FUNDING GUIDANCE

GO! LONDON X MMC FUND 2026



GO! LONDON

CHANGING THE LIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE

FUNDED BY

MAYOR OF LONDON

LONDON MARATHON FOUNDATION
INSPIRING ACTIVITY

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

SPORT ENGLAND

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

LONDON SPORT

LONDON MARATHON EVENTS

Mayors Migration Council

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INTRODUCTION

This guidance is for the Mayors Migration Council (MMC) grant that will be delivered in collaboration with Go! London.

The Mayor of London and the MMC are partnering with Go! London to use sport and physical activity to help migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking children and young people in London feel welcome, build social connections and access opportunities that support their future aspirations.

The guidance is designed to help you decide whether your work aligns with the aims of this fund. You can find further information on the fund's webpage. This includes Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), which will be regularly updated and which you are encouraged to read.

If this guidance and the FAQs don't answer your question, or if you have any accessibility needs, feel free to contact us on **0203 291 3021** during office hours or email GoLondon@rocketsciencelab.co.uk.

BACKGROUND

MAYORS MIGRATION COUNCIL

The MMC is a mayor-led coalition that accelerates ambitious global action on migration and displacement. The organisation was launched in 2018, during the adoption of the UN Global Compacts for migration and on Refugees to ensure cities had a voice in global policy decisions.

GO! LONDON

This £22.5 million partnership from the Mayor of London, London Marathon Foundation and Sport England, supported by London Marathon Events and London Sport, enables underserved young Londoners aged 4–24 to fulfil their potential through sport and physical activity.

By bringing together funding, insight and expertise from across the sector, we are simplifying the grant-funding landscape and strengthening London's community sport sector. Our focus is on creating lasting change for young people while supporting the organisations and communities that help make that change possible.

Go! London aims to:

- Harness the power of sport and physical activity to help underserved young Londoners fulfil their potential.
- Strengthen London's community sport sector so it can better meet the needs of underserved children and young people.
- Reduce the barriers that prevent too many young people from participating in sport and physical activity.

GO! LONDON X MMC

The Go! London X MMC fund aims to use sport and physical activity-based interventions to support the inclusion and participation of migrant people within their communities and to create pathways into skills development and employment opportunities

The fund aims to test a joined-up approach that integrates physical activity and sport with wraparound support, employment pathways, and skills development. It therefore seeks to encourage partnerships between organisations with different areas of expertise to deliver:

- Activities led by trusted, trauma-informed and culturally aware community-based partners;
- Sessions that build confidence, social networks and employability skills;
- Pathways into training, volunteering, education and work and;
- High-quality wraparound support such as mentoring, workshops or 1:1 specialist sessions.

WHY IS THERE A FOCUS ON EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS PATHWAYS?

A recent report by Alan Milburn has highlighted the growing number of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET).

Milburn identifies poor mental health and a lack of opportunities as key factors contributing to the rise in the number of young people who are not fully participating in economic and social life. These challenges can be even more pronounced for migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum, who may face additional barriers stemming from their displacement such as disrupted education, unfamiliarity with UK services and labour markets, language barriers, trauma, and limited social networks.

WHAT ELSE?

Go! London aims to facilitate "freedom to discover through sport and physical activity". That is why, as part of this fund with the MMC, we welcome the inclusion of physical activity and sports that are not easily accessible for young migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. Applicants are encouraged to consider:

- Activities that provide opportunities to experience physical activity and sports that may not normally be accessible to the target group.
- Activities that promote social cohesion and positive interaction between migrant communities and wider local communities.
- Gender-inclusive approaches that address barriers facing girls and young women.
- Provision targeted at LGBTQ+ migrants, refugees and asylum seekers where appropriate.
- Trauma-informed delivery approaches.
- Co-design with individuals who have lived experience of migration, displacement or seeking sanctuary.

