

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

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

**(Version 1 - June 2026)**

#### **Contents**

1. Organisational eligibility .....	2
2. Project eligibility .....	2
3. Participant eligibility .....	3
4. Eligible costs .....	4
5. Outputs & Outcomes .....	5
6. Timescales .....	6
7. Other .....	6

## 1. Organisational eligibility

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

**A** Yes.

**Q Are CICs Limited by Shares eligible to apply?**

**A** This will depend on the company's Articles of Association.

Organisations that distribute profits to members or shareholders, or whose constitution permits this, even if they do not currently do so, are not eligible to apply. Most CICs Limited by Shares fall into this category by default, unless the Articles of Association have been specifically amended to remove this capability.

See [section 5 of Specification](#) for full organisational eligibility criteria.

## 2. Project eligibility

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

**A** Yes. Eligible organisations can apply to work with any demographic group, whether tightly focussed or not, so long as they meet the eligibility criteria (18–21-year-old LCR residents who are NEET).

See [section 4 of Specification](#) for defined investment themes and priority groups.

**Q Can I apply to deliver a project in more than one borough and if so, should I submit just one application covering all boroughs of delivery, or apply separately for each borough?**

**A** You can apply to deliver in more than one borough but **must apply for each borough separately** - each application should be specific to the Local Authority area you plan to deliver in, and each application must be deliverable and financially viable as a standalone project, even if funding is not secured for applications in other boroughs.

**Q Should the borough you attribute your application to be based on where your delivery will take place, or where participants are from?**

**A** (a) It should be based on where delivery will take place.

**Q Can residents from other boroughs participate in our provision?**

**A** We are seeking 'place-based' delivery to meet local needs, meaning projects must primarily operate in the participant's home borough. Exceptions for recruitment of out-of-borough participants are permitted (e.g., proximity to borders, travel convenience, access to niche provision, or other personal reason), provided that:

- The number of out-of-borough participants does not make up a disproportionate percentage of overall enrolments.
- Projects do not actively target people who would need to travel excessive or unreasonable distances to access support.

*(Answer checked/ agreed with LCRCA)*

**Q If I have 2 distinct projects targeted at completely different investment themes (e.g. a support programme for young people with SEND; and separate financial skills/ money management programme) and want to apply to deliver each of them in all 6 boroughs, would I need submit 12 applications?**

**A** Yes.

### 3. 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.

**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 non-LCR residents be enrolled if living close to the LCR boundary?**

**A** No, participants must be resident in one of the six LCR boroughs (Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens, Wirral).

**Q How is age eligibility applied?**

**A** It is applied on the enrolment date. If people turn 22 whilst on programme, that is fine.

**Q Can people under the age of 18 be enrolled?**

**A** No. The minimum age is 18 for all participants.

**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** The maximum age is 21 for all participants regardless of SEND status, or any other background.

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

**A** The maximum age is 21 for all participants, regardless of status.

**Q Can a participant re-enrol if they took part in our 2025/26 YGT project?**

**A** Yes, but only if the new support programme differs significantly from the one they previously attended.

Robust justification of the need/reason for re-enrolling the same participant will need to be clearly documented with an audit trail identifying the difference between the first and second support programmes. Written approval will be required before participants can start on programme. Failure to do so may result in funding being withheld.

**Q Can *Connect to Work* participants also engage in YGT provision?**

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

Yes, participants can be on both Connect to Work (CtW) and the Youth Guarantee Trailblazer (YGT) provided there is no duplication of support. For example, digital skills training through YGT alongside CtW would be acceptable. However, YGT employment-related support (e.g., job coaching or interview preparation) would duplicate CtW support and is not permitted.

The locally offered YGT employer incentive cannot be used to support CtW participants.

There will need to be a clear audit trail identifying the difference between the YGT and CtW support provided.

