



Compost London: Nourish Fund

Apply for a grant: guidance

What is the Nourish Fund?

The Compost London Nourish Grant is designed to help your organisation grow, develop or become more sustainable. It is there to enable you to access the high-quality expertise on offer from Compost London. We recognise that it is often difficult to find the money to invest in the development or growth of your organisation and our small grants scheme is designed to enable you to build the capacity of your organisation.

Who can apply to the Nourish Fund?

The Nourish Fund is designed to support small and start up Voluntary Community Sector organisations to be better at what they do. Usually to apply for a grant at least one of the following must be true for your organisation:

- your income in the last year was £20,000 or less
- you received £10,000 or less in grants in the last year
- you have been formally set up/constituted for 3 years or less

During the Covid-19 pandemic we recognise that some well-established organisations may find it difficult to pay for our services. We are therefore temporarily broadening our eligibility criteria to include organisations that do not meet our usual criteria and are currently unable to pay our full charges. We are asking these organisations to contribute some match funding wherever possible.

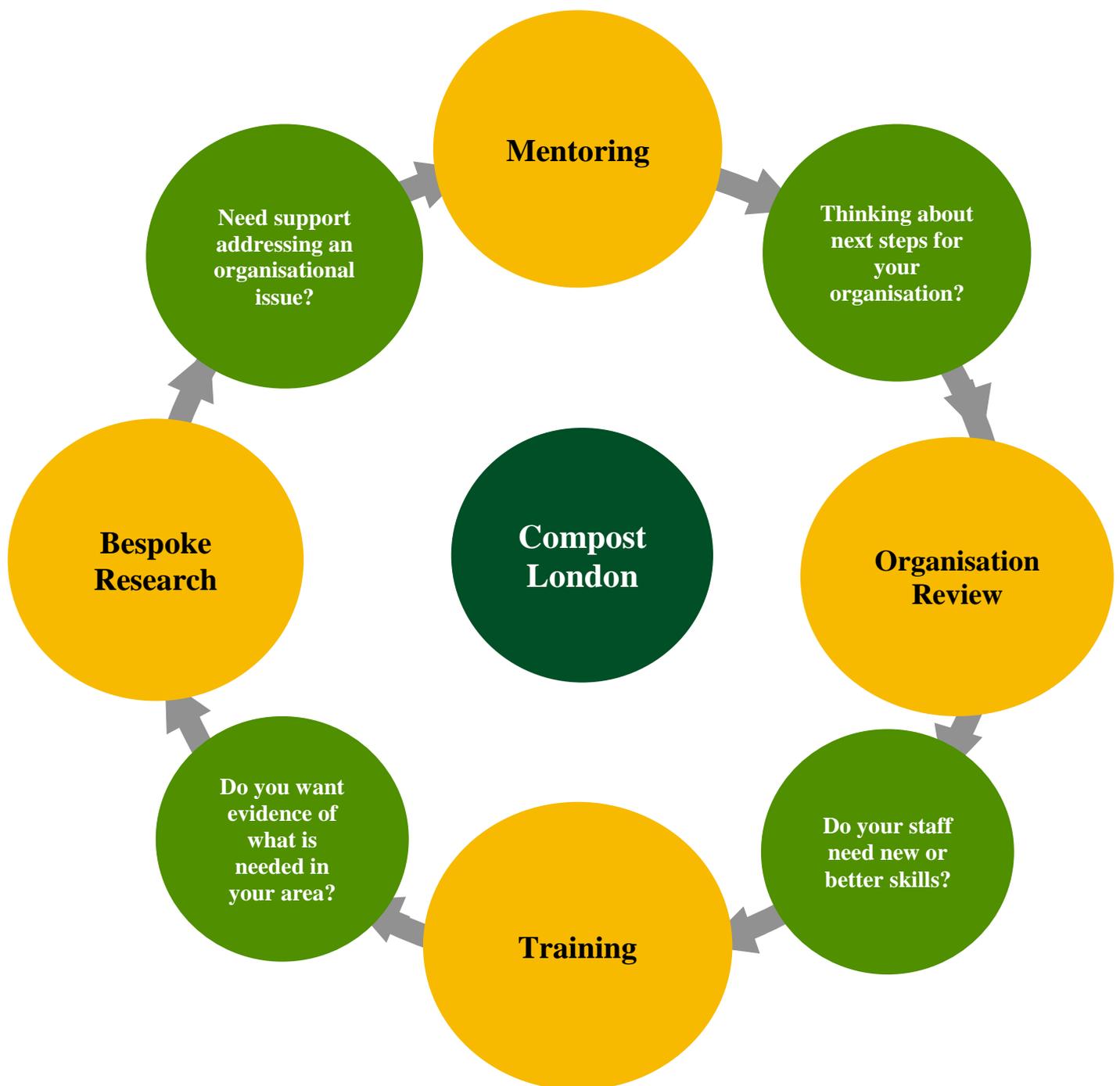
What won't we fund?

