

Food Justice Emergency Holiday Grants Fund

The fund is aimed at existing voluntary, community and faith organisations based in Lewisham that are already delivering projects that tackle food injustice, with a particular focus on addressing holiday hunger or meeting the increased demand due to changes in holiday voucher provision.

15 grants of up to £3,000 are available to support existing community food giving projects already in operation (including foodbanks, social supermarkets, community pantries and delivery services) to meet demand to cover the school holidays (October half-term, Christmas, February half-term and Easter) to continue to meet demand.

A further 10 grants of up to £2,000 are available to enable food giving projects to develop cook and eat projects that can run holiday sessions for families (adults and/or children) in line with the vision and priorities of [Lewisham's Food Justice Action Plan](#) (also see appendix).

Why are we delivering this fund?

The Food Justice Emergency Grants Fund has been launched to support food justice groups in operation in Lewisham using central government funding from the Crisis Resilience Fund.

The fund is aimed at supporting food giving groups in operation to build capacity to meet the anticipated increased demand during school holidays following the ending of free school meal holiday voucher provision.

Lewisham poverty rate is 28% in 2023/2024 while Children living in poverty: 30% of children in Lewisham were living in poverty (after housing costs) in 2024/2025. 13.4% of Lewisham residents were estimated to be earning below the London Living Wage. The cost-of-living crisis has pushed increasing numbers into poverty and food insecurity meaning there is rising strain on local emergency food provision services as the demand has been rising rapidly over the past year. Source: Trust For London

We recognise that trusted local community organisations are best placed to identify, engage and support residents most affected by the cost of living. These organisations also face increasing financial pressures as demand for their services grows alongside rising operating costs.

Application Timeline

- Application Live: Friday 24th July 2026
- Application Close: 21st August 2026, 12 noon ([New Closing Date: 28th August 2026, 12 noon](#))
- Application Informed: by 16th September 2026 ([New date to inform all applicants: by 24th September 2026](#))
- Projects to be delivered and completed from October 2026 to April 2027

What the grant can be spent on

This funding is intended to resource groups in food giving projects already in operation (including foodbanks, social supermarkets, community pantries and delivery services) to meet demand to cover the October half term, Christmas Holidays and Easter school holidays for the following:

- Purchasing fresh or ambient food supplies including cultural foods reflecting the diverse ethnic make-up of the borough to support community food banks, social pantries or other projects providing food or meals
- Provision of supermarket vouchers for families in crisis
- Purchasing fridges and freezers increasing storage capacity or other equipment required to increase the volume and type of food that can be provided
- Packaging materials (bags, boxes, materials, labels and storage containers)
- Transportation costs to collect and transport food
- Training and capacity building directly related to delivering the grant
- Venue hire/premises costs
- Volunteer Expenses(e.g., travel costs, refreshments, DBS checks where required)
- Project activities that build resilience and improve access to support for the root causes of food insecurity, for end users
- Organisational staff costs – such as temporary staff hours or sessional workers to help manage increased demand during school holidays.
- Community engagement and access-outreach to ensure families know about available support

For additional £2,000 Cook & Eat Grants

This funding is intended to resource groups in the food giving organisations to develop cook and eat projects that can run holiday sessions for families for the following:

- Food ingredients and cooking supplies
- Cooking equipment and resources
- Facilitators
- Volunteer Expenses
- Organisational staff costs – such as temporary staff hours or sessional workers to help manage increased demand during school holidays.
- Venue
- Practical Cost
- Learning materials and promotions

Things the grant can't be spent on:

- Activities that have already happened
- Projects that are not already in operation
- General overheads not related to the delivery of your project
- Activities that don't serve Lewisham residents
- Profit-making activities or projects
- Fundraising activities or challenges (like costs for a skydive, an expedition etc.)
- Activities that promote religious or political views and beliefs
- Statutory activities
- One-off events or activities

- Religious activities (we can fund religious organisations if the projects benefit the wider community and does not include religious content)
- Projects where political parties are the main purpose, or that suppose or oppose a specific political party
- Lobbying activities
- Loan repayments
- The topping up of organisation reserves

Who can apply?

