NORTH OF TYNE COMBINED AUTHORITY

North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA)

Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector Youth Employment Small Grant Programme Prospectus

February 2022

Contents

1. About North of Tyne Combined Authority

The North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA)

NTCA was formed in November 2018 through a Devolution Deal agreed with Government. This deal and similar devolution agreements across the UK saw certain administrative and funding powers transferred from Central Government to a regional level. NTCA is a Mayoral Combined Authority covering the Local Authority areas of Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, and Northumberland. Our vision is of a dynamic and more inclusive economy, one that brings together people and opportunities to create vibrant communities and a high quality of life, narrowing inequalities and ensuring that all residents have stake in our region's future.

Specifically, the North of Tyne Devolution Deal sets out to:

- Deliver 10,000 new jobs
- Add £1.1 billion GVA to the economy, and
- Leverage over £2.1 billion in private sector investment.

NTCA works in partnership with the three constituent local authorities and the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) in the pursuit of these ambitions.

The NTCA Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector Youth Employment Small Grant Programme

North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) recognises the important work of VCSE sector organisations supporting young people who are not currently accessing mainstream youth employment provision.

The NTCA VCSE Small Grant Programme is seeking to support local VCSE led community-based activity to engage and support young people, aged 16 to 24, into mainstream services and existing provision or provide added value community-based support. This activity will support the development of Youth Employment Partnerships and produce additional capacity within the VCSE sector.

Our programme objectives

The overarching ambition of the programme is to bring key partners together to tackle the Impact of COVID-19 on youth unemployment. The Youth Employment Partnerships, which involve NTCA, the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP),local authorities and providers of employment and skills support, will ensure any gaps in provision for young people are addressed through enhanced partnership working, additional shared capacity to plan, coordinate and engage businesses and young people; with scope for additional activity and support to improve the engagement of young people to be delivered by the VCSE sector through this small grants programme. The Programme will focus on adding capacity within current partnership structures and within small (a turnover up to £1.2m) VCSE sector organisations.

This programme will fund, support and evaluate VCSE led community-based activities that will engage and support young people who face additional barriers to accessing mainstream or existing employability services.

Eligible activities within the small grants programme are likely to include:

☐ **Engagement and social inclusion activities**, working with young people furthest away from existing employability provision, from under-represented groups, including young people from areas of low household income, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic young people, young people with disabilities, care leavers, carers and LGBTQ+ young people. Please note this list is not exhaustive.

☐ **Wrap around support** for young people to help them engage in mainstream or existing support, including the development of soft and hard skills which enable young people to access good job opportunities, build their skills and work experience.

☐ **Employability and social inclusion activities** to support young people with poor mental health and well-being, to move towards the labour market and access existing employability provision.

Our key funding principles

Working with our delivery partners, Rocket Science, we listened to community-led organisations, voluntary sector ambassadors, as well as other stakeholders to understand and remove the barriers to their applying for support. We have adopted the London Funders pledge and the eight commitments from the Institute for Voluntary Action Research (IVAR) which underpin our approach to the funding of this programme.

Wherever possible we will reduce application form requirements and use available public records to understand your purpose, programmes, governance, and financial standing. We have put in place a pre-application webinar and helpline support throughout the application process.

2. About our support

What will we fund?

The programme will add value to the existing system of employment support for young people aged 16-24 and will support young people to access existing employability and mental health services.

We are particularly interested in:

- Your approach to **engaging** young people that are not currently accessing any employability support
- Testing out new ways of engaging 'hidden' young people
- Your referral routes and **progression pathways** from your project
- **Place-based** approaches

Organisational funding eligibility

☐ constituted non-profit Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise organisations

☐ Annual income of your organisation in your last set of accounts submitted with your regulator was between £10,000 and £1.2m

☐ organisations with a track record of working with young people between 16-24 years for at least 1 year

☐ organisations with a commitment to empowering and listening to youth voice

☐ organisations that can demonstrate connections within the local community

☐ willingness to learn and collaborate with other delivery organisations

☐ supporting young people within one or more of the following three local authorities: Newcastle, North Tyneside, and/or Northumberland

☐ have a bank account in the name of the lead organisation

- [ ] have a current vulnerable adults and children's safeguarding policy
- [ ] staff employed and volunteers have current DBS checks in place
- [ ] have current and appropriate insurance certificates (i.e. public liability, professional indemnity and employer's liability).

Programme eligibility (what will we fund?)

- [ ] projects supporting young people not currently in education or employment, aged 16 to 24
- [ ] funding up to 25% of your annual income up to a maximum of £30,000
- [ ] projects that will be completed by 31 March 2023
- [ ] projects referring young people into mainstream provision 'at some point' supporting their pathway to employability and a culture of progression.

