

Skills for Positive Futures

Funding Criteria

Introduction to the Berkeley Foundation

The Berkeley Foundation is an independent registered charity established by Berkeley Group in 2011. We support young people, their families and their communities across London, the City of Birmingham and the South of England.

We work in partnership with the voluntary sector across four focus areas:

- **A safe place to call home** – ensuring young people have secure, stable accommodation;
- **Health and wellbeing** – supporting young people to live happy, healthy lives;
- **The skills to succeed** – helping young people develop the skills and capabilities to thrive;
- **Access to employment** – enabling young people to overcome barriers to work and kick-start their careers.

Our funding comes from two main sources. The Berkeley Group provides core funding, and Berkeley staff raise money with the help of family, friends and subcontractors. Berkeley Group matches all staff fundraising and covers the Foundation's overheads, so that every penny raised is spent on charitable activity. Find out more on our website: www.berkeleyfoundation.org.uk

Our approach

Our strategy sets out three clear priorities for our work going forward, accompanied by a set of nine commitments for the period 2018 – 2021:

PRIORITY 1: FUNDING

- Find projects that will enable us to grow our total funding to £3.5 million p.a. by 2021.
- Work in partnership with others to develop a more collaborative approach to funding.
- Ensure that every grant we make takes a full cost recovery approach.

PRIORITY 2: ADDING VALUE

- Develop a broader range of skilled volunteering opportunities for Berkeley staff.
- Create more opportunities for our partners to meet, network and collaborate.
- Develop stronger pathways for young people taking part in our programmes to access work experience and employment opportunities with Berkeley.

PRIORITY 3: LEARNING & SHARING

- Undertake a long-term evaluation of the Foundation's impact, to be published in 2021.
- Create a learning programme which enables partners to share, reflect and develop their work.
- Raise the Foundation's profile and ability to influence key stakeholders by developing and implementing a new communications strategy.

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Skills for Positive Futures

The Berkeley Foundation is launching **Skills for Positive Futures**, a funding programme which will support vulnerable children and young people aged 8-14 years, to develop the life skills they need to thrive and make positive choices.

A 2016 report by the Children's Society cited an estimated 46,000 children in England expected to be involved in gang activity. Youth violence in London is rising with self-reported violence and weapon carrying peaking at the age of 15.¹

Whilst many factors influence whether a young person will become involved in criminal activity, evidence shows that young people at risk of permanent exclusion from school are exceptionally vulnerable.² Children who are excluded from school are at increased risk of gang grooming and twice as likely to carry a knife (Ofsted). Many of the risk factors for both involvement in youth violence and school exclusion are related to young people's social and emotional skills.

Through this funding programme, we are aiming to support community-based organisations to deliver targeted early-intervention support for children at risk of exclusion, equipping them with the skills to make positive life choices.

¹ HM Serious Violence Strategy (2018).

² Department of Education, Home Office.

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Target beneficiaries

We are seeking proposals from community-led organisations working to develop life skills and resilience among 8-14 year olds who are vulnerable to involvement in violence.

WHO's *Preventing Youth Violence* Report highlights a number of commonly reported risk factors for youth violence, including:

- Individual (i.e. child maltreatment, special educational needs);
- Family and close relationships (i.e. family history of antisocial behaviour, lack of supervision);
- School (i.e. discrimination, poor academic achievement); and
- Community and society (i.e. illicit drug markets, poverty and inequality).

This is not an exhaustive list.

This funding programme will work in particular with 8-14 year olds at risk of exclusion, by supporting voluntary organisations to provide prevention and early-intervention support.

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Applications of interest

Projects should:

- seek to pilot a new approach, expand or improve services, or reach new beneficiaries;
- provide long-term, intensive support for selected, high-risk groups of young people;
- build on good quality, local provision;
- work in partnership with one or more organisations;
- involve young people in service design and delivery; and
- adopt an asset-based approach to supporting young people.

Projects of interest include:

- Structured community-based activities with a focus on skills development;
- Mentoring programmes;
- Conflict management training and support;
- Schools-based life skills and social and emotional training programmes working intensively with selected, high-risk groups; and
- Wraparound support for the family and community.

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We want to understand the impact of the projects we support and contribute to furthering the sector's understanding of this issue.

Applications should clearly set out the project's target outcomes for young people and show how these will be monitored and evaluated. We know this can be challenging, so we will offer delivery organisations support to get their evaluation framework right.

All funded projects need to be working towards three or more of the following outcomes:

Vulnerable young people at risk of exclusion have

- reduced risk of exclusion from school;
- improved individual behaviour;
- greater contribution to positive community activities;
- increased capability to manage emotions;
- improved ability to make responsible choices.

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Funding available

There is £350,000 of funding available through this programme, split across two funding pots:

Small grants

£90,000 will be reserved for smaller community-led organisations with a turnover of less than £1m*. We are seeking applications for three-year projects with a maximum grant value of £30,000.

Medium-sized grants

£270,000 will be reserved for small to medium-sized voluntary sector organisations with a turnover of less than £2m (including those with a turnover of less than £1m)*. We welcome applications for three-year projects with a maximum grant value of £90,000.

* Organisational turnover is based on your most recently published accounts.

Full cost recovery

We encourage full cost recovery models and will fund core costs as a percentage of overall project costs. An example budget is provided in the application guidelines.

