

## **FUNDING GUIDELINES**

### **1. About this initiative**

Strengthening Voices, Realising Rights is a special initiative set up in 2018 to support Deaf & Disabled People's organisations (DPPOs) with resources they need to champion the rights of Deaf and Disabled people. It is financed by Trust for London and City Bridge Trust.

Phase 1 of the Initiative is running at the moment. It is funding DDPOs offering advice to support Deaf and Disabled individuals in obtaining social protection benefits and in making full use of their rights. Phase 2 will fund DDPOs to carry out work to ensure that the collective rights of Deaf and Disabled people are protected, promoted and advanced.

### **2. What do we aim to achieve and how?**

Strengthening Voices Realising Rights responds to evidence that welfare reform and austerity cuts are holding back progress towards equality and inclusion for Deaf and Disabled people. The initiative aims to bring about a renewed focus on the realisation of Deaf and Disabled people's rights through:

- Funding DDPOs to offer advice to individuals to help them in asserting their rights, and to carry out policy advocacy and campaigning and work to ensure that the rights of Deaf and Disabled people are respected, protected and fulfilled
- Capacity building to support DDPOs to become more skilled, more effective, better networked and more influential.
- Making the case for disability-inclusive funding practices in the funding community and for more strategic funders' responses to the issues championed by DDPOs.
- Co-producing with Deaf and Disabled people. A group of Deaf and Disabled people have informed this initiative from the start.

## 3. Phase 2 - Funding Criteria

Phase 2 will fund work that tackles the root causes of poverty and inequality and aims to promote long lasting change.

This includes policy advocacy, campaigning and other work that:

- Seeks to influence decisions, policies and practices, and;
- Holds policy and decision-makers to account for protecting, promoting and fulfilling Deaf and Disabled people's rights

### 3.1 Who can apply for a grant?

We will fund organisations based and running activities in London that:

- Fully meet the definition of a DDPO.
- Are pan-impairment, and actively reach out and include the most marginalised groups of disabled people.
- Approach disability from a human rights-based perspective, and in line with the principles of the social model of disability.
- Are diverse and inclusive and respond to the challenges facing people at the intersection of multiple inequalities.
- Involve Service users and other participants in leadership positions and decision-making processes.
- Have a track record in organising for change, for example lobbying, or campaigning or similar organising activities. This could be in either a funded or un-funded basis.

#### An organisation is a DDPO if:

1. Their Management Committee or Board has at least 75% representation from Deaf and Disabled people, and;
2. At least 50% of their staff team are Deaf and Disabled people with representation at all levels of the organisation;
3. They provide services for or work on behalf of Deaf and Disabled people.

*Source: Inclusion London*

## 3.2. What work will be supported?

Phase 2 will support work that focuses on tackling the root causes of poverty and inequality and aims to create long-term change.

We will fund a range of work within this focus above. We believe DDPOs are best placed to identify their priorities and to decide the issues they wish to promote or challenge.

**However, we expect proposals to work towards achieving the following outcomes:**

- **Increased levels of collaboration, with more DDPOs engaging in coalitions, partnerships and alliances for rights**
- **Increased effectiveness of DDPOs' efforts to influence systemic change**
- **A more diverse and inclusive movement for disability rights in London**
- **Enhanced involvement of DDPOs in policy processes; and in effectively holding institutions to account**

**Some examples of work we will be happy to consider:**

- Appropriate support for independent living and community inclusion
- Work towards Adoption, implementation and enforcement of domestic laws and of international treaties which the UK has signed and ratified;
- Challenging policies, decisions and practices that hold Deaf and Disabled people back from exercising choices and rights
- Development of evidence-based policy positions (researching into a problem to show the case for a new policy/policy change)
- Work to strengthen DDPO's abilities to influence changes in policy, practice and power relationships

### 3.3 Other support we will offer to funded organisations

Grantees will benefit from additional support consisting of:

- One-to-one and peer learning and networking opportunities to help DDPOs to become stronger, more impactful and more influential.
- Support from a learning partner that will help to generate on-going insights into how the work is progressing to enable DDPOs to gain timely information to reflect on the work and improve their practice.

### 3.4 What can the funds be spent on?

We will fund salary costs of staff on the project; direct costs of the service, including accessibility (for example travel, venue hire, interpreters), staff training; and 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).

### 3.5. Level of funding

We will award grants for up to three years, and expect most grants to be for £50,000 per year (averaging £150,000 over three years). We can consider larger grants for partnerships of two or more DDPOs.

We will only accept one application per DDPO. However, DDPOs already receiving funds from either Trust for London or City Bridge Trust (including through Phase 1 of this initiative) are eligible to apply.

### 3.6. Decision-making

A Grants Advisory Panel (GAP) has helped to shape this initiative's programmatic approach. The GAP contributes to decision-making, and to the learning component. This Panel includes experienced disability rights activists who identify as Deaf and Disabled and staff from the partner funders. The Panel will make funding recommendations to the Trustees of Trust for London, who will make the final decisions.

### 3.7. Selection criteria

We will use the following criteria to select successful applications:

- Extent to which applications match these guidelines' outcomes.
- Inclusion of groups that miss out the most, ensuring that their demands are visible and acted upon<sup>1</sup>.
- Solid analysis of the problem/issue to be addressed.
- Clarity of vision, aims, objectives and of the difference you hope to achieve (outcomes).
- Smart use of resources to achieve the most impact.
- Clear strategies to mitigate/reduce likely challenges/risks.

Decisions will also consider financial need and a fair coverage across London's sub-regions.

### 3.8. Exclusions:

We will **not** fund applications:

- From individuals
- From mainstream public services including schools and hospitals
- From organisations which have fewer than three people on their governing body (i.e. trustee board or management committee)
- 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)

<sup>1</sup> We will give special attention to issues affecting groups which fared less well in Stage 1. These include issues affecting Deaf people, people with learning difficulties and people with mental health problems.

### 3.9. How to apply

If your DDPO meets the eligibility criteria, please complete our online **application form** available here: <http://bit.ly/TfLGrantsPortal>

Once you have registered on our online portal, please select the application called “Main Grants Special initiatives 2020”.

#### Timetable:

<b>Monday 9 March</b>	Phase 2 of the Initiative launched
<b>Monday 30 March</b>	First remote one-to-one support for DDPOs to discuss their plans before sending their applications
<b>Thursday 14 May</b>	Second remote one-to-one sessions for potential applicants
<b>Friday 5 June</b>	<b>NEW</b> Deadline for applications
<b>Wednesday 10 June</b>	Applicants informed whether their applications have been selected for assessment
<b>Monday 15 June</b> <b>Friday 10 July</b>	Assessment meetings take place
<b>Wednesday 7 October</b>	Final decision

#### IMPORTANT NOTE

Given the uncertainty of how COVID-19 is unfolding, the deadline for applications has been extended to **Friday 5 June 2020**. As a consequence, the timeline has changed too.

Trust for London will continue to adapt to the new circumstances and government advice, and we may have to make more changes to the application process and timetable.

If we have to make any changes, these will be communicated on the Trust for London’s website and through Inclusion London.