

Aspers Good Causes Fund 2024/25 Eligibility Criteria

1 Background

The Aspers Good Causes Fund grants programme is open to any not-for-profit organisations including voluntary, community and faith organisation working in Newham that help residents create local communities that are safe, prosperous and healthy. The Good Causes Funds are available to help deliver a huge range of benefits from education, conservation and environmental activities to music, sport or cultural activities, like theatre, dance, arts or science.

All projects must support at least one of the 6 key priorities listed below. Examples of what can be included is bullet pointed under each key theme.

1. Health and Wellbeing

- Projects that promote physical and mental well-being
- Initiatives addressing health disparities among different age groups
- Activities encouraging active lifestyles and healthy habits

2. Money and financial stability

- Proposals fostering economic resilience and recovery
- Support for local entrepreneurs and job seekers
- Programmes promoting financial literacy and stability

3. Neighbourhoods and environment

- Community-led projects enhancing local spaces
- Initiatives improving social cohesion and local connections
- Environmental sustainability efforts within neighbourhoods

4. Safety and security

- Projects focused on crime prevention and safety
- Initiatives that promote accountability and build trust
- Programmes addressing safety for women and girls

5. Children and young people

- Youth-focused activities, skill-building, and mentorship
- Educational programmes, after-school clubs, and career guidance
- Opportunities for youth leadership and civic engagement

6. Participation and democracy

- Projects encouraging civic participation and community involvement
- Efforts to engage marginalised groups and amplify their voices
- Inclusive events, workshops, and forums for dialogue

2 Key notes

The total value of this year's fund is set at £60,000 and organisations can apply for one grant of up to £6,000. The grant programme will be administered centrally by the Council and decisions will be made with colleagues from Aspers.

We encourage you to think 'outside the box' on how you can achieve your project outcomes by considering other sources of funding, in-kind contributions and partnership working. This will help us to fund more projects and bring better value and impact to Newham.

You may only submit 1 application form and must decide if the funding suits your organisation. We will assess your application using the information you provide on the application form and any supporting documents.

The preferred method to complete your application is to make a submission online using the dedicated form [Aspers Good Causes Fund Application Form](#).

To request a Microsoft Word version of the form please email goodcausesfund@newham.gov.uk.

We will contact you if we are not clear about anything. We may also ask for further information, clarity or evidence if your submission is successful. It is important that you answer all the questions fully and send us the information we have requested. The programme will not fund street parties and unlikely to support celebrations and get-togethers.

The Council does not take any direct or indirect liability for accidents, mishaps, losses, close-calls etc. You must have a valid Public and/or Employers Liability Insurance (as appropriate) as well as an Enhanced DBS check for all staff/volunteers supporting the project.

3 Eligibility Criteria

Organisations that have received a grant in the previous year (1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024) from Newham Council including Aspers Good Causes Fund, Lyle's Local Fund, and the People Powered Places grant programme will be eligible for funding. However, priority will be given to those organisations who have not been funded from these programmes in the previous year.

Organisations that can benefit must be an individual charity, local association (voluntary, community, faith-based, informal group) or other body established for charitable/community benefit purposes and must primarily benefit the residents of Newham. In addition, you will require an organisational bank account to receive the payment.

Other Council departments including Schools and Sheltered Accommodation are eligible to apply to this grant programme but the submission must clearly be user-led and demonstrate that it makes a positive impact to local challenges.

Projects should be inclusive for residents as far as practicable, open to all and promote community relations through providing opportunities for people from different backgrounds to get involved in local activities.

4 Deadline

The grant programme opens on Friday 22 November 2024 at 10.00am and closes on Sunday 22 November 2024 at 11.00pm.

We endeavour to inform you of an outcome within 6 weeks of the deadline. Unfortunately, incomplete applications or those sent to the incorrect address will not be considered.

5 Support

To assist you in preparing a successful application, we are offering two Grant Surgeries with the funder, Aspers. The session provides personalised support for individuals and organisations seeking funding. Attendees will receive expert advice on preparing applications, understanding grant criteria, and learning about funding opportunities. Whether you're new to the process or looking to improve your approach, our session provides valuable insights to boost your confidence and success.

Aspers Good Causes Fund: In-person Grant Surgery

Wednesday 4 December, 1.00pm - 3.00pm at Stratford Library (Hopkins Room)

Register [here](#)

Aspers Good Causes Fund: Online Grant Surgery

Thursday 12 December, 6.00pm - 7.30pm on MS Teams

Register [here](#)

For queries please email goodcausesfund@newham.gov.uk

6 Application and assessment process

An assessment process will follow using a grant scoring criteria and a final panel decision. The decision will be made within 6 weeks of the deadline. The maximum score will be 20 points and a minimum threshold of 14 points must be met to be considered for funding. We will provide feedback for unsuccessful applications upon written request.

7 Scoring process

1. Receive all applications
2. Council Officer to determine applications which meet all relevant criteria
3. Initial screening and scoring of all eligible applications by Council Officer and Aspers representative
4. Final moderation by Aspers Director/s, Senior Newham Councillor and Council Officer
5. Due diligence and remedial actions
6. Inform applicants

8 Monitoring and evaluation

Successful projects will need to keep records of the delivery of the funded activities against the agreed outcomes. The Council/Aspers may make monitoring visits to ensure that programmes are running in-line with the grant expectation. All successful applicants are required to submit an evaluation and monitoring at the end of the project and this must be received no later than 3 months after the project completion.

Projects are often unique and have their own challenges; sometimes it is necessary to make changes to the original plan which is understandable. However, any such deviation must be communicated to the Council as soon as possible to discuss how best to ensure the project remains viable.