

Grassroots Community Resilience Pilot: Expression of Interest

Peace Collective x Thrive LDN

Background and purpose

Peace Collective, with support from Thrive LDN and funding from the Mayor of London, has been commissioned to manage the pilot of a small community fund aimed at supporting small organisations in London who are helping people affected by war, crisis or displacement.

This pilot builds on findings from a [recent review of mental health and wellbeing resources](#) for communities affected by displacement, conflict and crisis. We heard clearly that many affected individuals and communities are looking beyond traditional mental health services and find care and support in everyday community activities, such as shared meals, storytelling, cultural events, faith groups, or creative workshops. These kinds of spaces are often where people feel safe, included, and supported to talk about how they're feeling.

Through this community resilience pilot, we are offering **funding of up to £1,500** to help relevant grassroots and community organisations keep doing this important work. We anticipate being able to support around 12 projects.

This fund is for London-based grassroots organisations, small charities, and informal community groups with an annual turnover of less than £300,000. Funding is for practical, ready-to-go activities, which could be existing projects/ initiatives or funding can be used to repeat initiatives. It is not for new ideas that haven't started yet. For example, to cover costs for existing or upcoming activities, such as space hire, food, materials, or towards staff time.

As well as offering funding, we will also be collating and **sharing short case studies** about the groups and activities supported through this pilot. These will appear on the Thrive LDN website and will spotlight examples of how community-based support can improve mental health and wellbeing. The case studies will help to **inspire others and share learning**, based on what's already working.

How will this work?

We are inviting community organisations to complete [a short Expression of Interest \(EOI\) form](#). If you require this form in an alternative format, please let us know.

The deadline for submitting an EOI is 23:59 Monday, 25 August and we encourage you to apply as soon as you can.

You can use the funding to cover costs for activities that are already happening, or that will happen soon. The most important thing is that your work **creates safe, welcoming spaces where people can connect, feel supported and explore their wellbeing**.

Projects and initiatives must predominantly be those which are supporting people affected by war, crisis, or displacement and/ or experiencing other shocks, emergencies, and trauma. Funding will be prioritised for smaller grassroots organisations or community-led groups.

You can use the funding to cover reasonable, practical costs that help your activity happen safely and accessibly. This might include:

- venue or space hire
- facilitator or staff time
- food or refreshments
- materials or equipment
- travel or participant expenses
- accessibility support (e.g. interpreters, transport, childcare)

We cannot fund:

- individual or personal costs not linked to a specific activity
- entirely new or speculative projects that haven't started
- political campaigning
- large-scale organisational overheads

Please read all the available information about this funding opportunity, including the FAQs available here. If you're not sure whether your group is eligible, or you need support to complete the form, please get in touch with us.

Key info

- **Funding available:** up to £1,500 per organisation can be applied for.
- **EOI opens:** Tuesday, 5 August 2025.
- **EOI deadline:** end of day Monday, 25 August 2025.
- **Application method:** [please apply via the Microsoft Form](#) (approx. 10–15 minutes to complete)
- **Outcome:** you'll hear back no later than 10 working days of the application deadline

Important notes

Who can apply

This fund is for London-based grassroots organisations, small charities, and informal community groups with an annual turnover of less than £300,000.

We welcome applications for projects that support people affected by war, crisis, displacement, or other forms of trauma. We will prioritise work that is led by or serves marginalised communities. This includes diaspora, refugee, faith-based, and other minoritised groups. We are not able to fund individuals applying in a personal capacity.

The fund is designed to support existing activities demonstrating an established connection and level of trust with the people they serve. Your work should aim to foster connection, belonging, or emotional wellbeing. We are particularly interested in community-based approaches using food, storytelling, cultural rituals, or creativity. We cannot fund the design of new projects.

This funding is for community-based activities that help people feel less alone, more connected, and more supported. You don't have to run a mental health service, just create a safe, welcoming space for people to come together. We'll also share information about where

to signpost people for further support if needed, and we'll encourage all funded groups to take up free training that helps make activities safer and more trauma aware.

If you are unsure about your eligibility, please get in touch with us.

Selection and scoring

Each application will be assessed against the following four criteria, scored on a simple 0–2 scale. Total maximum score: **10 points**. Applications scoring 9 to 10 will typically be prioritised, though final decisions will also consider diversity of settings and communities and the overall funding made available for Peace Collective to administrate through this pilot.