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Eligibility for funding

We welcome applications from registered charities. We will also support community interest companies, providing the funding is restricted and used in its entirety for charitable delivery.

We only support work which is being delivered within the following areas: Greater London, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire, Oxfordshire, Surrey, Kent, Hampshire, West Sussex, Warwickshire and the City of Birmingham.

If you are a national organisation, please only apply for funding to cover delivery within one or more of these areas.

We are mindful that communities need time and consistency to enable work to embed and make change. We are therefore looking to support work carried out over a period of three years.

We will only fund projects that directly support children and young people aged 8-14 years who are at risk of exclusion and are vulnerable to involvement in violence.

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What we don't fund

Through this initiative, we are not able to fund:

- Local Authorities, although we expect that many of our charitable partners will be working in close partnership with their local council;
- Schools, although we expect that many charities will work closely with schools to identify children at risk of exclusion and we encourage collaborative applications;
- Organisations with a turnover of more than £2m;
- Work outside of our specified areas, including work outside of the UK;
- Individuals;
- Capital projects;
- Existing core activities;
- Research projects, unless they include an element of frontline delivery and/or active participation by project beneficiaries.

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We ask all applicants to submit their application online via our website. A full project budget is required at the point of submission and can be uploaded via the application page.

Shortlisted applicants will be asked to submit up to date management accounts covering the period between their most recent published accounts and the month in which they are applying for funding. This may include a copy of the organisation's draft statutory accounts.

The deadline for applications is midnight on 3 July 2019. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

We strongly encourage all applicants to carefully read the eligibility criteria and refer to our step-by-step guidance notes before applying.

To apply, please use the application form on our website:

<http://www.berkeleyfoundation.org.uk/grants/apply-for-funding>

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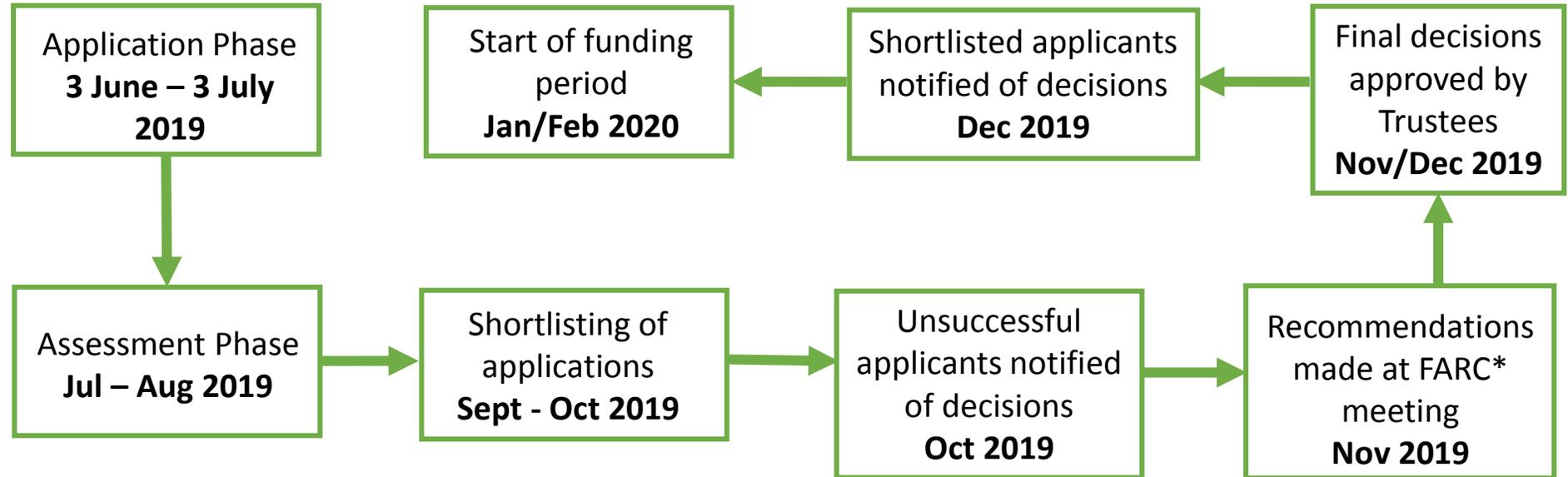
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Successful applicants will be required to submit a report every six months and progress calls/meetings will be scheduled quarterly.

Questions? Contact Clare Maddison, Grants Programme Manager:
clare.maddison@berkeleyfoundation.org.uk, 07580 188 169

* Finance, Audit and Risk Committee

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Q: Are newly registered organisations eligible to apply?

A: Shortlisted applicants will be subject to financial due diligence. If you are unable to provide a set of annual accounts, we recommend you wait a year before applying.

Q: The project for which we seek funding will be delivered in some of your areas, but also outside your areas. Are we still eligible?

A: We will only fund project delivery in the areas we work. Please ensure your application and budget reflect this.

Q: Is it preferable to have matched funding?

A: We look very positively on applications where there are other funders involved. If your grant request doesn't cover the total cost of the project we would like to see that you have other funding in place, or a clear funding pipeline. However, we will also consider applications where we are the sole funder.

Q: Can existing charity partners apply for funding?

A: Yes. We welcome applications from existing partners providing there is no overlap with current funded work.