

Healthy Weight Pathways Fund

Funding to ensure that obesity services and pathways have a focus on inequalities and to ensure equitable access and improve outcomes in City and Hackney.

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About the fund and how it was developed

Healthy Weight Pathways is a participatory grant fund developed in partnership with the communities it aims to invest in.

The fund has been developed through the eMbedding heAlth equiTy in City & Hackney (MATCH) programme. MATCH is a participatory process that aims to build health equity across the City & Hackney health and care system in key areas where deep health inequalities exist within City and Hackney.

We encourage you to read this guidance document in full, as it contains important information about this funding from beginning to end.

Healthy Weight Pathways is a part of the [MATCH Fund](#), which provides funding to support the MATCH participatory process until 2027.

How to sign in to the new application portal

Our grants software we use has recently launched a new portal. This will require you to make a new account even if you have applied for previous grants from us. Instructions on how to login for the first time are here:

[How to sign in to the new application portal link](#)

Fund details

The fund aims to ensure that obesity services and pathways have a focus on inequalities and to ensure equitable access and improve outcomes in City and Hackney.

We want to achieve this by funding activities that align with our 4 key funding objectives, delivering projects that:

Our funding objectives	
1	Projects that increase awareness of and/or improve access to information about healthy eating and/or physical activity for people from priority groups ¹ . The priority groups identified for this programme are: ☐ Adults with learning disabilities ☐ Adults with multiple health conditions ☐ Children living in deprived areas ☐ Preconception / pregnant people / new mums
2	Projects that are tailored or targeted interventions to support people from priority groups to adopt and maintain healthier habits related to diet and physical activity.
3	Projects that help to increase the knowledge, skills, and confidence of people working with priority groups about how to eat healthily and/or be more active.
4	Projects that involve delivering activities (including those described under objectives 1-3) in community locations and/or settings used and trusted by priority groups or focus on increasing peer or social support around healthy eating and physical activity.

As part of your answer around this, you will be asked:

- **What** the project will do and **what** you aim to achieve
- **How** the project will achieve this and how it will be specifically delivered
- **Why** the project is needed and **why** your organisation is well placed to deliver it.

The MATCH process aims to make an impact on health equity in City and Hackney, and we expect all funded projects to join us on this journey. Health equity means that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. This can include addressing the barriers that restrict people from accessing health and wellbeing services. Projects must consider how their project would contribute to one or more of the programme's impact aims:

¹ The priority groups were selected through a prioritisation process with MATCH participants.

Impact area	Impact aim
Awareness	To support residents, beneficiaries or groups of people to increase their awareness of health equity as it relates to them. Practically this will help create a better understanding of needs, approaches and practices around health equity.
Action	To support partners to take action to improve equitable access, experience, or outcomes for residents who are affected by inequalities in the health system.
Advocacy	To support residents and partners to advocate or become advocates , giving voices to those least heard within the system. This may be done through new or existing partnerships, building or changing infrastructure and/or affecting policy or systems that aim to improve equity.

What we can fund

We welcome applications for any project that:

- can demonstrate a clear link with one or more of our funding objectives and our impact aims.
- can demonstrate a clear and direct benefit to populations in City and Hackney.
- will be complete by the end of August 2026. Projects can start anytime after July 2025.²

We will fund all expenses related to the delivery of the change idea, including any core organisational costs proportionate to delivery.

How much we can fund

Eligible organisations can apply for up to £15,000 to deliver projects. The fund has an initial total pot of £54,000 available, so we expect to be able to make 3-4 grants depending on applications.

Who we can fund

Organisations can apply for funding if they:

- have an annual income of under £250,000 in the last financial year.
- are equity led³.

² All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by week of 14th July 2025, with funding expected to be paid within the month. If your project cannot begin until you have received funding factor this into your project start and end dates.

³Equity led organisations are those led by and for marginalised communities, in particular:

led by people from Black and Global Majority communities

led by d/Deaf or disabled communities

led by LGBTQI+ communities

led by Women and girls

led by Older people (55+)

led by Younger People (25 and under)

We define 'led by' as at least 51% of an organisation's Trustees/Directors and/or senior staff.

- are a registered Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector (VCSE) organisation operating at a local level in Hackney.
- or are an unregistered but formally constituted Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector (VCSE) organisation operating at a local level in Hackney, with a bank account in their name or a host organisation to support them.
- or are a registered charitable company or social enterprise with a registration number on companies house (companies must have asset locks, be wholly not-for-profit and without share capital).

Who we can't fund

We can't fund:

- individuals, or applications where an individual receives the main benefit.
- any registered organisation that has been struck off / removed from the register under current or previous names.
- any registered organisation with significant reporting issues over multiple years, either to Hackney Council or to the relevant registration body (e.g multiple years of late reporting to the Charity Commission).

We are unlikely to fund an organisation more than 50% of their previous year's total annual income.

What we can't fund

We can't fund any of the following expenses:

- significant capital or building costs (capital costs can only be applied for if it directly relates to the funding ask).
- costs paid or liabilities incurred before the start date of the grant.
- activities undertaken outside of City and Hackney, although there may be some exceptions. For example, residents leaving the area to access specialist courses, venues or trips.
- any costs that are not related to the delivery of the project.

When and how to apply

When to apply

- **Applications open:** 2nd May 2025
- **Applications close:** 9th June 2025
- **All applicants notified of outcome by:** Week of 14th July 2025

How to apply

Applications should be submitted through our online application portal prior to the closing date, late applications will not be accepted.

- You can start a new application using [this link](#). *The form will not be available to access until the application opening time and date.*
- Login to continue an existing application using this account [login link](#).

The application [step-by-step document](#) outlines each question on the form and provides guidance for answers.

If you have any accessibility requirements that make using the online application method difficult, please contact pjh@cityandhackney.gov.uk as soon as possible, and we will arrange an alternative application form.

Scoring criteria

All applications will be assessed by decisions via a scoring system outlined in the [step-by-step guidance document](#). We strongly recommend reading through this, seeing how applications will be scored and which questions are weighted higher than others.

Application help

Throughout the application period, Thomas Shore will have bookable drop in sessions for any application questions. These are for specific questions and general guidance. There won't be guidance on how best to answer subjective questions.

[Sessions Booking Link](#)

If you have a short query which doesn't require a meeting, please email pjh@hackney.gov.uk for all questions and help.

What happens next

Each application will be assessed by a team of decision makers against the scoring criteria outlined in the application guidance. Decision makers will meet to discuss their scores and make collective decisions at a panel meeting.

Decision makers will be a mix of VCS organisations, residents with lived experience or interest, and NHS or other statutory partners.

Expectations of funded projects

We're committed to engaging with funded projects throughout the life of the fund to support delivery, understand impact and feed learnings back into the MATCH process, building on work our partners have identified as key to improving healthy weight pathways. We expect funded partners to come on this journey and will provide support and resources to ensure this can reasonably happen.

Impact and outcomes of funded projects

MATCH takes an outcomes focused approach to evaluating the impact of projects funded through this process and the fund overall. After funding has been given, we will work with successful projects to co-develop and agree on outcomes for each project and how best to evidence this at the end of the project. This is a co-production based approach, funded projects can demonstrate how they aim to measure the success of their project. This, along with wider analysis of the program, will be used to demonstrate wider impact as well as ideas on how to improve health equity in this area.

We are continuously exploring the best methods of ensuring residents, voluntary organisations and statutory agencies remain involved in the project and how we do this will

be part of the funding. Previous programmes have had grantees work together and this is a collaborative approach we encourage.

End of document.