- 0 = does not meet the criteria
- 1 = partially meets the criteria
- 2 = fully meets the criteria

Criteria	Score 0	Score 1	Score 2
1. Community relevance	No clear evidence of relevance, or target group is already well-represented	Some relevance, but unclear whether the activity is for or led by a marginalised group	Strong alignment – clearly led by or supporting an underserved or crisis-affected community
2. Wellbeing and connection	Not clearly linked to wellbeing, emotional support or connection	General relevance to wellbeing, but not a core focus	Clear and central focus on belonging, emotional care, or social connection with a clear understanding of the mental health and wellbeing benefits of this activity
3. Feasibility and readiness	No clear plan or budget, or unclear what funding will cover or no evidence that activity is happening	Some planning or previous activity evident but vague (e.g. unclear timeline, delivery model or spend breakdown)	Clear, realistic use of funds – including for existing, retrospective, or upcoming delivery – with straightforward cost outline and evidence activity is ready to go
4. Scale and organisational fit¹	Group appears to be a large or well-funded organisation	Group appears moderately sized or better resourced, but application shows some relevance to pilot aims	Group is clearly grassroots, small-scale or informal, with limited access to other funding sources
5. Prioritising smaller organisations	Lead organisation (those delivering this work) report an annual income of more than £300,000	Lead organisation (those delivering this work) report an annual income between £150,000 and £300,000	Lead organisation (those delivering this work) report an annual income of less than £150,000

¹ **Note on fiscal hosting:** If an application is submitted by a small or informal group that is fiscally hosted by a larger organisation (e.g. for banking or contracting purposes), assess the scale and fit based on the delivery group's size and nature, not the host organisation. Use the applicant's description of their setup to guide this. The hosting organisation must be registered in the UK. We will only pay in GBP.

Safeguarding and risk

If your activity involves working with children, young people or vulnerable adults, you must make sure appropriate safeguarding measures are in place.

If your activity is *upcoming* or still being planned, we may ask you to share relevant documents such as:

- a safeguarding policy
- risk assessment
- confirmation of DBS checks for staff or volunteers

If your activity has *already taken place*, we won't usually request this information unless there is a specific reason to do so.

We ask all funded organisations to take reasonable steps to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the people they work with.

Training and support opportunities

We encourage all applicants to explore relevant training and safety guidance to support their work. In particular:

- [Trauma-informed practice training](#), available for free via Thrive LDN's website
- [Community Security Trust \(CST\) safety guidance](#), especially for those working in high-risk or faith-based settings
- [Concerns about anti-migrant hostility: support and resources](#), collated by the London Communities Emergencies Partnership (LCEP)

You'll be asked in the application form whether you would like to be contacted with more information about these resources.

Microsoft form outline below

Section 1

About your organisation

1. **Organisation name** Required to answer. Single line text.
2. **Name of applicant** Required to answer. Single line text.
3. **Email address of applicant.** Required to answer. Single line text.
4. **Phone / contact number of applicant** Required to answer. Single line text.
5. **Are you/do you represent a constituted organisation?** Required to answer. Single choice.
 - Yes
 - No
6. **Do you have a safeguarding policy in place (especially if working with children/young people)?** Required to answer. Single choice.
 - Yes (If yes, you may be asked to submit this upon award)
 - No
 - Not applicable
7. **Annual turnover (*Note: This fund is for London-based grassroots organisations, small charities, and informal community groups with an annual turnover of less than £300,000*)** Required to answer. Single choice.
 - Under £150k
 - £150k – £300k
 - Over £300k

Section 2 – Your initiative

8. **Tell us about the work you want to use this funding for** Required to answer. Multi Line Text.
 - *What are you doing? Who are you working with? Where is it taking place?*
 - *(2,000 characters, approx. max 300 words)*
9. **Has this activity already or is already taking place, or will it be soon?** Required to answer. Single choice.
 - Already started
 - About to start
10. **How does your initiative support belonging, wellbeing or emotional connection for people affected by war, crisis, or displacement and/ or experiencing other shocks, emergencies, and trauma?** Required to answer. Multi Line Text.

- *We're particularly interested in culturally grounded or relational approaches such as storytelling, shared meals, creative expression, or group conversations*
- *(1,700 characters, approx. max 250 words)*

11. What communities do you work with? Required to answer. Multi Line Text.

- *e.g. refugee or diaspora groups, faith communities, minoritised groups, young people, etc.)*
- *(1,000 characters approx. max 150 words)*

12. We'd like you to provide one of the following as evidence of your existing or ongoing work - please select which you'd be able to offer (tick all that apply): Required to answer. Multiple choice.