The funding project is aimed at Lewisham based organisations within the voluntary, community and faith sector that currently deliver projects to tackle food insecurity in Lewisham:

- A constituted group (e.g. community or faith group) with a volunteer management committee with a minimum of three unrelated members that meets on a regular basis (at least three times per year)
- Registered charity, with a board of trustees
- Charitable incorporated organisation (CIO)
- Community Benefit Society
- Community Interest Company (CIC) and provide copies of your Community Interest Statement, details of the Asset Lock included in your Memorandum and Articles of Association, a copy of your latest annual community interest report and minimum of three unrelated directors with no one director with more than 50% control.

Who can't apply?

- Organisations that are aimed at generating profits
- Individual applicants
- Local branches of larger regional or national organisations/charities
- Organisations organising trips abroad
- Activities taking place outside of the Lewisham borough
- Public bodies to carry out their statutory obligations
- Privately owned and profit-distributing companies or limited partnerships

Your organisation must:

- Provide existing community activities or services within Lewisham, which are of benefit to the residents of Lewisham
- Have a formal constitution or set of rules
- Have a bank account requiring at least two unrelated signatories
- Operate without undue restrictions on membership, subject to the organisation's capacity and established criteria
- Projects previously funded by Lewisham Local must be up-to-date on their project monitoring.

Eligibility

- Organisations with updated Children's & Adults Safeguarding
- Organisations with updated Health & Safety policy
- Organisations with Public Liability Insurance
- Organisations with Bank Statements
- Existing food justice groups who are already operating providing food support for families
- Engaged with Lewisham's Food Justice Alliance and/or Food Giving Network and work reflects the vision, priorities and ethos of the action plan
- Ability to scale quickly
- Organisations choosing to participate in the Cook and Eat programme will be expected to already hold a Level 2 Food Hygiene Certificate.
- Risk prevention through conducting a risk assessment (a template risk assessment and project agreement can be provided if needed.)
- Completed enhanced Disclosure and Baring Service (DBS) checks for any staff or volunteers working unsupervised with children or vulnerable adults.
- Organisations must keep financial records of transactions made using the grant award and keep copies of any purchase receipts to provide as evidence if requested at the end of the programme
- Provide support which is dignified (offers choice, reflective of communities served), inclusive and reflects [Dignified food alliance charter](#)
- Commitment to signposting and referrals into income maximisation and support services
- Friendly welcoming environment for children and young people and families
- Provides food that is nutritious and meets the dietary requirements of the members or users of the service
- Must be willing to have service details listed on Lewisham Council's website
- Willingness to attend training on signposting and referrals briefing provided by Food Justice Alliance to promote best practice
- Successful applicants will be required to adhere to the fund's monitoring and reporting requirements. This will include submitting a final impact report outlining how the funding was used, the activities delivered, and the impact achieved for residents supported.
- Applicants should ensure they have appropriate systems in place to collect monitoring information throughout the project delivery period, while maintaining confidentiality and complying with relevant data protection requirements.
- Successful organisations will also be asked to provide publicly accessible examples of their work (e.g. case studies, photographs-where appropriate, blog posts) to promote the work of Lewisham Local giving and must be willing to engage to share learning and reflections from the project to inform future ways of working.
- A commitment to Equality, Diversity & Inclusion
- Engaging with Lewisham Local to share learning from the project to inform future programmes of work
- A proportion of a grant for capital expenditure may be held back, pending receipts of evidence that the money has been spent
- In exceptional circumstances, where the grant recipient has a limited cash reserve, the Charity may disperse the grant through direct payment to a supplier, unless there are practical reasons not to do so. (e.g the expense is VAT payable and grant recipient is VAT registered)

- Payment to be made within 30 working days after the above submission

How your application will be assessed

Funding decisions are made by a panel including Lewisham Local Staff and external partner organisations will be invited to join the panel including Lewisham Council's Cost-of-Living Programme Manager and members of the Food Justice Alliance Steering Group (who are not applying for funding). Your data will be shared with grant assessors for the sole purpose of assessing your grant.

