

London Civil Society Leaders **Request for Proposals**

January 2019

Summary

The Mayor is offering a grant of up to £50,000 for a partner organisation to deliver a pilot 'London Civil Society Leaders' programme. The programme should work with civil society participants to build confidence, capabilities and ability to develop partnerships that can strengthen London's civil society. This includes partnerships within civil society¹, as well as with City Hall and funders in London.

Up to 25 participants should be supported through a year-long programme. Activities run through the programme could include training, peer to peer learning and opportunities to work with the GLA on specific initiatives and projects relating to civil society such as research or enquiry projects.

Participants will have the opportunity to develop a specific project or enquiry with GLA teams. This will bring civil society expertise into City Hall and strengthen relationships between civil society and GLA officers. The projects will be identified with the support of GLA Officers.

Delivery will take place between March 2019 and February 2020.

This request for proposals is through a competitive grant process issued by the GLA Communities and Social Policy team and Team London.

Submissions are to be made by providing the following documentation to the GLA:

1. Project Proposal (including delivery plan)
2. Due diligence documentation

Please email submissions to civilsociety@london.gov.uk. The closing date for proposals is 17:00 Friday 1st of March 2019.

¹ Civil Society includes formal organisations such as voluntary and community organisations, informal groups of people who come together for a common purpose, and individuals who act to make their community a better place to live. It is where and when people take action to improve the lives of others.

1. Background

The Mayor recognises the importance of civil society in supporting communities, delivering services and making London the thriving vibrant place that it is. He is committed to working with communities, civil society and others to build a city for all Londoners. London's civil society has a wealth of assets, experience and networks that mean they are important partners for City Hall. Stronger collaboration and partnership working between the GLA and civil society will enable us to improve outcomes for Londoners.

This grant is a result of work over the past two years, where the GLA has undertaken a process of listening to and engaging with civil society to better understand the role of the GLA in relation to civil society.

Over recent years cuts in funding have led to a reduction in front line and second tier community organisations. The cost of that is felt in the absence of social infrastructure when it is required most. The decrease in funding for civil society has occurred in parallel with increased demand for advice and support. Whilst these changes have been occurring there has been a push towards stronger relationships between civil society and the public and private sectors to avoid duplication and maximise impact with fewer resources.

For civil society to thrive within this challenging environment there is a need for new models of leadership that can create systems change and develop meaningful partnerships locally and regionally. By systems change we mean the way that public, private and voluntary sector actors work together in collaboration to bring about positive outcomes for Londoners.

2. Project Description

The 'London Civil Society Leaders' grant will fund a pilot project that provides support for individuals who are active in London's civil society. The programme will be expected to build confidence, capabilities and ability to develop partnerships that can strengthen London's civil society. This includes partnerships within civil society, as well as with City Hall and funders in London.

Up to 25 participants will be supported through a yearlong programme that focuses on personal development, systems thinking, and supports partnership working across civil society in London. Activities run through the programme could include – but are not limited to – training, peer to peer learning and opportunities to engage with the GLA.

The group of leaders will be selected from across London, with representation from inner and outer London boroughs. The participants should represent the diversity of London, be embedded within their local communities, and include representatives from small grassroots organisations or un-constituted groups. We appreciate that candidates may need to be paid expenses so that they are able to participate in the programme and this should be included in the thinking around budgeting and support when putting the proposal together.

The individuals recruited on to the programme will also have the opportunity to engage in collaborative work or enquiry with a GLA department. The work of almost every GLA team involves London's civil society, and a good understanding of the health of the sector will ensure different policy priorities align with systems on the ground in London.

At the end of the programme participants will be expected to become part of an alumnae network.

We hope that the leadership programme will create a network of future focused civil society leaders who champion more connected and collaborative ways of working together with the public and private sectors; bringing a practical emphasis on systems (and social policy change) that will improve the lives of Londoners.

Objectives of the grant:

1. To build capacity within civil society to create systems change and lead the sector in meeting the challenges facing London.
2. For the GLA to engage with groups working across London and build its understanding of the work, opportunities and challenges facing Civil Society.
3. Supporting the personal development and capacity of London's civil society workforce, benefitting the organisations they work for and the groups they serve.

Outcomes:

- a. A group of Civil Society Leaders across London will have improved their leadership skills and capabilities, with a focus on collaboration and systems change.
- b. Partnerships across civil society in London will be stronger.
- c. City Hall has strengthened its partnership with London's civil society and has mechanisms to capture opportunities and challenges facing the sector. This will occur through the opportunity to engage in collaborative work or enquiry between GLA teams and participants.
- d. City Hall has increased understanding of civil society workforce support and development through the programme evaluation.

3. Timetable

Milestone	Deadline (Provisional)
Request for proposals published	18 th January
Grant Information Session	30 th January
Closing date for tender responses	1st March
GLA Shortlisting	4 th March – 6 th March
Interview	8 th March
Appoint	Week commencing 11 th March
Inception meeting	15 th March
GLA funding commences	22 nd March
GLA funding ends	February 2020

Updates to the GLA on progress

Mid-project report September 2019 and end of project report – February 2020

4. Funding and payment

The total budget for the London Civil Society Leaders programme is £50,000. The funding will cover activities from March 2019 to February 2020. Payments will be based on achievement of key milestones and outputs, as set out in the applicant’s delivery plan and agreed by the GLA.

5. Your Proposal

If you are interested in applying for this grant, please submit a proposal and your due diligence documentation to civilsociety@london.gov.uk by 17:00 on the **1st of March** including the following information:

Rationale and evidence for proposal	<p>A project outline of the training programme you would like to deliver and the change it seeks to achieve.</p> <p>Outline your rationale for the proposed activities.</p> <p>Details of project management systems to ensure the project objectives and outcomes are delivered on time and to budget.</p> <p>Details of how you will work with other leadership programmes in London.</p> <p>How you will track, measure and evaluate the impact of the programme on participants and the anticipated outcomes.</p>
Delivery and impact	<p>Outline of your key success criteria for the programme -what outcomes will your programme achieve?</p> <p>How the participants will be recruited on to the programme. You should describe the specific groups you will be targeting and how you will ensure reach, please also explain how this represents added value in relation to other leadership programmes.</p> <p>Your proposal will need to demonstrate how your programme will involve London’s diverse communities and their organisations, and how the activities will be accessible and inclusive.</p> <p>Details of the level of support provided to participants and how membership will be retained over the programme duration.</p>

	How will you ensure there is a legacy for participants? List any delivery risks for the project and any mitigating actions you will take to address them.
Previous experience and expertise	Relevant past work delivering training and support to individuals or leaders from civil society organisations Evidence of successful engagement with London's Civil Society, including micro organisations or un-constituted groups.
Value for money	A project budget table with the project costs that you will be using your grant for.

Each of the above areas will be assessed in accordance with the following criteria:

0 – No response	
1 – Unsatisfactory	No real evidence
2 – Poor	Criteria not met and unacceptable
3 – Satisfactory	Not met exactly but acceptably
4 – Good	Most aspects of criteria are met
5 – Excellent	Meets criteria exactly

Your due diligence documents must include:

- Copy of organisation's most recent **signed** set of Financial Statements/Accounts.
- A statement of organisations cash flow for the current year
- Evidence of public liability and employer's liability insurance
- Submission of Budgeted allocation of funding (how they intend spending the grant)
- Submission of organisations Financial Regulations