Compost London has limited funds and wants to make sure these are directed to the organisations for whom they will make the most strategic difference. With this in mind we will not fund:

- Large or established organisations for whom this grant will make minimal difference or who can otherwise afford to pay for support
- Groups outside of London
- Grants where the focus is for fundraising activity. We can however offer fundraising support, including Grant Finder searches, where this is part of a broader focus such as planning.
- Applications for capital costs (such as laptops) or software

What can I apply for?

You can apply for up to £2000 to cover a range of Compost London services (detailed further below). The list of services has been compiled from our experience of what groups find most helpful. Whilst we would prioritise activity under these headings we appreciate the great diversity of Voluntary Community Sector organisations that exist and the range of services



that they may require. With this in mind, we may consider applications outside these criteria if you feel your group has extenuating circumstances. If this is the case please contact us to discuss. You will need to make a case that:

- this support is appropriate and timely for your organisation
- you don't have the means to pay for our support yourselves
- you have the capacity and commitment to make good use of the support

Mentoring

Are there particular issues you know need addressing but you're unsure how to go about it? We can offer 1-2-1 support to work through the issue with you or a small staff team. Most tasks can be completed in 4-6 sessions. A session will consist of 1 hour of face-to-face time. Each meeting will be prepared for in advance to research appropriate resources and

information, and will be followed up with meeting notes and actions for the next session.

Each session is £70. 4 sessions will be £280, 6 sessions £420

Training

Sometimes you need to work together as a staff team or as a committee of trustees on a strategic issue. You may feel you need to have a more consistent organisational response to customer care, risk assessment, marketing etc. You may just want to get everybody together to update their skills. Or you may have a new service that you would like all your staff and volunteers brought up to date on. We will work with you to develop a bespoke training session for your organisation. Dependent on subject matter, we can train groups of up to 20 people. Compost also arranges open training sessions for groups on general issues needed by the sector.

Our training costs start at £360 a day plus location costs and refreshments if needed.

Commissioned Research.

Research can play an important role in any organisation's development. It can help identify gaps in provision, look at the needs of a particular client group, or the success of a particular approach. It can also help identify areas in which to expand your work. A bespoke piece of research can help prove to funders that you have evidenced the need for your work and help you fundraise more successfully. The process will start with a visit from our researcher to clearly define your research needs and what you would like to gain from the research. We will jointly agree a timescale and parameters of the work. In the production of the report we shall make recommendations based on our findings and can agree to report findings to staff, volunteers or trustees. The price of a complete package will depend on the size of your organisation and the complexity of the research required.

Our research rate is £360 a day. For £1000 we will meet with you to determine the key research questions, design a research plan and a survey or questionnaire to begin to gather information. This could then be combined with a training session to enable staff and volunteers to collect the data.

Evaluation Services.

We know that increasingly funders are asking groups to evidence the impact of their work. Robust evaluation is something that can help you not only improve the impact of your work, but also learn where to improve, what works well and what doesn't. It makes sure your organisation is responsive to the needs of your users and that their voices are heard within your service delivery. We offer a range of services, from writing an evaluation report based on data you have collected, through to writing an evaluation framework for your organisation and supporting you to embed this within your project delivery

Our evaluation rate is £360 a day. For £1000 we could meet and advise you on your evaluation needs. If you have already been evaluating a project we may be able to analyse the data and write a report (depending on the size of the project). Or we could run a focus group with clients or staff to confirm findings. Or we could suggest ways to bring a number of project evaluations together in an organisational framework.

Organisational Review

This will give you a complete overview of your organisation: what it does through to what its strengths and weaknesses are. It will look at issues from governance and processes, to

services, staff, and volunteers. We will highlight potential next steps for your organisation and suggest ways to grow and improve. The work will include desk research, interviews or surveys with staff, volunteers and beneficiaries. The work can be tailored to concentrate on areas of concern or cover the whole organisation.

The price will be based on the complexity and size of your organisation but a reasonable report for a small to medium sized organisation will start at about £3000. With a Nourish grant you could begin the process by having an initial meeting and we could scope out the review for you and determine what evidence would need to be collected and any additional research data we would need to complete the process. We would then give you a breakdown of additional work needed to complete a review and a quote for that work.

WE STRONGLY ADVISE YOU TO CONTACT US IN ADVANCE OF MAKING AN APPLICATION TO DISCUSS YOUR ORGANISATIONAL NEEDS.

How do I apply?

If you meet the criteria above and feel like the Compost London Nourish Fund is suitable for you please fill in the short application form (Word).

If you need the document in an alternative format send us an email and let us know and we'll do our best to support you.

Please note: If your work is time dependent please make sure you include this in the application. We are a small team and will need to take this into account when planning work.