

**MAYOR OF LONDON**

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**Skills for Londoners Community Outreach  
2026-29**

**Webinar – 28 April 2026**

# BACKGROUND

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- **The Mayor is responsible for the majority of adult skills provision in London**, but awareness of available adult skills and employment support is limited among many Londoners.
- Community groups and local organisations are **highly valued and trusted by the Londoners** and neighbourhoods they work with and are effective at reaching people and connecting them to opportunities.
- The Mayor has committed to a long-term engagement and community outreach programme for adult education in London, as set out in the **Skills Roadmap for London (2022)**.
- The **Inclusive Talent Strategy (launched October 2025)** sets out a plan to build a diverse talent pipeline and includes commitments to simplify the skills system, tailor support, remove barriers, and create routes into growth sectors.
- The **Get London Working plan (launched alongside ITS)**, supports a more integrated skills, employment, health and careers system and helping reduce economic inactivity.
- The Skills for Londoners Community Outreach Programme aligns with both the Inclusive Talent Strategy and the Get London Working plan.

# OBJECTIVES

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## The Skills for Londoners Community Outreach 2026-29 Objectives:



To reach diverse communities and connect Londoners to adult skills and employment support provision.



To deliver outreach activities and interventions to Londoners to tackle barriers to accessing learning and employment support opportunities.



For community groups to be better embedded in London's employer-led Inclusive Talent System.



For community groups to establish long term, sustainable partnerships with London's Skills Providers and employment support services.



For community groups to develop referral pathways with London's Skills Providers and employment support services, leading to better access for Londoners.

# PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

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- **Funding:** grants available between £70 - £120k for two-years delivery
- **Number of projects supported:** Up to 28 organisations could be awarded funding.
- **Geographical focus:** Projects can operate in a single borough, across multiple boroughs, or be pan-London.
- **Delivery Term:** September to August 2029 with initial funding offered for the first two years, up to August 2028.
- **Questions and answers window:** open until Friday 15 May 2026, 12pm
- **Application window:** open until Friday 22 May 2026, 12pm.

# FUNDING AVAILABLE

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- Funding of grants between £70 – 120k, for two-years delivery, for eligible organisations.
- Up to 28 projects could be funded
- Funding will be provided between September 2026 to August 2028, in eight milestone payments, subject to milestone requirements being met.
- Funding for the third delivery year will be ringfenced to grantees who demonstrate successful delivery of the programme and will be dependent on performance.
- Should any additional funding become available for specific target groups engagement and support during the delivery term, the GLA may assess eligibility for new funding considering both the direct grantees contracted for delivery in 2026–29 and the organisations that submit applications during this current application window.
- When applying for funding, organisations are encouraged to review the reporting and delivery requirements outlined in the **Skills for Londoners Community Outreach 2026-29 Delivery Handbook (draft)**.

# PAYMENT MODEL

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Subject to the delivery of key claim requirements as outlined in the Prospectus and Delivery Handbook (draft), successful projects will be paid in 8 milestone payments across the delivery cycle.

	Claim Window date	% of payment
<b>Milestone 1</b>	<b>September 2026</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Milestone 2</b>	<b>January 2027</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Milestone 3</b>	<b>April 2027</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Milestone 4</b>	<b>July 2027</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Milestone 5</b>	<b>October 2027</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Milestone 6</b>	<b>January 2028</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Milestone 7</b>	<b>April 2028</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Milestone 8</b>	<b>July/August 2028</b>	<b>20%</b>

# GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

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- Bidding organisations can determine where their projects will operate.
- Projects can operate in a single borough, across multiple boroughs or be pan-London.
- All project activity must take place within London with London residents.
- As part of the application process, bidders will need to set out which London boroughs their projects will deliver in.
- Bidders should demonstrate an existing presence in their target area or an ability to work in the communities they are proposing to deliver in.

**Note:** The GLA aims to maximise programme delivery across all London boroughs and is committed to ensuring that funding opportunities are available in every area. When making final award decisions, the GLA will consider the proposed geographical distribution of delivery to support a balanced spread across boroughs.

