

The Covid-19 emergency accommodation for rough sleepers has highlighted even higher numbers of homeless migrants in London. We estimate that about 70% of those initially accommodated in GLA Covid-19 procured hotels have been non-UK nationals. Around 68% of the non-UK nationals accommodated appeared to have unclear or insecure immigration status. These numbers have also been high in hotels procured by local authorities (LA's).

The routes off the streets for those with unclear or insecure immigration status can be limited due to the Government's hostile environment policies and the current immigration-based restrictions on welfare and homelessness support. To maximize positive outcomes for this group, immigration advice and specialist support to evidence or obtain secure immigration status and entitlements are key. This includes having specialist workers within homelessness charities to do the wraparound support and facilitate the referrals and liaison between the immigration advisers and clients with complex needs. However, specialist support and freely available immigration advice are very limited.⁴ The need is likely to increase and additional funding is key so the GLA is stepping in to cover part of this gap at an exceptional time of need.

The Mayor opposes the hostile environment and has been investing strategically in immigration advice and support services to meet the needs of Londoners with insecure immigration status in order to address these issues. The IARSF continue that strategic investment.

Grant funding is being made available for six-month projects from April/May to September/October 2021 from a total pot of £233,000. There is also an intention to extend support for up to a further 8 to 9 months until June 2022, pending approval of an additional funding pot of £325,000.

2. Fund Objectives

The IARSF aims to support Londoners sleeping rough to prove or obtain secure immigration status and enable a positive move-on from the streets or from emergency accommodation by increasing the immigration advice and support available to migrant rough sleepers and more effectively using the resources that currently exist within the system.

The broad objectives of the fund are to:

- Increase free immigration advice available to non-UK national rough sleepers to access their rights and entitlements, including people from Roma communities, women and the hidden or mobile homeless;
- Increase the specialist support available to non-UK national rough sleepers within homelessness support services to facilitate a positive move-on from rough sleeping;
- Improve integration and/or collaboration of migration and homelessness work;
- Embed specialist immigration advice in support services for rough sleepers.

3. Who can apply to the Fund?

- Applications are open to frontline homeless, migrant and advice organisations who are supporting destitute migrants in London. This can include working with those who are sleeping on the streets or in emergency or hostel type accommodation.

⁴ <https://asauk.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Advising-Londoners-Report-30072020-1.pdf>

- Partnerships or joint applications made up of two or more organisations are encouraged (with one lead partner) but single organisations can also apply.
- Lead/applying organisations need to be either a **registered charity, community benefit society or registered company**. In the case of partnership applications only the lead organisation needs to meet this criteria.
- Organisations of any size can apply irrespective of their reserves or turnover. However, **the grant amount for the initial six-month period of activity cannot exceed 50% of the lead organisation's annual turnover**.
- Lead organisations will need to confirm they have adequate and appropriate Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and Safeguarding policies and these must be submitted with their application along with their latest accounts, governing document and evidence of public liability and professional indemnity insurance.
- Organisations must be financially sound, secure and in a healthy position to deliver their proposed projects through and beyond the duration of the grant.

4. What can the grant cover?

Grants can cover costs incurred in delivering or facilitating access to immigration advice to rough sleepers during the grant period which can include:

- Qualified immigration advisors or solicitors' costs - whether employed directly or not.
- Interpreting and translation costs where these are related to accessing immigration advice.
- Pro-bono barrister or volunteer expenses such as essential travel and subsistence.
- Client expenses such as essential travel and obtaining ID documents.
- Salary costs for 'link workers' in homelessness organisations to advocate and navigate advice for homeless migrants.

This is not an exhaustive list and we encourage organisations to think creatively to address the current limited immigration advice capacity available and explore options such as those suggested in the 2020 report on Methods of Increasing the Capacity of Immigration Advice Provision⁵

Please note grants **cannot** fund:

- Non-essential expenses
- Retrospective costs incurred prior to April 2021 or which go beyond the end of the grant period

5. How much can applicants apply for?

- Grants range from £15,000 to £70,000 for the initial six-month period.
- The total funding pot for this initial period is £233,000 and the GLA are expecting to fund between three and 15 grants.

⁵ <https://www.phf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Full-report-Methods-of-increasing-the-capacity-of-immigration-advice-provision.pdf>

- Please note - the grant amount for the six-month period cannot exceed 50% of the lead organisation's annual turnover.

6. Do I also have to include a funding request to extend my project beyond the six-month period?

Additional funding is expected to be available to extend projects for up to nine additional months so we are inviting applicants to provide proposals to extend their project beyond the six months up to June 2022.

