

Disability justice fund

Funding guidelines



Contents

About this initiative	3
About Trust for London	3
Terminology and definitions	3
What we want to fund	4
Who can apply for a grant?	5
Level of funding	6
What criteria will be used to shortlist applications?	7
What can the funds be used for?	8
Pre-application support	8
Other useful information	9
Decision-making	9
Exclusions	9
How to apply	10
Key Dates	10

About this initiative

Deaf and Disabled Londoners are more likely to be living in poverty. In London, 33% of families that include a Disabled person are in poverty. And almost half of people living in poverty are Disabled or are living in a household with someone that is Disabled.

The Disability justice fund aims to contribute towards a strong, vibrant, diverse and sustainable movement for social justice for Deaf and Disabled Londoners. It will do this by supporting Deaf and Disabled people's organisations (DDPOs) to become more effective, more powerful, more inclusive, more influential and more sustainable.

We believe that a strong, vibrant, diverse and sustainable movement will enable Deaf and Disabled Londoners to challenge injustice and advocate for the lasting change needed to achieve an equal society.

The Disability justice fund has been developed in partnership with Deaf and Disabled community activists and draws learning from Stronger Voices, Realising Rights (SVRR), an initiative to support Deaf and Disabled people's rights and inclusion, set up in 2018. The fund launched in 2022 and over £1m was given out in the first wave of funding in 2023. In this round we plan to give out around £1.2m.

About Trust for London

We're one of London's largest funders, and we've been supporting work for a fairer city since 1891. We fund organisations fighting for a poverty-free London. At any one time we support around 300 organisations. The work we fund comes in many forms, from community groups helping to build skills and knowledge, to research and large-scale campaigns.

We support a significant number of groups led by those with direct experience of the issues being worked on. And we're committed to making sure people have the evidence they need to make the case for change. So, alongside our general grant-making, we fund work like London's Poverty Profile and London's Cost of Living Tracker.

Whatever we're working on, all our funded projects have one central aim – to make London better, fairer city, by tackling the root causes of poverty.

Terminology and definitions

We believe in the importance of social justice¹ for Disabled people and want to fund organisations fighting for this. Our approach is informed by the social model of Disability. If you're shortlisted, we'll ask about how you approach social justice for Disabled people. We'll also be interested in whether you use the social model of disability, and your approach to intersectionality.

If you're wondering if your organisation is eligible to apply for funding, it may be helpful for you to know that we are using the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) definition of Disability, which states that Disabled people:

'...include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.'

Any group covered by the Equality Act 2010 will be covered by the UNCRPD definition.

¹ **Social justice:** Our approach to social justice draws on the five principles set out by the Civic Power Fund: Equal access to resources, equity, participation, diversity and human rights. [Read more here.](#)

What we want to fund

We'll be looking to fund work:

1. that **strengthens the capacity** of DDPOs to engage in campaigning, policy, advocacy and to generally mobilise for change

and

2. that contributes to **growing, broadening, and diversifying** the disability movement.

In particular, the fund will support work that contributes to achieving the following outcomes:

- ▶ Campaigning or advocacy for rights and challenging injustice for some or all Deaf/Disabled people
- ▶ Improving the diversity/intersectionality/inclusivity of individual organisations
- ▶ Improving the diversity/intersectionality/inclusivity of the Disability movement
- ▶ Building or improving the capacity/ability/systems of individual organisations so that they are better run and can fight more effectively for social justice for some or all Deaf/Disabled people
- ▶ Building or improving the infrastructure of the Disability movement so that we are collectively better run and can fight more effectively for social justice for some or all Deaf/Disabled people.

We are keen to fund a diversity of work, including:

- ▶ Work that supports Deaf and Disabled people that find themselves at the intersection of other systems of oppression, such as Disabled Black people, Disabled people within the immigration system or Deaf LGBTQ+ people (this is illustrative and not exhaustive)
- ▶ Work that strengthens voice and capacity for voice in individual DDPOs
- ▶ Consortia applications to develop and/or strengthen joint work on specific issues or campaigns towards achieving social justice
- ▶ Development grants to enable DDPOs to plan for partnerships or complex pieces of work

- ▶ Innovative work, and new ways of thinking to enable DDPOs individually or together with others to mobilise for social change, explore intersectionality, and/or to diversify the movement
- ▶ Work that builds capacity of DDPOs to mobilise for social change. We welcome applications seeking to:
 - deliver coordination and networking support
 - deliver learning and evaluation support
 - offer short capacity-building interventions for funded organisations
 - develop creative spaces for collective discussion, learning and thinking to support the Disability movement
 - facilitate connections with other movements and sectors.