# PRIORITY GROUPS

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The GLA are keen to see applications to engage with the following Londoners:

- **Women**
- **Disabled people**, including those with **long-term health conditions**
- Londoners from **mixed ethnic backgrounds**, including, **Black Londoners**, and **Asian Londoners** (with a particular focus on **Bangladeshi** and **Pakistani women**)
- **Young Londoners**, including those **under 24**, **NEET**, and **care leavers**
- Londoners with **no or low qualifications**
- **Refugees**
- **People with experience of the criminal justice system**
- **Neurodivergent Londoners**
- **Unpaid Carers**

# PRIORITY GROUPS CONT.

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- Applications for other target groups will be accepted however the GLA encourages all bidders to review the list **before** proposing engagement with any additional target groups.

**Note:** Where possible and necessary, the GLA will prioritise funding for applications that demonstrate a focus on these priority groups during the assessment process.

- Can work with a single or multiple target groups.

**Note:** Whilst organisations can work with multiple target groups, applications are encouraged to focus on limited target groups, with meaningful engagement to address identified barriers.

- Bidders should demonstrate existing connections with their target groups or an ability to develop new connections with the groups they will work with through their application.

# ORGANISATION ELIGIBILITY

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**To be eligible to apply for funding on this programme, organisations must:**

- Be a user-led London-based community, voluntary, faith, cultural, or grassroots organisation.
- Be a registered charity, social enterprise or Community Interest Company that can demonstrate a track record of transparent financial accounting processes. Further examples are outlined in the Prospectus.
- Have an annual income of less than £500,000.
- Hold a UK bank account
- Be an individual or un-constituted community group nominating a partner organisation to receive the funds on their behalf.

**Note: Private limited companies are not eligible to apply for this funding.**

# ORGANISATION ELIGIBILITY CONT.

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- Applicants will be required to upload various documents as part of the application process via OPS.
- Documentation relates to relevant insurances, policies, risk assessments and latest set of accounts.
- Applicants are asked to ensure that correct documents are uploaded to support the efficiency of the assessment process.
- **Further information on the documentation required by organisations and the due diligence checks that will be conducted are available in the Prospectus.**

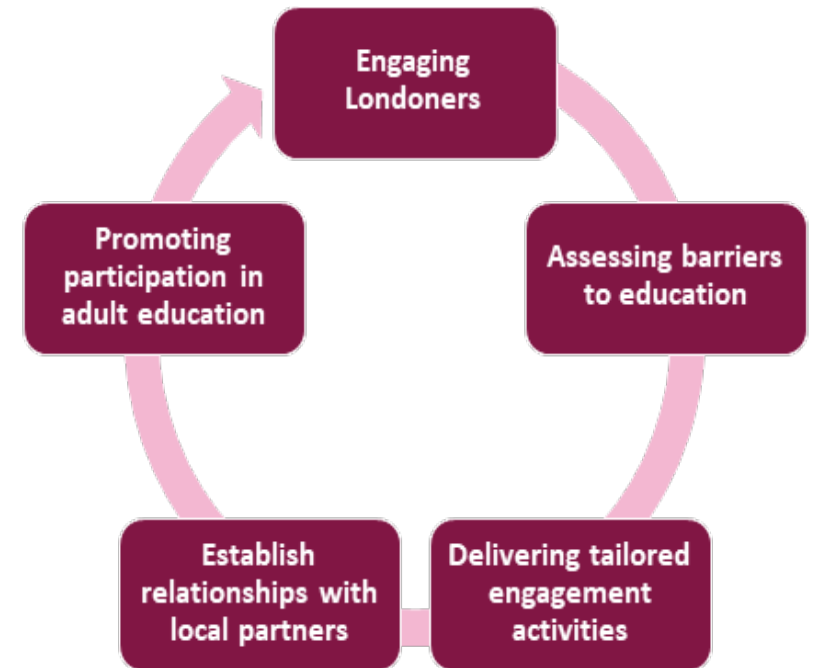
# PROGRAMME ACTIVITY

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Funding is available to deliver a range of outreach, engagement and support activities that will help to achieve the overall programme objectives.