This will be clearly set out in the application form - applicants should firstly provide a proposal for the first six months (to start from 1st April or a later date if necessary up to 31st May 2021) to support a funding request of between £15,000 and £70,000. Applicants will also be invited to separately show an extended proposal to run until June 2022 with a separate indicative funding request for this second period.

The first six-month period cannot be dependent on the extension period.

We are expecting that the amount requested for the extension period to be broadly in line with the first six months (pro-rata).

7. What geographical areas need to be covered?

Project activity must take place within the area of Greater London.

- Projects can cover pan London or parts of London. Priority will be given to bids which cover *at least* two Boroughs.
- Engagement and/or support from the relevant LA/LA's is encouraged - to ensure as far as possible that bids complement (and do not duplicate) services already available in the area. Applicants will be invited to include the contact details of the relevant officer of the Council/s that they have liaised with about their application.

8. What else do I need to include in my application?

Applicants will be expected to demonstrate:

- A clear plan to effectively deliver successful and appropriate advice and/or support activities to migrant rough sleepers to overcome barriers and find a route out of homelessness. Where relevant, this would require appropriate qualifications such as SRA accreditation or OISC registration for the immigration advice provision;
- The need for the specific project and how it will meet the bespoke needs of the client group;
- A track record of delivering similar services and reaching target audiences;
- Clear objectives and realistic and achievable outcomes for the project and proposals to effectively evaluate the activity as well as showing value for money;

Applicants will also need to provide the following:

- Copies of their latest annual accounts
- Copies of their governing document/constitution
- Copies of their EDI and Safeguarding Policies
- Copies of their public liability and indemnity cover
- Contact details of relevant LA's officers (where possible)

9. How will applications be assessed and prioritised?

Eligible applications will be scored based on the following Assessment Criteria:

Assessment Area	Scoring criteria	Weighting
Project proposal	Clarity and quality of the proposal, links with all the Fund's objectives and clarity/quality of the project extension options if further funding is available (if relevant).	30%
Understanding of need	Clarity of the identified need for this project and level of understanding of the bespoke needs of the client group(s)	30%
Track record and experience	Relevant track record and partnership experience, including SRA or OISC registration when relevant.	20%
Outcomes	Quality of the proposed objectives/ outcomes/outputs and clarity of the method for measurement and timeline and value for money.	20%

The following criteria will also be used to further prioritise applications with similar scores:

- Joint projects from migration and homelessness organisations or integrated projects where an organisation can provide holistic homelessness support and immigration advice;
- Projects that explore innovative ways of maximising use of existing resources such as Exceptional Case Funding;
- Projects that include the voices of those with lived experiences of both the immigration and the homelessness systems;
- Projects that recognise the impact of experiences of racism and discrimination on trauma;
- Projects that cover two or more LA areas and projects that have relevant LA support.

10. Agreement and contract monitoring

Successful organisations will be required to enter into a standard form of grant agreement with the GLA for the delivery of projects funded under the IARSF.

Homeless Link is managing this fund on behalf of the GLA and will monitor the projects to ensure performance against targets. Grantees will be required to provide a quarterly monitoring report, which will

outline the numbers of people reached, the support provided, outcomes achieved and any follow-up work being undertaken.

All grantees will be required to attend quarterly network meetings with other grantees organised by Homeless link.

For partnership applications, we will require one organisation to be the named lead. The lead organisation will be required to enter into a funding agreement with the GLA and to be responsible for all financial transactions and monitoring.

11. Payment of grant

The GLA will pay grantees quarterly in advance so for the first six months this will include two payments – in April/May 2021 and June/July 2021. Should the extension funding be made available payments are likely to continue quarterly in advance.

12. Timeline

Grant Application window opens	15 th February 2021
Grant Application window closes	8 th March 2021
Grant Assessment period	22 February – 19 th March 2021
Notification of successful applicants	wc 22 March 2021
First quarterly payment	April/May 2021
Six month projects begin	April/May 2021
Second quarterly payment	June/July 2021
Six month projects end	September/November 2021

Projects should start from 1 April 2021 or, where necessary to allow for mobilisation, at a later date up to 31 May 2021. Proposed start dates should be stated in the application.

Individual notifications to applicants of project extension funding could take place after the first quarterly review in July 2021. The amount of funding for the extension period will be subject to review.

13. How to apply

Applicants wishing to apply should read this prospectus thoroughly and apply by completing the online application [here](#). on Homeless Links website.

For any further enquiries please email fund@homelesslink.org.uk