Examples of work might include:

- ▶ funding for a new DDPO to put in place systems, and develop a strategic plan
- ▶ funding for a DDPO to work with a migration organisation to analyse the experience of disabled people within the immigration system and co-produce a campaign
- ▶ funding for a partnership between three DDPOs to work together to improve their HR processes and staff retention
- ▶ funding for campaigns led by young disabled people.

This list is illustrative and is not exhaustive.

We're also looking to fund a mix of sizes of organisations including some that may not have a track record of fundraising from grant-making trusts. We'll consider grants of different sizes, up to a duration of three years.

We will not fund applications relating to service delivery.

Who can apply for a grant?

We will consider applications from groups and organisations that meet the definition of a Deaf and Disabled people's organisation - as provided by Inclusion London. This means:

- ▶ your management committee/ board has at least 75% representation from Deaf or Disabled People
- ▶ at least 50% of your paid staff team are Deaf or Disabled people with representation at all levels of the organisation
- ▶ you provide services for, or work on behalf of, Deaf and Disabled people.

You should also:

- ▶ carry out work that benefits people who live in London
- ▶ have a bank account with two unrelated signatories
- ▶ have at least three independent trustees or directors

- ▶ have a written constitution.

We'll consider applications from these types of organisations:

- ▶ Trusts
- ▶ Unincorporated Associations
- ▶ Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
- ▶ Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) which may also be registered as a Charity or a Community Interest Company Limited by Guarantee
- ▶ Companies and CICs must have at least one unpaid independent director or an independent board with knowledge of and skills to scrutinise the organisation's finances.

If you are applying for **core funding**, you need to be a registered charity.

Core funding means grants restricted to either a specific element of overheads (for example, rental costs or the director's salary) or grants available to be used for essential running costs more broadly.

Applied in round one?

Some DDPOs that received one year grants, small grants or developmental grants from us in round one can apply for further funding. If you want to do this, please talk to your grants manager first to check that you are eligible.

Organisations that were rejected in round one can reapply, but you must be applying for new work. You cannot apply for the same project.

Not a DDPO and want to apply?

The primary aim of the fund is to support the Disability movement through funding DDPOs. However, we do not want to stop innovative work happening, and may make grants which enable cross-movement collaboration or intersectional working.

Please note we will want to ensure that a DDPO is leading the work and holds the power in resource allocation and decision making.

If you are not a DDPO, and want to apply for funding please talk to Trust for London. Your application will automatically be rejected if you do not do this.

Level of funding

We have £1.2 million available for this round.

For larger grants, over £20,000: We anticipate that many applications will be for funding between £30,000 - £60,000 per year, for a period of two-three years. We do not expect to make grants larger than £180,000.

If you are applying for a higher amount, please speak to us first so that we can understand why you are doing this.

For small grants: We'll consider grants of up to £20,000.

What criteria will be used to shortlist applications?

We expect to receive many more applications than we're able to fund, and we'll therefore apply strict criteria to shortlist applications.

Applications from eligible organisations will be assessed against the strength of the proposed work and extent to which the proposals support the aims and outcomes of the fund.

We expect your plans to be proportionate to your budget and encourage you to be realistic with your proposed activities. It can be better to focus on one activity, rather than struggling to deliver multiple activities.

Different shortlisting criteria will apply according to the size of the request.

For larger grants (more than £20,000)

You are more likely to be shortlisted and/or be awarded funding if the following apply:

- ▶ You can demonstrate how your work will contribute towards the aims of the Disability justice fund (set out in section four)
- ▶ You are clear on what you want to achieve with the funding
- ▶ Your organisation has a clear sense of mission and vision, is well-run, with clear systems in place
- ▶ You can demonstrate the active engagement and participation of the diversity of your community in your organisation
- ▶ You can demonstrate that your organisation believes in fighting for social justice for Disabled people.

If you're applying for a partnership application, you can explain how the partnership will work.

Please note that non-DDPOs can be partners in an application but we will need to understand their role and your reason for choosing them.

We want to fund work that is Disabled-led so we'll need to feel confident that the DDPO making the application, and any other DDPOs involved in the bid, has primary power and oversight. We would expect to see this reflected in the budget with most of the resource staying within the DDPO(s).

