

Lowell Giving Community Fund Grant Guidance Criteria 2019

Leeds Community Foundation is proud to be working with Lowell in a new grants initiative. Lowell is a Leeds based business operating in the credit management and business services sector. As part of Lowell's commitment to the city of Leeds, we are delighted to announce the launch the second round of the Lowell Giving Community Fund which aims to support the employability skills of those furthest from the job market.

The focus of the Fund is on supporting projects that are addressing the barriers, such as lack of opportunities, limited credible employment history, learning or physical disabilities and mental health that make it difficult for people to gain employment. We would like to use the funding to explore different methods of engagement to work with these individuals to build confidence, self-esteem and gain practical employment skills to move them closer to finding and securing a job.

Who can apply?

Community groups, charities, social enterprises or other charitable organisations from the third sector that:

- Have a constitution or other relevant governance document
- Have a management committee/board of directors/trustees of at least three unrelated people
- Have a bank account under the name of the group with at least two unrelated signatories (if your organisation doesn't have its own bank account, but does meet all of the other criteria, please contact us to discuss how we can work around this)
- Are based in or supporting people living in Leeds Metropolitan District Area

Priority will be given to organisations with an income of under £500,000 in areas of social, financial and welfare disadvantage where a grant of up to £10,000 can make a significant difference.

Size of Grant

Grants of between **£5,000 - £10,000** are available. Whilst the grant can be used to part-fund a wide range of activities, we like to see the impact our support is having. Accordingly, we prefer for our grant to equal at least 50% of the total cost of the activity being applied for within the criteria specified below. Only one application per organisation can be considered.

What can the Fund support?

Projects should meet one of the following themes:

- Providing people with opportunities to reduce inequality, exclusion and disadvantage, by providing access to employment
- Addressing issues of low educational attainment and improving learning outcomes, with a focus on working with adults who have limited options to receive this kind of support
- Improving employability skills through interview techniques, CV writing, financial literacy etc

For example, previously funded projects have...

- Provided a crèche service to support disadvantaged adults with childcare needs engage in accredited vocational learning and aspirations raising opportunities.
- Supported BAME communities, many with little or no spoken English into further education and ultimately employment through tailor made workshops and mentoring sessions.
- Developed a programme of information technology sessions to provide people with adequate digital skills to look and apply for jobs and other daily requirements including internet banking.

Exclusions

Grants will not be awarded to or for:

- Activity that's purely about research, though including costs for evaluation of the proposed activity and sharing positive outcomes is encouraged
- Retrospective funding (activity and costs that have already taken place)
- For-profit organisations, statutory organisations (e.g. schools and hospitals) or overseas organisations
- National organisations without a strong, local presence i.e. without a local committee of people managing the activity and/or a local office
- Activity targeted at a particular group (ethnic, gender, religious etc.) without a good justification
- Grant-making to other organisations and/or individuals

Publicity

If your application is successful, you will be required to acknowledge support from Lowell and Leeds Community Foundation, on all materials related to the funded work.

Guidance will be provided. Successful projects will be required to be available for a potential monitoring visit from funders.

How do you apply for a grant?

To apply, you need to complete an online application form, for which you'll find a link at the end of this document. You will also need to submit a signed copy of the organisation's governance document, signed copy of your most recent set of accounts, and list of name and addresses of your management committee/board members. If you're successful, you'll also need to sign a funding agreement document and provide a signed copy of your organisation's most recent bank statements.

We strongly suggest you submit your application at your earliest opportunity. **Incomplete applications will not be considered.**

To Apply

Click [here](#) for the online application. If you post documents to us, please send them to the address below, using the correct postage amount, and ensure the documents are received by us before **12 noon on Thursday 29th August 2019**. Funding allocated should be spent within 12 months of receipt.

If you require more information about this fund, please contact Leeds Community Foundation on 0113 242 2426 or email grants@leedscf.org.uk.