#### 4. Eligible costs

**Q Are digital devices (e.g., tablets or laptops) provided to participants to eliminate employment barriers an eligible expense?**

**A** Yes, provided these costs are:

- Reasonable and proportionate
- Directly linked to finding work
- Documented on the Expenses & Incentives form

Please note: Digital kit (tablets and mobile data) for participants with SEND/EHCPs or Care Leavers are already available through the local authority's Youth Guarantee

Trailblazer (YGT) offer. Therefore, we do not separately fund digital equipment for these priority groups.

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

**A** Yes. There are specific budget lines for these in the budget spreadsheet.

**Q What are defined as staff on-costs?**

**A On-costs** include employer’s pension, [employers’ National Insurance contributions](#), and any other taxable incentives linked to pay.

**Don’t forget** to include these in your budget calculations in addition to gross salaries,

**Q How does the simplified 15% overheads methodology work?**

**A** The flat-rate overheads contribution methodology has been agreed with our funders, the LCRC, and the percentage cannot be increased.

It is calculated as **15% of the total staff costs** (gross salary + [employer’s NI](#) + employer’s pension contributions) attributable to the project of **direct employees** of the Grant Recipient.

Note:

- The term “direct employee” means an individual employed directly by the Lead organisation under an employment contract, with tax and National Insurance processed at source via PAYE, as opposed to an independent contractor who invoices for services.
- **Self-employed** contractors, freelancers, or consultants (including Company Directors who invoice for their services), **and employees of delivery partners** engaged to support project delivery, who are not employed directly by the Grant Recipient, **are not classed as a ‘Staff Costs’ for the purposes of overheads calculations**. These costs should be categorised as ‘Other Costs’ in the budget spreadsheet.
- Similarly, staff travel and subsistence expenses are also classed as ‘Other Costs’, not as ‘Staff Costs’; and as such, do not attract a 15% overheads contribution.

The 15% overheads contribution covers indirect costs that cannot be connected directly to a specific project activity because it is difficult, or impossible, to quantify a precise amount attributable solely to the project. These include shared organisational costs such as ‘back-office’ staff, insurance, utilities costs, rental or mortgage costs, etc

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

## 5. 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 timeframe for delivery, the nature of the work you plan to do, and the people you intend to work with.

Applicants are required to explain the rationale for the proposed targets and why they believe they are feasible.

**Q Is progression to volunteering considered a valid positive outcome?**

- A** Yes, however, it is not a primary YGT outcome target against which performance will be measured by our funders. That said, it is accepted that for some people, volunteering can be a positive pathway 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.

## 6. Timescales

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

- A** Projects need to be complete and all funding spent – defrayed (i.e. left your bank, not just committed or accrued) - by the end of March 2027.

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.

See [section 15 of Specification](#) for details of key project milestones.

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

- A** By 30<sup>th</sup> April 2027.

## 7. Other

**Q Will we be responsible for participant recruitment, or will we receive direct referrals from the Jobcentre Plus &/or Local Authorities?**

- A** Successful applicants are entirely responsible for their own publicity, engagement, and participant recruitment. There is no pre-existing referral pipeline, and no dedicated Jobcentre Plus (JCP) or Local Authority (LA) staff are assigned to source participants for funded projects.

However, projects must proactively build links with Jobcentres, relevant Local Authority teams, and other local networks to generate interest.

To support this, VOLA and the LCRCA will also help facilitate networking opportunities with JCP and local authority colleagues where possible.

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

**A Duplication** means funding a new project to do exactly what an existing programme already does. **Displacement** means funding an activity that merely replaces or undermines an existing initiative rather than adding new value.

Because the LCRC and Local Authorities already fund extensive support for young people who are Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET), VOLTA's YGT grants cannot replicate this work. To prevent this, Local Authorities review application summaries to ensure your project genuinely complements local strategic fit.

**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. There are many examples, including providing work experience or internship opportunities; providing mock interviews (e.g. by managers not funded by the YGT project); protecting jobs at risk of redundancy; staff volunteering in the community; YGT participants delivering community projects or volunteering.

Lots of information and advice is available online.

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

**A** This is yet to be confirmed, though currently thought unlikely.