For smaller development grants (£20,000 or less)

You're more likely to be shortlisted and/or be awarded funding if you can demonstrate the following:

- ▶ you are an emerging, small and developing grassroots group of Deaf and Disabled people AND
- ▶ that you propose to carry out work to develop and empower your members/group/people with a particular impairment and or intersectional issue.

This means showing us how you will use the funding to:

- ▶ develop a sense of shared collective identity AND/OR
- ▶ learn more about how you will campaign or advocate for your rights and challenge injustice for some or all Deaf/Disabled people AND/OR
- ▶ build or improve the capacity/ability/systems of your organisation so that you are better run.

What can the funds be used for?

Grants can only be awarded for work considered to be charitable. The funding is flexible and can be for core funding or project funding.

Applicants do not need to be registered as charities to apply for project funding, but if the application is for core funding, the DDPO must be a registered charity.

For those seeking grants to run a project we can fund:

- ▶ salary costs of staff
- ▶ direct costs of the project
- ▶ access costs (for example travel, venue hire, support costs, interpreters and childcare)
- ▶ staff training
- ▶ a reasonable proportion of the DDPO's overheads (by this we mean the costs of central or core activities to support the project, such as management and accountancy).

Pre-application support

We recognise that some organisations may need support to develop and deliver the type of work we want to fund.

From the day of the launch of the fund and up until the deadline for completed applications, we will:

- ▶ host online information sessions to talk about the fund and give potential applicants opportunities to ask questions
- ▶ offer one-to-one sessions with a grants manager over Zoom and telephone. These can be booked in advance. We have a grants manager that can use BSL

- ▶ work with Inclusion London and People First to reach out to DDPOs and encourage them to apply
- ▶ offer access-payments for accessibility-related support to apply (maximum £500)
- ▶ have a FAQ section on our website.

Information on how to access this support and any other opportunities is [available on our website](#).

Other useful information

We're open to funding existing Trust for London funded partners (i.e. organisations that currently receive funding from us).

Where organisations are newly established or have limited experience, we will encourage them to work with others or recruit additional assistance to help with managing a grant.

Decision-making

We will work with the Disability justice fund advisory panel, made up of eight disabled activists, to review eligible applications. The panel can make funding recommendations to the senior management team and/or trustees of Trust for London.

Exclusions:

We will not fund applications:

- ▶ for service delivery work
- ▶ for work not ultimately intended to address poverty and disadvantage
- ▶ from individuals
- ▶ from mainstream public services including schools and hospitals
- ▶ for the promotion of religion
- ▶ for general appeals
- ▶ for work that has already taken place
- ▶ from organisations holding significant **free reserves**. Generally, reserves equating to up to nine months' worth of expenditure is acceptable
- ▶ from organisations in serious financial deficits
- ▶ for capital costs, including building and renovations (although small items of office equipment such as computers can be funded)
- ▶ from large national organisations that already enjoy widespread support.

Free reserves means unrestricted funds which are freely available to spend on any of the charity's purposes.

How to apply

If you think your organisation is the right fit for the fund, please apply using the online application form.

If you want to draft your application before submitting it online, you can download a Word version of the application form from our website. We also accept videos and voice applications, although some information will still have to be submitted via our online application form. [More information can be found on our website.](#)

Please note:

IF YOU ARE APPLYING FOR CORE FUNDING: submit your organisation's budget for the current year

IF YOU ARE APPLYING FOR PROJECT FUNDING: submit a project budget setting out clearly staffing, other project costs, overheads, user involvement costs etc. and the requested amount, if less than the total project cost

The deadline for round two is **Monday 4 March 5pm.**

Key Dates

Monday 20 November 2023	Applications open
Wednesday 29 November 2023 (2pm-3.30pm)	Information webinars
Monday 11 December 2023 (11am-12.30pm)	
Tuesday 16 January 2024 (2pm-3.30pm)	
Monday 4 March 2024	Deadline for applications
Weeks commencing 13 and 20 May 2024	Shortlisting meetings (x2)
Week commencing 27 May 2024	Successful applications invited to meet with Trust for London staff
	Unsuccessful applicants informed
Week commencing 15 July 2024	Grant decision meetings
Week commencing 29 July 2024	Grants awarded



4 Chiswell Street, London
EC1Y 4UP

www.trustforlondon.org.uk

info@trustforlondon.org.uk

Twitter: @trustforlondon

Instagram: @trustforlondon

LinkedIn: Trust for London

Registered Charity No.: 205629