## Programme activity should include:

- Targeted support to outreach, engage and provide support to Londoners to promote, raise awareness and increase participation in adult learning and employment support opportunities by generating referrals.
- Deliver tailored activities to address individual barriers to accessing and participating in these opportunities.
- Working closely with Londoners to provide support that builds confidence, and helps access local services (such as childcare, housing, debt and financial advice, health and social care, legal advice, and other specialist services), to tackle barriers and aid their participation in adult learning or employment support opportunities.
- Building long term partnerships with Skills Providers and employment support services
- Establishing referral pathways for Londoners to access the opportunities delivered through Skills Providers and employment support services.



# PARTICIPANT JOURNEY

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## Understand the journey of a participant accessing SfL Community Outreach 2026-29

To help bidders understand the journey of a participant accessing the programme, information can be found in the prospectus.

Stage and activity overview is provided on page 5

- Engaging Londoners
- Enrolment & Assessing barriers to accessing learning and employment support services
- Deliver tailored engagement activities
- Signposting to specialist IAG services for further wrap-around support
- Establish relationships with local skills providers, employment support services and regional partners
- Referrals to adult learning and employment support services

**Note:** the funding available is the same as in previous years whereby funding cannot be used to deliver courses or for direct training related to employability support but should be used to fund the engagement activities with participants who need support to accessing adult learning and employment support services.

# PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Successful organisations should establish links with key local partners involved in adult learning and employment support services, to gain an understanding of their services and develop strong connections.

## Key local partners include:

- Other organisations delivering the SfL Community Outreach 2026-29
- Your local Integration Hubs delivering Trailblazers and No Wrong Door.
- Skills Providers and Employment Support Services
- Other Mayor of London funded Skills Provision
- Other specific organisations relevant to project delivery

## Other key programme partners:

- Evaluators
- GLA officers

*Further information can be found in the Prospectus on the [Skills for Londoners Community Outreach programme | London City Hall](#) page.*

# MAYOR OF LONDON FUNDED SKILLS PROVISION

Adult skills provision is funded by the Mayor in London and delivered through different programmes. Successful grantees should work with their target groups to encourage participation into the best type of adult skills provision for their needs. In London this provision currently includes:

- The **Adult Skills Fund (ASF)**, in London is a multi-million-pound programme that funds education and training for adults aged 19 and over. The ASF covers a wide variety of qualifications and non-regulated learning through colleges, local authorities, and independent training providers. The ASF funds the majority of ESOL provision in London.
- **Skills Bootcamps** offers free, flexible training courses (up to 16 weeks) for Londoners aged 19+, designed to fill skills gaps in sectors like digital, green, construction, and logistics. Supported by the Mayor of London, these courses help residents gain employment or upskill, with a guaranteed job interview upon completion.
- **Get London Working Trailblazers** are five innovative initiatives to help Londoners overcome barriers to employment through connected and collaborative services. These trailblazers focus specifically on addressing London's high economic inactivity and youth unemployment by integrating the employment support available. Further information can be found on integration hubs webpages.
- The **Inclusive Talent Brokerage** programme aims to help underrepresented Londoners with good jobs by connecting them with vacancies in London's growth sectors. It funds community organisations to provide tailored support, increase their job brokerage and placement support. This programme runs until September 2026.

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# Monitoring & Reporting

# KEY METRICS

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## Starts and referrals

The key metrics that successful organisations will need to regularly report to the GLA are:

- Number of participants **starting on the programme** (starts)
- Number of participants **referred to adult learning and employment support programmes** (referrals)

At application stage, organisations will need to provide a forecast number of participants planned to enrol into the programme and number of referrals to be achieved every month. Engage with as many Londoners as possible, but be **realistic** as you will be monitored against both targets!

# STARTS

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## Number of participants starting on the programme

- Londoners that successful organisations plan to support through targeted and bespoke engagement activities, based on target group and geographical focus.
- **Engagement activities:** in-person, face-to-face engagement with local communities, online, 1-1 or group engagement sessions, workshops or open-door sessions, local events or services such as food banks, coffee mornings, faith groups.
- The forecasted figures will be monitored on a quarterly basis throughout the lifetime of the project.
- One **enrolment form** correctly signed for each start.
- Key information to collate is: personal information, employment status, barriers in accessing learning and employment support services, engagement activities planned.

