

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Youth Guarantee Trailblazer Community Grants Programme Liverpool City Region**

**(V2 - updated 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025)**

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## (a) Organisational eligibility

**Q Are CICs Limited by Guarantee Without Share Capital eligible to apply?**

**A** Yes.

**Q Can we apply to work with a specific group of people (e.g. a particular ethnic community, or young women), rather than any young person?**

**A** Yes. Eligible organisations can apply to work with any particular demographic group, so long as they meet the eligibility criteria (18-21 year old LCR residents who are NEET).

See section 4 of Specification for investment themes.

**Q Can I apply for a project to run in more than one borough and if so, do I put them together in one application, or apply separately for each different borough?**

**A** You can apply for more than one borough, but must apply for each borough separately - and each application/project needs to be financially viable on its own in the event that one borough is funded and another isn't.

**Q If I have 2 distinct project themes (e.g. drug support and financial skills) and want to apply to deliver each of them in all 6 boroughs, would I need submit 12 applications?**

**A** Yes.

**Q (a) Is the borough you attribute your application to based on where you deliver from, or where participants are from?**

**(b) Can residents from other boroughs participate in provision in other boroughs?**

**A** (a) It should be based on where target participants are from.

(b) We are seeking 'place-based' solutions/ localised delivery to meet local needs, which should primarily take place in the borough that the target group is from.

We understand that there may be exceptional circumstances where an individual chooses to participate in activities in another borough (e.g. where they live close to the border of neighbouring boroughs, for convenience of travel, or other personal reason). However, this would be expected to be few in number and projects should not actively target residents of other boroughs requiring them to travel to access provision in other boroughs.

*(Answer checked/ agreed with LCRCA)*

See section 5 of Specification for full eligibility criteria.

## (b) Participant eligibility

### **Q Do people need the right to work in the UK to be eligible?**

**A** Yes. As the YGT programme is focused on supporting young people progress towards employment, participants need the legal right to work in the UK.

*(Answer checked/ agreed with LCRCA)*

### **Q Specifically, are Asylum Seekers eligible for support through the programme?**

**A** Formal policy answer received from LCRCA/ DWP:

“Yes, people with an Application Registration Card (ARC) issued by the Home Office to individuals who claim asylum with no recourse to public funds, but the right to work are eligible to access support through the Youth Guarantee Trailblazers. [Projects] will need to ensure that the individual meets the eligibility and suitability criteria of the Trailblazer and that the individual would benefit from the support offered through the Trailblazer instead of other, or no employment support. [Projects] should follow the Home Office advice on the gov.uk website including the skilled occupations and immigration salaries list at: <https://www.gov.uk/entering-staying-uk/Foreign-nationals-working-in-UK>.”

### **Q Can UKSPF participants engage in YGT provision?**

*(Same question applies to people engaged with Connect to Work or other mainstream/ publicly-funded provision.)*

**A** Yes, but only if YGT support is substantially different; and something that a person needs/ can't access through their UKSPF (or other) support programme.

The need/reason for YGT support (beyond other programmes they are engaged with) would need to be clearly documented.

From the perspective of an organisation delivering UKSPF (or other publicly-funded) provision that wanted to enrol a person already engaged with that alternative provision for YGT support – there would need to be clear differentiation in staffing/funding for each programme, with no double-funding; and no double-counting of outcomes against both programmes.

*(Answer checked/ agreed with LCRCA)*

### **New questions added 27<sup>th</sup> October**

### **Q If people are from SEND background is the maximum age still 21 or is it 24, which is normally the case for other programmes?**

**A** Maximum age is 21. The eligible age range for all participants is 18-21 for everyone, regardless of SEND status, or any other background.

*(Answer checked/ agreed with LCRCA)*

**Q If the people we are working with are Care Leavers, is the maximum age still 21 or can it be up to 25?**

**A** Maximum age is 21. The eligible age range for all participants is 18-21 for everyone, regardless of Care Leaver status, or any other background.