TYPE OF PROJECTS WE WILL FUND

We will fund projects that combine physical activity and sports with wraparound support and can demonstrate how these activities will contribute to one or more of the fund's intended outcomes. Examples of wraparound support may include:

- Mentoring.
- Employability support.
- Careers advice.
- Mental health and wellbeing support.
- Volunteering opportunities.
- Training and qualifications.
- Pathways into further education, apprenticeships or employment.

We welcome applications from organisations working across London as well as locally based organisations with strong links to migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking communities. Applicants should demonstrate why their chosen geography is appropriate and how they will reach those most in need.

We are seeking proposals that address systemic barriers affecting access to physical activity, sport, skills development or employment opportunities for migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking young people.



WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

Before making an application, please familiarise yourself with the outcomes below. The table highlights what Go! London and the MMC expect your project to achieve. All projects must report against **Outcome 1**. In addition to this, you must measure your project against either **Outcome 2** or **Outcome 3**.

Outcome 1: Young migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers have access to free, community-based sport and play-based activities and an understanding of the benefits of these activities on their physical wellbeing.		
Indicator 1.1: Percentage of project participants who report increased enjoyment, confidence, and competence around physical activity by grant close.	**Target 1.1**: At least 75% of participants.	**Means of Measurement**: Pre and post surveys using Sport England 'Active lives' survey questions.
Indicator 1.2: Percentage of project participants report that distance and/or transport costs are not a significant barrier to accessing sport and physical activity.	**Target 1.2**: At least 75% of participants.	**Means of Measurement**: Pre and post surveys through Upshot.



Outcome 2: Young migrants, refugees and asylum seekers feel an improvement in their mental well-being, and sense of belonging and social inclusion in the city.		
Indicator 2.1: Percentage of project participants who demonstrate an improvement in mental wellbeing by the end of the project.	**Target 2.1**: At least 75% of participants.	**Means of Measurement**: Pre and post surveys using the Warwick–Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS) for Children and Young People (CYP) aged 11+ and the Office for National Statistics (ONS) happiness scale for CYP under 11.
Indicator 2.2: Percentage of project participants who report increased feelings of belonging and social connection in their community.	**Target 2.2**: At least 75% of participants.	**Means of Measurement**: Pre and post surveys through Upshot.
Indicator 2.3: Percentage of project participants who report increased knowledge of where to access appropriate mental health and wellbeing support when needed.	**Target 2.3**: At least 75% of participants.	**Means of Measurement**: Pre and post surveys through Upshot.
Outcome 3: Young migrants, refugees and asylum seekers demonstrate leadership and employability skills through access to employment, training, volunteering or internship opportunities.		
Indicator 3.1: Percentage of eligible project participants (16 to 24 years old) who report increased confidence in their leadership skills.	**Target 3.1**: At least 75% of eligible participants.	**Means of Measurement**: Pre and post surveys through Upshot.
Indicator 3.2: Percentage of eligible project participants who report increased confidence in navigating education pathways.	**Target 3.2**: At least 75% of eligible participants.	**Means of Measurement**: Pre and post surveys through Upshot.
Indicator 3.3: Percentage of eligible project participants who progress into at least one employment, internship, accredited training, volunteering or work-experience opportunity up to three months after the end of their project participation.	**Target 3.3**: At least 50% of eligible participants.	**Means of Measurement**: Pre and post surveys through Upshot.

As part of your application, you will need to select the tier, or combination of tiers, that best reflects your proposed delivery model and intended outcomes.

Targeted Tier	Specialised Tier
Structured programmes for young people facing identifiable barriers to participation. Physical activity is combined with wrap-around support to achieve a measurable social outcome.	Longer-term, intensive support for young people with complex needs. Physical activity is combined with tailored wraparound and specialist support to achieve a measurable social outcome.

The information below sets out the minimum expectations for each tier, including the type of support provided and the level of participant engagement expected.

These requirements are intended to ensure that children and young people receive sufficient support to achieve meaningful outcomes. Within this framework, organisations are encouraged to design programmes that reflect the needs of the young people they work with.