- A flyer, poster, or photo from a recent session or event
- A public social media post or website describing the activity
- A reference from a local partner or venue (e.g. school, youth centre, faith space)
- A short introductory call with Peace Collective if no materials are available

13. Does your activity involve working with children, young people or vulnerable adults? Required to answer. Single choice.

- Yes
- No

14. If yes, and the activity is upcoming, do you have relevant safeguarding processes in place (e.g. a safeguarding policy, risk assessment, DBS checks)? We may ask you to share these documents if your application is successful. Required to answer. Single choice.

- Yes
- No
- Some of these are in place

15. Has your organisation had contact with Thrive LDN or Peace Collective previously? Required to answer. Single choice.

- Yes
- No

16. If yes, please briefly describe the connection or project.

- *(750 characters approx. max 100 words)* Required to answer. Multi Line Text.

17. Would you like more Information about the suggested training and support resources? Required to answer. Single choice.

- Yes
- No

Section 3 – Budget and acknowledgement

18. **Please outline your requested funding amount (up to £1,500) and provide a brief outline of how the funding will be used.** Required to answer. Multi Line Text.
- *e.g. venue hire, food, materials, equipment, facilitator time, volunteer expenses*
 - *(1,700 characters, approx. max 250 words)*
19. **If your group does not have its own bank account, are you working with another organisation to hold funds on your behalf (e.g. fiscal hosting)?** Required to answer. Single choice.
- Yes
 - No
20. **If yes, please name the organisation and briefly explain the arrangement. This does not affect your eligibility.** Required to answer. Single line text.
21. **Do you agree to have a short conversation with Peace Collective to help us capture learning about your work?** Required to answer. Single choice.
- Yes
 - No
22. **Do you agree to your initiative being included as an anonymised case study or example of good practice?** Required to answer. Single choice.
- Yes
 - No
23. **Any additional comments or context you'd like us to know?** Multi Line Text.
- *(750 characters approx. max 100 words)*

Section 4 – Thank you for your expression of interest

We will contact organisations within 10 working days of the deadline regarding the outcome. If we are unable to fund your initiative or it is not eligible for this round, we will signpost you to other potential and relevant opportunities where possible.

For full guidance and FAQs, visit: <https://www.peace-collective.org/post/grassroots-community-resilience-pilot>

If you have any questions, please contact: info@peace-collective.org

Copy of Website page & FAQ's

Grassroots Community Resilience Pilot

Funding to support community-based wellbeing activities across London

Peace Collective, with support from Thrive LDN and funding from the Mayor of London, is offering funding of up to £1,500 to grassroots and community groups already delivering culturally grounded work that supports connection, emotional wellbeing, and belonging for those affected by war, crisis or displacement or experiencing other shocks, emergencies, and trauma.

This pilot builds on findings from a [recent review of mental health and wellbeing resources](#) for communities affected by displacement, conflict and crisis. We heard clearly that not all mental health and wellbeing support happens through formal services. It recognised that spaces such as shared meals, storytelling events, faith gatherings and peer support circles often provide powerful 'entry points' to mental health support – even if they're not labelled that way.

Through this pilot funding opportunity, we aim to:

- Fund existing grassroots activity that supports community mental health for those affected by war, crisis or displacement and/ or experiencing other shocks, emergencies, and trauma
- Highlight inspiring examples of effective practice through short case studies
- Explore how informal, culturally grounded support can be further resourced and amplified

Apply now

Complete a short [Expression of Interest form](https://forms.office.com/e/XZAXHbqBqf): <https://forms.office.com/e/XZAXHbqBqf>

Applications must be submitted by 23:59, Monday, 25 August.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What's on offer?

- **Up to £1,500 in funding** for grassroots groups already delivering activity that supports community wellbeing for those affected by war, crisis or displacement and/ or experiencing other shocks, emergencies, and trauma.
- A chance to be featured in **case studies** on Thrive LDN's website, celebrating inspiring practice and helping inform future support.
- Signposting and optional access to trauma-informed practice training and safety guidance.

2. Who can apply?

This fund is for London-based grassroots organisations, small charities, and informal community groups with an annual turnover of less than £300,000 who are supporting people affected by crisis, war or displacement and/ or experiencing other shocks, emergencies, and trauma.