A panel will meet to discuss all applications meeting the basic criteria. The evaluation of each application will consider:

For Question 1, please complete Section A if you are applying for funding for an existing Community Food Giving project only.

If you are applying for funding for an existing Community Food Giving project and additional funding to develop a Cook and Eat project, please complete both Sections A and B.

Question 1-Section A: What do you hope to achieve with the funding? (Maximum 200 words)

- How does the project support the vision and priorities of Lewisham's Food Justice Action Plan?
- How will the funding improve access to food and support for residents during the school holidays

Section B: What cook and eat activities will you provide and how will they benefit local families? (Maximum 200 words)

How will the Cook & Eat project build on or complement your organisation's existing food support activities?

How will this project be delivered and link to your extending work and align with FJAP.

Question 2: How will your organisation deliver and develop the project?

- What experience, capacity and local connections do your organisation have to mobilise in time for the October half-term holiday?
- How does your project provide dignified support for residents?

Questions 3: What activities will be provided and who will benefit? (Maximum 200 words)

- Outline the activities/services you offer include the time, frequency, opening times and accessibility.
- Who will benefit from the project, how many residents will be supported and how does it target those most affected by food injustice and reflect their needs and preferences?

Question 4: What need does the project addresses? (Maximum 200 words)

- Please explain the needs you have identified and what evidence you have to demonstrate the need?

- Why is this project particularly important during the October half-term, Christmas and Easter school holidays?

Question 5: Risk (Maximum 200 words)

- What risks have you identified and how will these be managed?

Question 6: Budget

- Please provide details breakdown of the cost

The panel will also take the following priorities into consideration when making decisions:

- Evidence of need and demand
- Impact and number of people supported
- Value for money
- Alignment with Lewisham's Food Justice Plan
- Existing local provision in the area and geographical spread
- Ability to deliver
- How projects consider the dignity and needs of their clients or members in line with the recommendations from the Dignified Alliance Charter and Lewisham Appreciative Inquiry report into food support at its best
- How the project and organisation is reaching groups disproportionately impacted by food injustice

Marking

The following marking scheme will be used to assess each section of the application form. Note that all applications must score a minimum of 3 for each section in order to be considered.

1	Failed to provide confidence that the proposal will meet the requirements.
2	A poor response with reservations. The application lacks convincing detail with risks that the proposal will not be successful in meeting all the requirements.
3	Meets the requirements. The application generally meets the requirements but lacks sufficient detail to warrant a higher mark.
4	A good response that meets the requirements with good supporting evidence. Demonstrates good understanding.
5	An excellent, comprehensive response that exceeds the requirements.

Given that we anticipate a high number of applications, we encourage all applicants to include as much detail as possible within the word limit to support the project application.

If you need to discuss any aspect of your project proposal before submitting email funding@lewishamlocal.com.

Process

1. Complete the online application form by 21st August 2026, 12 noon. (Extended to 24th August 2026, 12 noon)
2. Lewisham Local will aim to assess applications and inform applicants by 16th September 2026. (24th September 2026)
3. Organisations must submit their Health and Safety, Safeguarding policies which have been reviewed within 2 years and public liability insurance. In some circumstances, additional information will be required, for example constitutions, risk assessments and confirmation of consent from groups/people regarding case studies photographs and other types of media that may be used by Lewisham Local to provide information to funders and to promote externally
4. Successful applicants must complete and sign a T&Cs form.
5. For grants of up to £9,999, Lewisham Local will transfer 100% of the award within 30 working days. For grants of £10,000 or more, the grant may be paid in two instalments: 50% upfront and 50% halfway through the project upon receipt of an interim grant report
6. Grant recipients will be asked to complete a monthly brief survey during the life of the project reporting on numbers of beneficiaries and any key issues arising to help Lewisham Local track levels of need and food insecurity in the borough
7. Projects funds should be spent by April 2027

Monitoring

Successful projects will be required to undertake monitoring as part of the grant agreement. Grant recipients will be asked to complete the statistics form to help track levels of food insecurity and emerging issues.

