grant on your organisation's behalf or set up with a fiscal hosting service such as Social Change Nest.

Video Applications

Applications can also be made via a video application. In the interest of fairness, the video application must include answers to all the written application form questions.

Videos should be a maximum length of 5 minutes and information included in the video will be transcribed into a written application form by a member of the Giving team. No community panellists will view the original video.

Supported Applications

We also offer supported applications. More information can be found further in this guidance under the heading "What support is available?"

Use of AI

Many people use AI tools such as ChatGPT, Gemini, Copilot and Claude to assist them in their daily life. We can accept applications where AI has been used as it can help applicants when English is not their first language, as a prompt tool if you're new to writing applications, or as an accessibility tool.

AI tools can be incredibly useful but please bear in mind the following considerations:

- It can often produce generic content which is not specific to your organisation or community. Please personalise your application so that we can gain an accurate picture of your organisations work.
- Check for any inaccuracies in the text or data provided as it is not always 100% accurate.
- The AI tools can store data inputted, so do not submit personal or confidential information into them. It's not always clear how the data will be stored or used.
- There are ethical and environmental considerations to using AI and it is a personal decision to use it.



Decision Making and Timeline

Your application will be assessed by a combination of LGBT+ community panellists with lived and professional expertise of the LGBT+ sector in London.

Consortium's staff team may be in touch to ask additional questions as part of this process, but the final decision will be made by a panel of community experts. Please be aware that an organisation's track record of meeting conditions of previous or existing grants and completing end of grant monitoring will be considered when assessing applications.

We aim to let applicants know the outcome of their applications by the end of November 2026.

Reporting on your grant

Once your grant has been fully spent, you are required to complete a short End of Grant Report. This report will be sent out in advance once your grant has been paid, so that you're aware of what information needs to be reported on. The report asks for information on how your grant was spent and what you achieved.

You can also report back on how your grant went via video or through a conversation with The Giving Team. We will be in touch throughout the year to see how grantees are doing and if there's any additional support we can offer.

For multi-year grants, you will be expected to report annually on how the work is progressing before we can release subsequent yearly payments.

What support is available?

We appreciate it may be some people's first time submitting a funding application and/or some people may find form-filling challenging. We want to remove as many barriers to receiving funding as possible through this Fund. The Giving team are available to provide support and advice with your application and are also happy to do a supported application where we accept application form answers via a call.



If you think you may need assistance in applying, please do get in contact early once the fund opens to ensure there is enough time for the team to provide appropriate support.

Feel free to contact us at: giving@consortium.lgbt Please ensure you have read the guidance before emailing us where possible.

Data Protection

We use the data you provide, such as contact details for individuals at your organisation, in order to allow you to apply and for us to assess your application.

If your grant is successful, we will use this data to check that the grant is being managed appropriately and maintain contact with you.

We are working in partnership with City Bridge Foundation for the LGBT+ Fund: London Fund. We will share limited details of successful applicants from the Fund in line with our Grants Data Privacy Notice.