To be eligible, your work should:

- Be led by, or directly support, underserved communities, such as asylum seekers, refugees, diaspora, faith-based or minoritised groups
- Already be happening, or ready to begin/repeat (this is not for brand new ideas)
- Help people feel safe, connected and cared for – even if your work doesn't use mental health language
- Use activities that bring people together, like shared meals, storytelling, creativity, faith or cultural gatherings
- Be delivered by a grassroots group, community organisation or informal network (you don't need to be a registered charity) with an annual turnover of less than £300,000

Important note:

We're not able to fund individuals or sole traders applying on their own. If you are applying, it should be on behalf of a community organisation, group or informal project.

If you're not sure whether you're eligible, or you'd like to talk it through, feel free to contact us.

Some grassroots groups may use a larger organisation as a 'fiscal host' to help manage payments. This is fine, we will assess eligibility and fit based on the delivery group and their activity, not the financial host, as long as the host organisation is registered and operating in the UK. All payments will be made in GBP to a UK bank account.

3. Can individuals apply for this funding?

No. This funding is for community-based organisations, groups or initiatives with an annual turnover of less than £300,000. We are unable to fund individuals applying in a personal capacity.

4. Funding

We want this fund to be as accessible as possible, including to informal or unconstituted groups. However, because this is public money, we need to make sure there's a safe and accountable way to transfer the agreed funding.

You **don't need to be a registered charity or formal organisation**, but we do ask that:

- Your group has a **bank account in its name**, or
- You have a trusted **partner organisation** (like a school, place of worship, or local charity) who can receive and hold the funds on your behalf.

If you're not sure how to do this, please get in touch. We're happy to help find a solution, though we may not be able to fund groups where a safe and accountable payment route isn't possible.

5. What can the funding cover?

Funding can be used to **cover the real costs** of community-based activity, such as:

- Volunteer or facilitator time
- Venue hire or transport
- Food and materials
- Essential equipment
- Coordination or staff support
- Reasonable travel costs

This fund is **not for new projects**. This pilot is limited in the overall funding available and is about helping sustain work that's already happening.

6. What kinds of activities are you looking to support?

We're looking to support small, community-based activities that help people feel connected, supported, and safe, especially those who have been affected by displacement, crisis or conflict.

You don't need to run formal "mental health" programmes. In fact, some of the most powerful support happens in everyday community spaces. This could include:

- A shared meal or tea and coffee morning
- A choir, theatre or creative arts session
- A community celebration or cultural event
- A peer support group or talking circle
- A craft session

These are just examples. The most important thing is that this funding helps support existing activity which is bringing people together and where people feel safe, heard, and included, even if mental health isn't spoken about directly.

7. How will applications be reviewed?

Applications must be submitted by 23:59, Monday, 25 August. We encourage you to apply as early as possible.

Each application will be reviewed against:

- Whether it fits the purpose and spirit of the fund
- Whether the costs are proportionate to the work described
- Whether the activity supports marginalised or crisis-affected communities
- Geographical and community balance across the cohort

We expect to be able to support around **12 organisations** in this pilot phase.

8. What happens if I'm funded?

- We'll transfer the requested amount of funding (up to £1,500) to you promptly
- We'll follow up to chat about your work and feature your story as a short **case study**
- Your example may be shared (with consent) via Thrive LDN's website and other materials as a **model of effective practice**
- You may be invited to share reflections or learning with others involved in the pilot

9. Safeguarding and safety

If your activity involves **children, young people or vulnerable adults**, and you're applying to fund **upcoming activity**, we may ask you to provide:

- A safeguarding policy
- Evidence of DBS checks for those delivering the work
- A short risk assessment

We may not require these if your activity has already taken place. We'll be in touch if we need anything.

10. Is any other support available alongside the funding?

Yes. Alongside the funding, we'll:

- Share a list of free wellbeing and mental health support services in case you or someone in your group needs them
- Encourage groups to take part in optional training, such as trauma-informed practice or community safety guidance
- Offer light-touch support around planning, safeguarding and risk (where needed)

We're not expecting you to be mental health experts. But we do want to make sure people are safe and supported if difficult topics come up.

11. Training opportunities

We encourage you to explore:

- [Trauma-informed practice training](#), available for free via Thrive LDN's website
- [Community Security Trust \(CST\) safety guidance](#), especially for those working in high-risk or faith-based settings
- [Concerns about anti-migrant hostility: support and resources](#), collated by the London Communities Emergencies Partnership (LCEP)

12. Questions?

If you have any questions about this offer or the application form, or if you need this information in a different format, please contact us: info@peace-collective.org