

**Digital Youth Work Fund | Guidance & Application Form**

Young Camden Foundation (YCF) has launched the Digital Youth Work Fund sponsored by Google. This fund is designed to support Camden’s children and young people sector by creating or enhancing the digital youth work offer. YCF believes that the current social distancing rules represent an opportunity for organisations to offer/enhance online youth work. New online support channels offer young people and children a way to keep engaged with positive and safe online activities. We are welcoming applications from YCF members seeking to invest in their digital infrastructure and/or capability.

YCF encourages applications that can demonstrate **two** or more of the following outcomes:

1. Youth practitioners gain the confidence and competencies to support young people with navigating the online aspects of their lives.
2. Youth practitioners will be able to take advantage of new technologies and digital media to enhance (remote) youth work practice.
3. Youth practitioners will have a more agile and critical mind-set towards digital technology and have competences to deliver quality youth work (whilst observing social distancing rules).
4. Digital offer will be developed or enhanced as a result of collaboration and/or partnerships.

Applications should demonstrate the following impact (at least **two**):

1. Young people will access new/enhanced digital opportunities to network, collaborate and participate.
2. Young people develop digital, STEAM and media literacy skills.
3. Young people will make more informed and reasoned decisions online, and take control of their digital identity.
4. More young people will be supported to engage in positive digital activities.
5. Young people will have increased confidence, agency and self-efficacy.
6. Young people will have improved mental health and resilience.
7. Young people will have improved physical health.
8. Young people from underrepresented groups will engage with the new/enhanced digital project.

**How much is available?**

Currently there is £30,000 available for this grant scheme, however YCF continues to fundraise and this amount may increase. We will award YCF members grants between £1,000 and £5,000 based on the strength of their applications. Please only apply for what you need, this will ensure that more organisations are funded.

**Are you eligible?**

1. Your organisation must be a member of Young Camden Foundation. Applications are only invited from organisations which have completed the membership process. Joining is free by filling our online form. Join here: <https://www.youngcamdenfoundation.org.uk/members>
2. You must be working in the London Borough of Camden and with Camden residents aged 0 – 25 (and up to aged 30 with additional needs).
3. Your organisation has a bank account (registered in the name of the applicant organisation) into which a grant can be paid.
4. Grants cannot be for religious activities.
5. Grants cannot be for political activities.
6. Grants cannot be for trips.
7. You must be able to provide a current Safeguarding and Data Protection/GDPR Policy in support of your application.
8. The fund will be available in three waves. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis with the following **deadlines: 29 May, 19 June & 03 of July** **2020**.
9. All projects will need to fill in a simple monitoring and evaluation form containing a description of what has been achieved, the number of children and young people benefiting from the new/enhanced digital offer and receipts of items purchased.
10. The projects will need to be up and running after a month of receiving the grant. If your project cannot meet these timing please explain this in your application.

**What type of expenditure can be included?**

* Training or upskilling youth practitioners to plan, develop and deliver online youth work activities.
* Software and hardware to deliver youth work online. Including equipment to pre-record sessions.
* Safeguarding-online training.
* Other costs directly associated with delivering online youth work.

**Background**

YCF has found that there are varying degrees of knowledge and experience on the topic of transforming a predominantly face-to-face youth service to one that is partly/wholly digital. There is interest in the concept, but a lot of anxiety and confusion about what a good digital youth work offer looks like, how to ensure safeguarding measures are not lost and how to rapidly train-up staff.

After the stay at home mandate due to COVID-19, many local community organisations have closed their service because they no longer have the human resources or lack the expertise to restructure their services or re-purpose assets. Members have provided YCF with feedback about their biggest concerns, which include young people having nowhere to go, very little to do and few people to talk to about the anxiety they are feeling in relation to the pandemic. There are serious concerns around an expected rise in the risk of exploitation, county lines, safeguarding, increases in teenage pregnancy, child abuse, drug and alcohol abuse and youth homelessness. YCF believes that offering more online services to vulnerable young people and children can make a significant difference and support young people and children to thrive despite the difficult circumstances.

With the outbreak of COVID-19 and the impact it has on civil society, there is an acute danger for the children and young people (CYP) sector to feel overwhelmed and powerless. However, this is the time when positive thinking, cross-partnership working and rapid mobilisation is required. YCF partnered with Google to launch this grant and support the CYP sector.

With the support of Google, YCF is developing a Digital Youth Work Resource Centre, which was designed to directly link to this grant and the transformation that grantees can achieve. The Digital Youth Work Resource Centre will:

* Develop a digital youth work resource centre informed by the local offer that is accessible, inclusive and sustainable.
* Equip youth practitioners with the online tools required to continue the delivery of key elements of their youth work provision.

The Digital Resource’s main objective will be providing a hub of accessible resources and a centre for learning for both youth practitioners and young people.

**Why Digital Youth Work?**

YCF recognises that young people are living, learning and negotiating transitions to adulthood and independence in an increasingly digital, complex and challenging world. They face greater levels of choice and opportunity, but also unprecedented uncertainty and risk. This calls for empowered, resilient young people to play an active role in navigating these paths.