Priority will be given to:

- [ ] projects that are draw on existing learning to test new sustainable approaches with a view to learning for future delivery
- [ ] evidence based activities which require additional capacity to meet need
- [ ] organisations with strong referral networks from their projects, into existing or mainstream employability support
- [ ] new approaches to engaging young people who are not currently accessing employability support
- [ ] projects with a 'navigation' role, seeking to add value to and complement existing provision (for example, projects that support young people to 'navigate', guide or find their way through the existing provision)
- [ ] improving mental health and wellbeing, including social isolation and loneliness and supporting young people to access mainstream/existing support
- [ ] peer-led projects, where young people are involved in peer support approaches
- [ ] collaborative approaches to project delivery across VCSE organisations
- [ ] digital inclusion activities
- [ ] place based approaches to delivery, addressing specific local barriers

- under-represented groups (including, for example, young people from areas of low household income, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic young people, young people with disabilities, care leavers, carers and LGBTQ+ young people. This list is not exhaustive.)

- applications that could not be supported through other existing funding (such as Community Led Local Development (CCLD) funding and/or Newcastle Fund).

Projects must be willing to:

- network with and use referral agencies/partners within the young person's journey including into mainstream provision, such as Jobcentre Plus and DWP, and other existing provision

- work with the programme evaluator to demonstrate impact

- provide information to show what you need to deliver the project, what activities are to be undertaken, the outputs to be delivered, and likely outcomes

- provide a clear 'customer journey' - a diagram showing how you work with a young person through your project including referrals in and out at the relevant elements

Fundable items include:

- staff salaries and on-costs (i.e. detached youth worker, extended hours for existing staff)
- project activities likely to include:
  - community engagement activities
  - developing skills not provided through other provisions
  - wrap-around support and mentoring
  - social inclusion type activities
- overheads
- capacity-building and organisational developments costs (i.e. enhancing the effectiveness of the organisation such as staff development/training, volunteering)
- expert support (i.e. monitoring and impact, policy reviews)
- equipment (i.e. small capital costs – such as IT equipment).

We will not fund:

- unconstituted or profit-making organisations
- organisations with a turnover of over £1.2m or below £10,000
- projects not supporting 16–24-year-olds for more than 1 year

- projects that cannot be fully completed by March 2023
- organisations not delivering and supporting young people within Newcastle, North Tyneside, Northumberland or across North of Tyne
- organisations not already providing some form of youth provision
- projects not complementing existing provision
- projects promoting religious interests and objectives. However, a faith organisation can apply as long as their project would benefit all members of the community, from all faiths
- retrospective funding (i.e. to cover costs incurred before the start of your project)
- projects that focus on political campaigns and lobbying
- individuals
- capital projects.

What funding is available?

There will be one decision making round closing at **noon on Friday 18 March 2022**. We estimate funding around 13 projects for this current round, with an average grant size of around £15,000, and requests of between £5,000 to £30,000. Funding must be fully spent, and delivery completed by 31 March 2023.

3. Applying for support

How to apply?

To make the process as easy as possible, projects will work through a series of short questions. This will ensure that projects are eligible for support. If successful, the project will be able to access the main application form.

Closing date for applications: **noon on Friday 18 March 2022.**

You will need to create an account which will enable you to save as you work through your application form.

- To start an application please go to:
  https://www.grantrequest.co.uk/SID_144?SA=SNA&FID=35259

- To retrieve a part saved application form please access your account at:
  www.GrantRequest.co.uk/SID_144?SA=AM

- **Stage 1: Eligibility quiz.** Once you have completed the eligibility quiz, you will be immediately notified on whether your organisation can proceed to the next stage of the application process. If successful, you will be invited to an online presentation to understand more about the fund.

- **Stage 2: Application form.** To tell us about more about your project and the young people you support.

Following your application being submitted, Rocket Science will assess the applications, and then make recommendations to a grants panel. A grants panel will meet to make final judgements, and these will be communicated to you in April 2022.

4. Communicating decisions

What happens if our application is successful?
Our delivery partners, Rocket Science, will notify all successful projects by email and work with you through your agreement.

What happens if our application is unsuccessful?
We will provide constructive feedback to all organisations by email.

5. Grant management and commitment

As part of the grant agreement you will be expected to:

- Collaborate with several stakeholders, including our delivery partners, independent evaluators and other grantees
- Report on a quarterly basis against targets and pre-agreed milestones. A brief monitoring template will be provided.

6. Further information

Support for applicants

If you have any questions about the application process, please call us on 0207 117 2456 or by email at: NT.YEP@rocketsciencelab.co.uk