

# Youth Opportunity Fund Guidelines & Criteria

In the Youth Matters consultation, young people said that they would like to have more places to go and things to do.

In order to address this the Government has introduced **The Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) and The Youth Capital Funds (YCF)** to give young people, aged 13-19, particularly disadvantaged young people, more choice over provision and facilities in their area. The essential criterion of the funding process is that **young people have to take a lead role in the grant allocation process.**

The aim of the Youth Opportunity Fund and Youth Capital Fund is to support young people to identify positive activities, things to do and encourage them to complete grant applications to make their wishes a reality. There are no restrictions on the range of initiatives and activities that the YOF can support, provided that they support the outcomes from **Every Child Matters**: Being Healthy, Staying safe, Enjoy and achieving, Making a positive contribution, Achieving economic well being.

## **YOUTH OPPORTUNITY FUND**

This Fund is for activities for example paying for tutors, trips, residentials, hiring a recording studio to produce a CD, youth exchange. It can also be used to pay for staff costings to support your activities.

## **YOUTH CAPITAL FUND**

The Youth Capital Fund is for refurbishing or improving facilities, it can be used to buy a new pool table, ICT equipments or buy a youth space within an existing community

The Youth Opportunity Fund and Youth Capital Fund can be used together for projects and initiatives, which need funding for facilities and activities.

Local authorities will share a total of £115 million for both funds over 2006-2008.

Camden Youth & Connexion's total Funding allocation is £ 240,689.

- Youth opportunity Fund =£ 129,061
- Youth Capital Fund = £ 111,628

The main purpose of the Funding is to:

- Give a voice to young people, particularly those who are underrepresented
- Improve things to do and places to in line with what young people want
- Change the way local authorities and their partners provide activities and facilities for young people
- Provide opportunities for young people to develop their confidence, knowledge, skills and abilities and gain recognition and/or accreditation for them
- Increase young people's engagement with services

## **Decision Making**

Young people from the Youth Opportunity Fund panel have defined the criteria for all applications.

The Youth Opportunity Fund panel of young people will assess the projects based on the criteria. They will meet once a month and will consider application forms as they come in.

The panel has been trained in Grant Making and will try to be fair and supportive of all bids.

Through these funds young people will have a central role as: decision makers, grant givers, project leaders and participants.

## **How can I get involved?**

You can be involved as a project leader and come up with ideas of what you would like to do in your area.

You are able to apply for funding if you fit into one or more of these categories

- Young people from voluntary or community organisations which are 'non profit', or statutory organisations
- School students undertaking extra curricular activities
- Start up groups of young people

You can participate in the activities

And contribute with ideas to improve activities in your area.

## **General Criteria**

The fund will support applications from:

- Young people aged between 13- 19 year olds
- 13-24 if disabled young people or young people with special educational needs
- Grants will be only given to groups to two or more young people

Applicants must:

- Live, work or study in Camden
- Deliver projects within the Camden area

### **Specific Criteria**

Your project must:

- Benefit others in some way and not just yourselves and your family
- Be cost effective
- Be innovative
- Fit one or more of the 5 Every Child Matters Outcomes (see page 6)
- Work with an established organisation who is able to take payment of the grant\*
- There will be a maximum of 2 projects per organisation

\* The organisation will be asked for a copy of their constitution. Organisations without a constitution will be provided with support to develop one. This role could be taken on by a voluntary agency or a voluntary sector umbrella agency.

### **Delivery**

- The grants should be promoted in all wards within Camden and not focussed on particular areas. If some groups are not applying this will be addressed through detached work with a focus on under represented groups.
- Supporting organisations will be required to produce a financial report during mid term in the project. Applicants will be required to produce a final report, 14 days after the project has finished.
- As a rule 75% of the grant will be released to the organisation with a further 25% released following receipt of a satisfactory report.

- In the case of very short term or one off projects, the fund will be released in one payment on receipt of a financial report or accounts from the supporting organisation.

## **Grant Size**

The maximum amount for the Opportunity Fund is **£3,000** and **£10,000** for the Capital Fund.

In the case of projects that could be demonstrated as being extremely beneficial to the community, the panel would consider applications in excess of the recommended amounts.

## **Responsible Adult**

Young people need an organisation to support their application and receive the money on their behalf. A named lead adult within your organisation must take responsibility for ensuring that all the criteria in this document are met and that the money is spent as planned in the bid. Evidence should be retained of ALL expenditure i.e original documents such as receipts, invoices, etc. These documents must be made available for inspection should they be required.

The application must be signed by a person who has been duly authorised to do so by the organisation making the application. This will normally be an officer of the organisation management committee, ie. the Treasurer, Chairperson or Secretary.

## **Timescales**

The deadline for the first round of applications is **18 May 07**

The first panel meeting will be in May 07

The deadline for the second round is **28 September 07**

The Youth Opportunity Fund panel will meet again in September to assess projects.

## **What's next?**

We will let you know if your application has been successful. Successful bids will receive an acceptance letter that will need to be signed and returned with the project specification to Camden Youth & Connexions.

Unsuccessful bids will be given advice on how to improve their applications and given the opportunity to submit the bid again for the next round.

## **Help and support**

If you have an idea for a project or activity that will benefit young people in your community talk it through your friends or an organisation that can support you. Ask for an application form; make sure you have completed all sections. And send it to us.

If you don't have an organisation that can support you contact your YOF officer at the address below.

All correspondence regarding the Youth Opportunity and Capital Funds is to be addressed to Youth & Connexions Service:

**Virgilio Varela**  
**Camden Youth & Connexions Service**  
**136 Chalton Street, London**  
**NW1 1RX**  
**Tel 02079748051/ 8265**

**Virgilio Varela –[Virgilio.Varela@Camden.gov.uk](mailto:Virgilio.Varela@Camden.gov.uk)**

## EVERY CHILD MATTERS OUTCOMES

Your application must fit in to one or more of the Every Child Matters Outcomes

**Be Healthy** – Enjoy good physical and mental health, and have a healthy lifestyle. Activities meeting this outcome will aim at improving young people's health, i.e Drugs and Sexual health information

**Stay Safe** – be protected from harm and neglect. Young people are made aware of risks to safety and how to deal with them.

**Enjoy and Achieve** – getting most out of life and develop the skills required for adult life. Young people have access to a range of challenging and rewarding voluntary learning and recreational opportunities. Attend and enjoy school

**Make a Positive contribution** – be involved with the local community and wider society, and not engage in anti-social or offending behaviour. Young people are encouraged to participate in decision-making and contribute to their community, for example, through voluntary work, setting up and running your own project

**Achieve Economic well-being** – engaging in education, employment or training, be ready for employment and have access to housing and income. Young people are prepared for working life. Gain skills that can be used in future employment: i.e. manage your projects, keep records of the grants,

For more information about the Every Child Matters visit  
<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk>

Please check off whether you have enclosed all the necessary documentation.