There is a general belief that most, if not all, young people are ‘digital natives.’ Research shows that 90% of young adults (16-24 yrs old) in the UK have access to a smartphone and only 3% are not using the internet. Despite this, there are an estimated 300,000 young people who do not have basic digital skills. Disadvantaged young people are likely to have lower quality access and lower levels of digital skills, which may impede their ability to take up education and employment opportunities.

Action is needed to help young people develop their digital skills to access learning and employment opportunities, whilst promoting the 4c’s approach of creativity, critical thinking, collaboration and communication.

Digital youth work has the opportunity to fill the gaps between home and school to help young people develop the skills and qualifications needed to stay in education or employment.

**Ready to apply?**

If you are interested in creating a new digital offer or enhancing an existing one, please submit your proposal via the form below.

YCF strongly encourages involving the beneficiaries or target young community (those that will benefit from the project, i.e. Camden young people). All applications will be reviewed by a panel made up of local young people, voluntary sector representatives and YCF’s Partners.

**Support**

Please contact grants@youngcamdenfoundation.org.uk if you have a question about the fund or would like some support with the application process.

The fund will be available in three waves. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis with the following deadlines: **29 May, 19 June & 03 of July 2020.** If your project is successful we aim to pay in the grant within three weeks of receiving your application.



**Digital Youth Work Fund 2020 | Application Form**

**Section A: Personal and Organisation Details**

1. **Organisation’s details**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of Organisation  |  |
| Name of Lead Contact and Position |  |
| Address |  |
| Email  |  |
| Phone |  |
| Alternative contact name:  |  |
| Email |  |
| Phone  |  |
| Legal Status |  |
| Charity Number (if applicable)  |  |
| Website  |  |
| Social Media  |  |
| YCF member:  | Yes: [ ]  No: [ ]  Just applied: [ ]  |

**Section B: Your Project**

|  |
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| **2. Please tell us what your current provision is and how will you use this grant to enhance that provision?** *Please limit your answer to 200 words max.* |
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| **3. Why is this project needed?** *Please limit your answer to 200 words max.* |
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| **4. How will the project benefit children and young people?** *Limit your answer to 150 words.* |
|  |

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| 1. **How many children & young people will benefit?**
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| **Description** | **Number** |
| Number of young people and children:  |  |
| Age range: |  |
| Estimated number of girls: |  |
| Estimated number of boys: |  |
| Number of young people and children with special needs: |  |
| Other unrepresented groups you aim to engage (please describe):  |  |

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| 1. **If you have involved young people in the decision please tell us how?**
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| 1. **Please demonstrate how your project will meet at least two of the following outcomes:**
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| **Outcome** | **Tick**  | **Please demonstrate how:**  |
| 1. Youth practitioners gain the confidence and competencies to support young people with navigating the online aspects of their lives
 |[ ]   |
| 1. Youth practitioners will be able to take advantage of new technologies and digital media to enhance remote youth work practice.
 |[ ]   |
| 1. Youth practitioners will have a more agile and critical mind-set towards digital technology, and have competences to deliver quality youth work (whilst observing social distancing restrictions).
 |[ ]   |
| 1. Digital offer will be developed or enhanced as a result of collaboration and/or partnerships
 |[ ]   |

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| 1. **Which two areas of impact will your project achieve; please tick and explain.**

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| **Impact** | **Tick box** | **Please explain how** |
| 1. Young people will access new opportunities to network, collaborate and participate
 |[ ]   |
| 1. Young people develop digital, STEAM and media literacy skills
 |[ ]   |
| 1. Young people will make more informed and reasoned decisions online and take control of their digital identity
 |[ ]   |
| 1. More young people will be supported to engage in positive activities
 |[ ]   |
| 1. Young people will have increased confidence, agency and self-efficacy
 |[ ]   |
| 1. Young people will have improved mental health and resilience.
 |[ ]   |
| 1. Young people will have improved physical health.
 |[ ]   |
| 1. Young people from underrepresented groups will engage with the new/enhanced digital project.
 |[ ]   |

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| 1. **When will your digital offer start?**
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|  |
| **10. Will you be able to launch your new/enhanced digital offer after one month of receiving this grant?** |
| **Please tick**  | **If you ticked NO, please explain** |
| **YES** [ ] **NO** [ ]  |  |

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| 1. **How will you measure the effectiveness of the adaptation or the new service?**
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| *If you require monitoring and evaluation support, please get in touch with the YCF team at* *info@youngcamdenfoundation.org.uk* |

**Section C: Budget**

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| 1. **What will it cost and how will you spend the money? Please provide a detailed budget listing each item and its cost (attach if necessary).**
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| 1. **Will you get additional funding to support this?** If so, please say how much and where the additional funding will come from.
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| **Is this funding secure? YES** [ ]  **NO** [ ]  **When will you know:**  |

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| 1. **How will you keep a record of spending?**
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|  |

**Please ensure you attach the following documents to your application:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Document:** | **Attached:** |
| Copy of your organisations’ constitution  |[ ]
| Safeguarding Policy (*including online safeguarding if you have it, otherwise please ensure you develop or review your existent policy to include online safeguarding policy and procedure before launching your new/enhance digital resource- do contact us if you will need help with this)* |[ ]
| Data Protection-GDPR policy  |[ ]

Once completed, please return form to: grants@youngcamdenfoundation.org.uk

If you have any difficulties completing or submitting this form, please email the address above.

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