The statistics monitoring consists of the following:

- Number of additional sessions provided (if applicable)
- Number of households supported (new and returning)
- Total number of beneficiaries including children
- Turnaways/Waiting List
- Referrals made advice/signpost
- How have the needs of the people you support changed over time?
- Are there any additional emerging needs or challenges you would like to share?
- Outcomes and feedback from clients around interventions (Evidence)

Statistics Monitoring information will be collected during the following periods:

First week of November 2026
First week of January 2027
Third week of February 2027
Third week of April 2027

A final impact report including budget expenditure, photos, number of people supported and learning from the project must be submitted by 16th May 2027. The final monitoring report consists of the following:

- A breakdown of how the grant funding was spent, including details of expenditure against the agreed budget.
- Final number of individuals and families supported through the funded activity.
- Feedback from participants, including testimonials, case studies, or examples demonstrating the impact of the project.
- Learning from the project

Support for Community Food Giving Projects

Lewisham Local offers a variety of support to food giving groups via:

- Food Partnership Coordinator: laura@lewishamlocal.com
- Support for Capacity Building: cbos@lewishamlocal.com
- Support for volunteers: volunteer@lewishamlocal.com or log in to simply connect [OpportunitySearch - VMS](#)
- Support for fundraising: fundraising@lewishamlocal.com or fundraising resources can be found here: [brochure here](#).

Lewisham Local will promote all funded projects via: [Good Food Lewisham](#) and a Directory on [Lewisham Local's website](#) as well as in newsletters to local community groups, volunteers and businesses and social media where appropriate.

Successful projects will be encouraged to engage with Lewisham Local's programmes and provide peer support to other grant recipients as capacity allows. You can find current training, events and resources at www.lewishamlocal.com.

Data Protection

In accordance with UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018, Lewisham Local processes personal data to deliver services and fulfil specific funding, monitoring, and reporting requirements

Personal data may be shared with funders for these purposes, ensuring that only the minimum necessary information is disclosed and that sharing remains secure and proportionate where possible, data will be anonymized or aggregated for reporting

Records are retained based on funder expectations and legal obligations specifically six years for financial records, three years for volunteer records, and two years after inactivity for beneficiary data after which they are securely destroyed or archived

Individuals maintain the right to access or correct their data, and any queries should be directed to Lewisham Local Data Protection Lead.

In completing this form, you understand that Lewisham Local has a requirement to process your personal data.

Appendix

FJAP vision

- All Lewisham residents can enjoy reliable and fair access to food that is sufficiently nutritious, sustainable, culturally appropriate and affordable.
- All Lewisham residents have the knowledge, skills, resources and opportunity to grow, prepare, cook, eat and share food with their families and communities.
- All Lewisham stakeholders support collective action to end chronic hunger, promote food resilience and reduce the need for emergency food aid.
- All Members of the Lewisham Food Justice Alliance and other key stakeholders have access to data to monitor the scale of the issue of food injustice and to determine whether the actions taken are having a positive impact on lived experience, health and wellbeing.

FJAP priorities

- Take preventative action to reduce the risk of Lewisham residents experiencing food injustice
- Ensure babies, children and young people have access to nutritious, sustainability and culturally appropriate sources of food throughout the year
- Coordinate resources, capacity and expertise to maximise the support available to those in crisis
- Promote and develop 'Money First' approaches to crisis prevention and support