# REFERRALS

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## Number of participants referred to adult learning and employment support programmes

- Minimum of 50% of starts are required to be converted into referrals
- The GLA will be tracking referrals into:
  - **Adult education** (learning or training )
  - **Job Centre Plus** (employment support)
  - **Employment support programme** (long-term support programme not delivered in-house)
- Successful providers are encouraged to refer onto Mayor of London funded provision.
- Detailed reporting via the **Participant Data Collection** (PDC) Template
- No requirement to provide the breakdown of forecasted referrals at application stage (one lump-sum).
- Referral Opportunities and Employment Support Information Guide can be found in Annex 2 Delivery Handbook.

# DELIVERY HANDBOOK

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This is a guidance document designed to help organisations who are awarded grant funding understand the different elements of the Programme once in delivery.

This document outlines reporting needs, including:

- System requirements (Open Project System and ShareFile)
- Participant Data Collection Template (PDC) completion
- Quarterly reporting and payment information
- Enrolment and case study paperwork needed once delivery starts

**You should review the Delivery Handbook before applying to understand requirements.**

Further support will be given to successful organisations in September 2026

Please note that the published version of the Delivery Handbook is in draft and will be finalised for issue at Onboarding.

# REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

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- Ongoing monitoring of the programme will have a focus on outputs delivered (starts/referrals), how organisations engage with their target groups and how they are connecting with other key partners.
- Reporting is collated via two systems: OPS and ShareFile. **Every quarter** organisations are required to update and submit reporting to the GLA in order to receive payment.
- **OPS** is a secure online **project management system**, to be used for project reporting.
- **ShareFile** is the GLA's preferred secure online portal to be used to upload evidence of delivery. It is used to securely transfer sensitive or confidential data.

To receive quarterly payment:

- Minimum of 2 participant case studies with consent form signed uploaded on ShareFile
- Fully complete and accurate PDC uploaded on ShareFile
- Update OPS with outputs delivered, risks and issues and delivery update

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# Application & Assessment

# FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information can be found on the [Skills for Londoners Community Outreach Programme](#) webpages.

**Supporting documents** – further information on the prospectus and Delivery Handbook can be found in this section

**Application questions** – further information, including what your answers to scored questions might include.

**How we score applications** – further information on how we assess and score the applications we receive

**How to complete the Profile Calculator** – the template and further information can be found here on how to complete the Profile Calculator

**Questions and Answers** – This section contains important information on the deadline for asking questions and where you can look on a weekly basis for answers to questions.

**How to apply** – more information on the application deadline and link to start the application with OPS

**OPS guidance** – further guidance available on using OPS.

**What happens next** – further information on announcements outcomes

## About the programme

The Mayor has committed to continue funding community organisations to raise awareness of adult education and employment support opportunities, ensuring Londoners have the necessary skills to improve their lives.

It is often those who would stand to benefit most from learning opportunities that are least likely to engage with the skills system. The Community Outreach Programme will have a key focus on engaging Londoners who may face barriers to engaging with adult education and employment support opportunities, delivering engagement activities within the community, and establishing relationships with local adult education providers and employment support programmes.

The programme helps the Mayor achieve his commitment to upskilling Londoners, while giving businesses the skills they need to thrive. These aims help make London a fairer, safer and greener city.

## Before you apply

Before you apply, you must read the Community Outreach Programme's:

- [prospectus \(PDF, 220 KB\)](#) on programme details, eligibility, and payment.
- [delivery handbook \(PDF 5.7 MB\)](#) on what will be required of you, if successful.

We also recommend reviewing the following information for applicants:

- + [About the prospectus](#)
- + [About the delivery handbook](#)
- + [How we will score applications](#)
- + [How to answer the application questions](#)
- + [How to complete the Profile Calculator](#)
- + [Attend the webinar on 28 April](#)
- + [Questions and answers](#)

## How to apply

To apply, register or log in to the GLA Open Project System (OPS).

