

**Flexible 3 Year grants -** Factsheet

**Why introduce Flexible 3 Year Grants?**Leaders in the local organisations we have been funding in recent years have told us that multi-year and unrestricted funding are important. Some larger funders in the UK have already started this kind of programme.

Hammersmith United Charities’ Flexible 3 Year Grants are a response to the priorities in our community and to the challenges faced by medium sized local organisations.

We want to support organisations to think and plan strategically for the long term. We will do that with multi-year grants. These grants will be in addition to our one year main Community grants.

We have also heard from our grant holders that circumstances can change quickly and local organisations need to be able to respond e.g. the pandemic and cost of living crisis. We will do that by offering unrestricted grants.

Flexible 3 Year Grants aim to invest in local organisations with effective leadership that show both some experience of delivering support to members of the community and potential for developing what they do in their organisation and with others.

Hammersmith United Charities has for many years supported a wide variety of community organisations in keeping with its charitable objects. A key aspect of this approach is to trust those organisations to be well connected to the communities they support and are part of and therefore to know about the challenges people face, the help they need and their priorities.

We wish to continue with this approach with our Flexible 3 Year Grants by offering a choice of unrestricted funds – which can be used flexibly but the organisation – or funding for work on a broad theme.

Instead of asking for a detailed plan and budget for a project or service we are looking for organisations to invest in and to build a relationship with the people running it. The application process will aim to identify organisations with the following characteristics.

1. Effective leadership and governance
2. Involvement in running the organisation of individuals from the community or communities that it is supporting; for example, people with lived experience
3. A track record of delivery
4. Commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion
5. Evidence of working collaboratively with other agencies in the borough
6. Evidence of learning and sharing in the organisation, the locality and the field of work
7. Clear existing reporting to stakeholders and board.

We want to maintain the potential to invest in new organisations, small projects and respond to changing need so will be maintaining our main Community Grants programme and so we will be limiting three year grants to approximately 30% of our grant budget over the coming 5 years.

**For more information contact Paul on****grants@hamunitedcharities.com**