

Meet the Funders

Wandsworth Big Society Fund
Wandsworth Discretionary Fund

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Wandsworth Council EDO leads on three grants schemes

- **Wandsworth Big Society Fund** – small grants to promote civic action and volunteering
- **Wandsworth Discretionary Fund** – support for existing groups facing cuts to public funding
- **Wandsworth Community Fund** – endowment managed by London Community Foundation

Grants Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee

- Sub-committee of Finance and Corporate Resources OSC; formal part of the Council's committee structure
- 6 members, 5 administration, 1 opposition
- Responsible for recommending WBSF and WDF grant awards to the Executive
- Members meet as Wandsworth Community Fund Panel
- Timing of meetings dictates bidding rounds

Wandsworth Big Society Fund

- Offers grants of between £500 and £5,000
- encourage, promote and support **active citizenship, civic action and volunteering**
- support the aims of the Council's sustainable community strategy, Our Wandsworth 2018, to make Wandsworth safer, healthier, more prosperous and sustainable;
- show support from within the relevant community; and
- draw in other resources from the community or elsewhere to complement the Council's contribution for grants over £1,000)

Wandsworth Big Society Fund

- an existing constituted 'not-for-profit organisation' or 'civil society' organisation based in the Borough of Wandsworth with an **income of less than £50,000**;
- unconstituted groups of individuals including informal group of residents, but also includes more formal groups such as a residents' or tenants' associations; business associations, cultural groups; sports organisations; scouts, cubs and guide troops, parent/teacher associations, etc.
- For the latter, some form of 'association agreement' recommended; identify lead partner or host
- Cannot be used for commercial, political/campaigning or religious purposes
- Does not duplicate other Council funding e.g. from Housing Department for RAs

Wandsworth Big Society Fund

- All applications require the **endorsement of a ward councillor**
- Ideally, the ward in which the activity will take place
- Ward councillor also responsible for signing off a project report necessary to claim the remaining 50% of grant.
- This is to ensure that the Sub-Committee have some evidence that applications meet a local need, have demonstrable local support, and meet with the broad aims of the Fund.

What will WBSF fund?

- Equipment hire / purchase
- Materials
- Capital works
- Publicity
- Running costs associated with the project
– but see below
- Volunteer expenses
- Other legitimate costs

We probably won't pay for

- Activities that happen before the grant is approved by the Executive
- Existing, repeat or regular activities
- Routine repair and maintenance
- Repayment of loans
- Items that mainly benefit an individual
- Political or religious activities
- Purchase of alcohol, drugs, etc.
- Repeat applications – unless justified

What makes a good bid?

- Something new that will make a difference
- New project or development of existing
- Demonstrable community involvement and impact, especially volunteering
- Tackling disadvantage
- Promoting local responsibility and new ways of working
- Makes most of available resources and considers future sustainability

Things unlikely to be supported

- Recurring items such as rent or salaries where not clear how these will be covered in future
- Events or activities that have occurred previously and where no new impact
- Projects that have not been developed with local input
- Improvements to buildings which have not had approval of the owner
- Ambitious projects where the feasibility has not been assessed
- Projects submitted by individuals with no other local involvement

Things to remember when bidding

- Contact your ward councillor at an early stage
- E-mail applications (and endorsements) accepted
- Make sure you have local support and can demonstrate this in your application
- Think about all impacts and what is new
- Think about what happens after the grant is spent – how will activity continue
- Contact an officer in the relevant Council Department – their comments will be sought

Next Round

- Grant Sub-committee meets mid June (recommendations to 1st July Executive)
- Deadline for applications early to mid-May
- Check www.wandsworth.gov.uk/wbsf
- Any queries call the EDO – 020 8871 6884
- Steve Diamond, Joanne Finlayson contact points
- Second round later in the year, deadline mid September

Wandsworth Discretionary Fund

- For existing organisations with track record of delivering to Wandsworth residents
- Impacted by public sector funding cuts
- One-off 'transition support' to cope with reductions and move to sustainable operating model
- Organisations invited to bid by the EDO – Council Departments asked to nominate
- Maximum amount of funding **30% of the reduction being made to their income in 2013/14 or £25,000**, whichever is the smaller amount.

WDF – gateway criteria

- ‘civil society organisation’ with an income of between £50,000 and £10 million p.a.;
- minimum of 60% of annual income from taxpayer funded sources (local, regional or national);
- income from the public sector will decline by over 20% in 2013-14; and
- unrestricted reserves of not more than what it would cost to run the organisation for three months.

WDF impact criteria

- successfully delivered service(s) to Wandsworth residents for a minimum of three years in a way that has contributed to the Council's corporate objectives;
- for VCOs previously funded by London Councils, the loss of funding would result in a detrimental impact for Wandsworth residents.
- a business plan/forward strategy which demonstrates that support from the WDF would ensure the organisation's financial viability and sustainability beyond 2013/14.
- The business plan or forward strategy should also show they intend the amount of future volunteering or voluntary action would increase; and
- the organisation has strong and robust internal governance.

How to bid

- Two rounds in 2013-14; next round deadline likely to be early May
- EDO will ask Directors to nominate potential applicants; contact your Council contact officer now
- EDO will issue invitations to apply
- A new application template will be issued
- Decisions as per WBSF timetable

Things to remember

- Be as clear as possible about your finances and the impact of funding reductions
- Focus on the essential elements of your business plan; what future operating model and how will you transition to it
- Get external advice or input from Board if possible
- Assess funding landscape to inform credible future bidding strategy
- Give enough information to convince of your value – but don't overdo it
- Don't leave it too late!

Wandsworth Community Fund

- Created through an endowment of dormant charitable funds held by the Council
- Managed by London Community Foundation
- Award recommendations by Panel made up of members of Grants Sub-committee