Tier	Purpose	Delivery Model	Minimum Engagement Expectations
Targeted	Increase activity levels and achieve one measurable social outcome.	• Structured support designed for groups Identifiable barriers to participation • Accessible and engaging physical activity sessions that encourage regular attendance • Physical activity combined with additional wraparound support (e.g. mentoring, workshops, advice or guidance)	• Projects should be designed to provide participants with at least 6 sport and physical activity sessions and 3 wrap around support sessions over a period of at least three months • Minimum session length: 1 hour
Specialised	Increase activity levels and achieve one measurable social outcome through tailored specialist support.	• Long-term, regular engagement with participants • Tailored wraparound and specialist support based on individual needs • Relationship-centred approaches that prioritise trust-building and sustained engagement • Appropriate referral pathways and multi-agency working where required	• Projects should be designed to provide participants with at least 8 sport and physical activity sessions and 4 wraparound support sessions over a period of at least six months • Minimum session length: 1 hour

WHAT CAN YOU APPLY FOR

GRANT SIZE

- Up to £80,000 for projects delivered over a period of 18 - 24 months.

ELIGIBLE COSTS

- Funding is for project related costs, and you can allocate up to 20% of your total budget towards management or overhead expenses.
- For a full list of costs that we can and cannot fund please see our FAQs.
- For this grant, the applicant is not required to include evaluation costs. The evaluation will be managed by the Go! London team.

DELIVERY REQUIREMENTS

All funded projects must:

- Deliver sport and physical activity sessions that align with one or more of the support tiers outlined above;
- Provide wraparound support alongside physical activity provision;
- Work with underserved children and young people aged 15 to 24 living in London. At least 70% of participants must be young migrants, refugees and/or asylum seekers.
- Be delivered in London;
- Ensure that at least 30% of children and young people engaged through the project are new to the organisation (meaning they have not previously participated in the organisation's programmes or services) and;
- Demonstrate how the project will achieve growth in reach. This may include increasing the capacity of existing provision, delivering additional sessions, or creating new opportunities for children and young people to engage in sport and physical activity.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

Priority will be given to projects that:

- Encourage partnerships between organisations with different areas of expertise;
- Are delivered by organisations with a strong track record of working with young migrants, refugees and/or asylum seekers, demonstrating trusted relationships, relevant expertise and evidence of positive outcomes;
- Involve young people in project design and organisational decision-making;
- Are led or co-designed by people with lived experience of migration and displacement and;
- Address gaps in local provision and make effective use of existing facilities and infrastructure.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

This fund is primarily intended for specialist or migrant-focused organisations.

Specialist or migrant-focused organisations are those whose primary purpose is to support migrants, refugees and/or asylum seekers through tailored services that respond to their needs and experiences. This may include counselling, casework, advocacy, safeguarding, mentoring, practical support, or other trauma-informed approaches that help children and young people navigate challenges, build resilience and improve their wellbeing.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Before starting your application, please read the **Reporting Guidance** document, which includes the **Outputs and Outcomes Framework**. This framework sets out the key indicators and measures you will be required to report on, as well as the survey questions that will help demonstrate your project's progress against your selected outcomes. Please note that the output and outcome framework is fixed, so you should consider which tier and outcome is most appropriate for the cohort of children and young people you support.

All funded projects must report on the following:

- Number and type of sessions delivered using Go! London funding;
- Number of young people engaged;
- Number of children and young people new to the organisation (minimum 30%);
- Number of children and young people who report increased enjoyment, confidence, and competence around physical activity;
- Number of children and young people who report that distance and/or transport costs are not a significant barrier to accessing sport and physical activity and;
- **One social outcome**, using the relevant measurements listed in the **Outputs and Outcomes Framework**. The social (secondary) outcomes for this fund are mental wellbeing and employability skills.

You will be required to upload this information through Upshot. If you receive a grant, you will receive access to Upshot, along with training and support to help you use the system effectively.