*(Answer checked/ agreed with LCRCA)*

### **(c) Eligible costs**

**Q Are staff travel expenses an eligible cost?**

**A** Yes.

Note the original version of the application form did not have a budget line for this, but was added into the updated version. If you downloaded V1 of the form before it was updated and are already using this for your application, just included staff expenses in use the spare row at the bottom of the “Other costs” section (blue ‘Click to enter text’ row)

**Q Can participant travel and childcare be funded?**

**A** Yes. There are specific budget lines for these in the application form, section E.

**Q If our staff are already funded through other means, but we want to apply to the YGT fund for supplementary activities (but not staff costs) to enhance other provision/programmes, how do we claim related overhead costs relating to these additional YGT-funded activities?**

**A** The flat-rate overheads contribution methodology has been agreed with our funders. This is calculated as 15% of the staff costs of employees working on the project – see section E of the Application Guidance.

No other indirect overheads costs can be included in project budgets.

In this scenario, only the direct costs of the activities can be claimed.

If a different member of staff, whose costs are not already funded through other funding streams, coordinates the additional activities to be funded through the YGT grant, then their staff costs could legitimately be included, which, in turn, would attract a 15% overheads contribution.

### **(d) Outputs & Outcomes**

**Q Is a set number of beneficiaries &/or participant outcomes required?**

**A** No, it is up to individual applicants to propose their own output and outcome targets.

Be realistic in your proposals, considering the tight timeframe for delivery, the nature of the work you plan to do, and the people you intend to work with.

**Q Can volunteering be proposed as a valid outcome?**

**A** Yes. Whilst not a core/ target outcome of the YGT programme, volunteering can be a positive outcome in supporting progression towards paid employment.

The application form has a section relating to outputs/outcomes (questions D14 – D19). D19 provides space to include other outcomes outside the core YGT target outcome areas - volunteering should be entered here.

**(e) Timescales**

**Q When does the project need to be complete and funding spent?**

**A** Projects need to be complete and all funding spent (defrayed, not just committed or accrued) by the end of March 2026.

Any underspend at the end of the project will be recouped by VOLA and returned to the LCRCA, who, in turn, will return it to central government.

**Q When is the end-of-project evaluation report required?**

**A** By the end of April 2026.

**(f) Other**

**Q Do organisations/ projects need to recruit themselves, or will there be a pipeline of referrals from Local Authorities, or the Jobcentre?**

**A** Successful applicants will be required to recruit participants themselves. There is no 'ready-made' pipeline of referrals and no dedicated JCP or LA staff/teams we are aware of that are tasked with making referrals to funded projects. However, projects may choose to make links with relevant referral organisations such as the Jobcentre, relevant Local Authority teams and/or other partners.

**Q Can you expand on what is meant by duplication and displacement?**

**A** There is a wide range of existing provision for NEET young people, both mainstream/publicly-funded and other. This includes both Local Authority and LCR Combined Authority funded provision – including a range of other YGT provision funded by the LCRCA and delivered by, or through Local Authorities. Projects funded through VOLA's YGT grants programme cannot duplicate or impinge on the delivery of these other initiatives. That is why Local Authorities will be reviewing application summaries to ensure local strategic fit.

**Q Strategic fit/ duplication – with delays on the announcement of other Local Authority funded YGT projects in some boroughs, we don't yet know what else new is going to be available locally and in what areas.**

- A** This is understood but, unfortunately, beyond our control. Concentrate on what you do know.

Local Authority representatives will review application summaries (section C of form) to consider and advise on local strategic fit for their respective areas. If an applicant proposes delivery that duplicates something a Local Authority will be funding through their own YGT programmes, they will need to advise VOLA on whether the proposal can be funded or not.

- Q Can you provide some examples of social value additionality beyond the core project outcomes, as required in the SV section of the application form?**

- A** Social value indicators are wide ranging in nature and focus. Examples include providing work experience or internship opportunities in your organisation; providing mock interviews (e.g. by managers not funded by the YGT project); protecting jobs at risk; staff volunteering. There are many examples.

Lots of information and advice is available online, or if you need more help, contact your local infrastructure organisation (e.g. CVS).

- Q Will there be more funding next year?**

- A** This is yet to be confirmed. Earlier this year, the government announced the extension of the Trailblazers into 2026/27, so we are hopeful, but we don't yet know. If it is extended, we expect that a new funding round will be required, rather than this year's projects simply being extended.