[Start your application](#)

The deadline for applications is Friday 22 May 2026, 12pm.

Applications received after the deadline will not be considered or scored.

- + [Guidance on using OPS](#)
- + [How we will announce outcomes](#)

## Contact us

For questions and support, email [efcommunityoutreachprogramme@london.gov.uk](mailto:efcommunityoutreachprogramme@london.gov.uk).

Learn about the programme at our webinar on Tuesday 28 April 2026

[Register for the webinar](#)

# SCORED QUESTIONS

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- Applications will be assessed in their entirety
- Scored section of the application is relation to 6 questions
- First three are key questions – as this is a key question, applicants must score 3 out of 5 or above to be considered for a Grant Award.

## Question Summary

1. Describe how your project will engage with the target group(s) you intend to support through this funding. (20%)
2. Describe how your project intends to tackle and address the barriers your target group(s) face in accessing and participating in adult learning and employment support (support into work). (20%)
3. Completion and upload of 'Profile Calculator' and Provide a clear justification for the targets you have entered in the Profile Calculator. (20%)
4. Describe your project's approach to engaging key local partners involved in the programme. (20%)
5. Explain how your project will monitor and evaluate the impact of its activities aimed at increasing participation in adult learning and employment support programmes. (10%)
6. Explain how your project will collect, check, and submit all required reporting and data requirements in line with the Delivery Handbook for each milestone. (10%)

**Further information on How to answer the application questions is outlined on the webpages. Applicants are advised to read this section when answering the questions.**

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# HOW APPLICATIONS WILL BE SCORED

## Scoring and Moderating of applications

- All applications **received before the deadline** will be scored
- Where a high number of applications are received, scoring will be completed on the first three questions first.
- Applications that make it through the initial sift will be scored in their entirety.
- All applications will be scored with a **minimum of two scorers**
- The GLA may commission an external organisation to complete the scoring of applications.

Further information can be found on the webpages.

Score	Description
5 - Excellent	A comprehensive response of excellent quality that meets and exceeds all the minimum requirements and gives a high level of confidence that all aspects of the tender are deliverable. Strong evidence provided which supports delivery in practice.
4 - Good	A good quality response that meets and exceeds all the minimum requirements and gives a good level of confidence that most aspects are deliverable with no or only minor reservations. Good evidence provided which supports delivery in practice.
3 - Meets Minimum Requirements	A response of satisfactory quality that meets the minimum requirements for all key aspects of the tender demonstrating them to be deliverable. Satisfactory evidence is provided which supports delivery in practice.
2 - Poor	A poor response that fails to meet the minimum requirements and the evidence provided is weak.
1 - Inadequate	A response that fails to meet the minimum requirements and is not supported by evidence or the evidence provided is inadequate.
0 – Blank	A blank response submitted.

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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Window to ask questions is open!



Deadline to ask any questions is **12pm on 15 May 2026**.



To ask a question email to [sflcommunityoutreachprogramme@london.gov.uk](mailto:sflcommunityoutreachprogramme@london.gov.uk)



Final response will be issued by the GLA on Monday 19 May 2025, by email.



**Questions received after the deadline will not be answered.**

# HOW TO APPLY

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- You can apply for the programme on our OPS system.
- Please read our **guidance for accessing the OPS system** before starting your application. This can be found on the webpages.
- Deadline for submissions is **12pm on 22 May 2026**
- Applications received after the deadline will not be considered or scored.
- For any other queries please contact the team directly at [sflcommunityoutreachprogramme@london.gov.uk](mailto:sflcommunityoutreachprogramme@london.gov.uk)
- The Q&A section will be regularly updated throughout the application process with responses.

# PROGRAMME TIMINGS

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**15 April 2026 to 22 May 2026:** Applications window



**12pm on 22 May 2026:** Final deadline for applications



**25 May - August 2026 :** Scoring and assessment of applications



**Mid-late August 2026:** Organisations will be notified



**September 2026:** Onboarding



**September 2026:** Delivery Starts & 1<sup>st</sup> Milestone claim window (TBC)

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# Questions