ELIGIBILITY

To apply, you must:

- Be a not-for-profit organisation, registered in the UK with a London-based address;
- Have a governing document (e.g., constitution, trust deed, or articles of association);
- Have at least three trustees, directors, or committee members;
- Have a bank account in your organisation's name;
- Be able to provide 12 months of annual accounts;
- If currently funded by Go! London, the existing grant must end before 1 February 2027 and all final reporting must be completed;
- Have at least two years' experience delivering services directly to young migrants, refugees and/or asylum seekers;
- Demonstrate that at least 50% of your service users are young migrants, refugees and/or asylum seekers;
- Pay at least the London Living Wage for any paid posts funded by the grant and;
- Have appropriate safeguarding measures in place.

Note: Local authorities, schools, and private companies e.g. Companies Limited by Shares, private partnerships or sole traders are not eligible to apply. They may, however, support delivery as an unpaid partner.

HOW AND WHEN TO APPLY

To apply, you'll need to complete an EOI and an online application form. You can access the EOI here.

Applications for the Go! London X MMC Fund are submitted through a two-stage process.

Stage 1: Submit an expression of interest (EOI) before **17:00, Monday 30 November**.

Stage 2: Following a review of your EOI, you will be notified via email as to whether you are invited to make a full application. Please allow **up to two working days** for your EOI to be reviewed.

The deadline for applications is **17:00, Tuesday 1 December**.

Decisions will be made in January 2027, with project start dates expected from February 2027.

If this guidance document and the FAQs do not cover what you need to know, or if you have any accessibility requirements, please call 0203 291 3021 during office hours, or email GoLondon@rocketsciencelab.co.uk

We recognise that AI tools can be helpful when drafting grant applications, but they often generate broad or generic text. If you choose to use AI, please ensure your responses are tailored to your organisation, your project, and the specific needs of your beneficiaries.

CAPACITY BUILDING

In addition to receiving a grant, applicants will be encouraged to access organisational development support which will be provided by Bayes Business School. All applicants, whether successful or not, will receive information as part of the application process. You can find out more information here.

MAKING DECISIONS

EOIs will be reviewed against eligibility criteria. We may also ask clarification questions and conduct desk-based research where necessary.

We aim to fund a wide range of projects across London, ensuring good representation of the group identified in this fund, a mix of sports and physical activities, and a broad range of age groups.

These considerations may influence the final selection of projects for funding.

SCORING FRAMEWORK

Your application will be assessed using the scoring framework below.



Criteria	Evidence Required	Weighting
Project design	• Clear delivery model: frequency, duration, location, and staffing • Inclusion of appropriate wraparound or specialist support • Alignment with tier model • Considered approach to making activity safe, accessible and culturally aware • Sound plan for reaching the target group • Relevant and credible delivery partnerships and referral pathways, with partners' roles clearly explained • Clear link between activities delivered and project objectives (Application sections: Project)	**20%**
Organisation and Track Record	• Strong understanding of the target group and the local or London context • Clear articulation of barriers affecting access to physical and sport, mental health support and/or employment skills or opportunities. (Application section: Organisation and Track Record)	**20%**
Rationale	• Alignment to required outcomes • Clear link between proposed activities, project objectives and outcomes • Outputs and outcomes are realistic for the activities and level of provision (Application section: Rationale)	**20%**

Criteria	Evidence Required	Weighting
Impact	• A clear and credible contribution to improved physical wellbeing and the selected secondary outcome • Clear link between project activities and other wider outcomes • Project provides clear added value • Proposed activities, number of participants and intended outcomes are realistic and proportionate to the project's scale and level of provision (Application section: Impact and Outputs and Outcomes table)	**20%**
Youth Voice & Lived Experience	• Meaningful involvement of young migrants, refugees and/or asylum seekers in project design • Inclusion of people with lived experience in leadership or delivery (Application section: Youth Voice and Lived Experience)	**10%**
Budget and value for money	• Budget reflects the activities described in the application • Costs proportionate to the scale, frequency, and intensity of delivery • Use of existing resources, partnerships, or infrastructure (Application section: Budget)	**10%**

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