

North East London VCFSE Collaborative

**Expression of Interest for workforce
development grants from voluntary,
community and faith groups
employees**

August 2025

Expression of Interest (EOI) opportunity

The NEL VCFSE Collaborative is inviting applications from voluntary, community or faith organisation employees based in North East London to apply for a workforce development grant.

These small grants of up to £250 are designed to support professional development opportunities for individuals working within VCFSE organisations that have an annual turnover of £150,000 or less.

Workforce development grants can be used to support a wide range of professional development activities, including training, mentoring, and other learning experiences. This may also include attending local or national events, conferences, or training sessions with a focus on tackling health inequalities or improving health and wellbeing within communities.

We are open to your ideas and interests, but if you need inspiration, you can explore opportunities through organisations such as [NCVO](#) or [The King's Fund](#). The funds may also be used to cover the cost of a mentor.

Successful applicants will help facilitate inclusive practice by aligning training and development with the needs of communities and those most impacted by disparities in health outcomes.

We are seeking to fund approximately 17 applicants in each of the seven boroughs in North East London and will prioritise applicants in early career roles.

Eligibility criteria

Applications for individuals working within VCFSE organisations that have an annual turnover of £150,000 or less.

You must be able to tell us how you will use the grant towards professional development in tackling health inequalities, including how it will help develop your knowledge, skills, and confidence.

You must be able to use grant by February 28th 2026.

Funding details

Funding available: Up to £250 per applicant

Submission Details

A complete EoI includes:

- 1) Completing this [EoI form/ application](#)

The deadline to submit is by 30th November 2025 (new extended deadline)

Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed by a selection panel on a rolling basis. Shortlisted candidates may be invited to discuss their application and will be notified within two weeks.

Final decisions are expected to be communicated within two weeks of submission.

About the NEL VCFSE Collaborative

The North East London (NEL) Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) Collaborative works closely with [NHS North East London](#) to provide strategic input and representation for the VCFSE across NEL and ensures a two way flow of communication from VCFSE to the ICB. Tower Hamlets CVS currently hosts the NEL VCFSE Collaborative.

The NEL VCFSE Collaborative currently meets monthly with participation of VCFSE across the 7 London places (City and Hackney, Barking and Dagenham, Havering, Redbridge, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest) as well as our five thematic representatives (Workforce and Volunteers, Long Term Conditions (LTC), Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Autism, Babies, Children and Young People, and Faith to work with the ICB and to contribute in a meaningful way to health outcomes.

The NEL VCFSE Collaborative is committed to our five values:

1. Equity and inclusivity - Championing compassionate, collaborative, and inclusive multi-professional leadership.
2. Collaborative – Meaningful integration with the ICB as a coordinated VCFSE voice.
3. Innovative – VCFSE sector contributing expertise in an equitable manner in commissioning, service design and improvement processes.
4. Transparent – Building trust across sectors and ensuring the VCFSE is a valued partner.
5. Person and community focused – Strengths-based approach by championing our people and communities.

Current representatives

Name	Role	Organisation
Peter Laing	Newham representative	Newham Community Renewal Programme
Shelley Hart	Havering representative	Havering Volunteer Centre (HVC)
Sam Miller	Barking & Dagenham representative	Green Shoes Arts
Carrie Hirst	City & Hackney representative	Hackney CVS
Vicky Scott	Tower Hamlets representative	Tower Hamlets CVS
Monwara Ali	Waltham Forest representative	Waltham Forest Community Hub
Jenny Ellis	Redbridge representative	Community Action Redbridge
JJ Khun	Workforce and Volunteers representative	WIILMA
Bashir Uddin	Long Term Conditions (LTC) representative	Bangla Housing Association (BHA) London Bangladeshi Health Partnership (LBHP)
Vanessa Morris	Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Autism representative	Mind in the City, Hackney and Waltham Forest
Ora Johnson	Babies, Children and Young People (BCYP) representative	Fernbank Children's Centre Hula 4 Fun CIC
Jeremy Simmons	Faith representative	FaithAction

Background

The NEL Health Equity Academy aims to support people and organisations working in health and care in North East London to be equipped with the knowledge, skills and confidence to reduce health inequalities for the benefit of local people. This is delivered through the following principles:

- A commitment to action on health inequalities by providing system leadership to focus on health inequalities to make it everyone's business
- Being evidence driven, ensuring that work is guided and supported by robust data, insights, and analysis
- Convening the system to share learning on health inequalities and to deliver accessible, integrated services
- Demonstrating impact and improvement through action, embedding evaluation and supporting the system to evaluate impact on health inequalities

The NEL Health Equity Academy has funded the NEL VCFSE Collaborative to administer the Expression of Interest process. The purpose of this funding is to strengthen the VCFSE with knowledge, skills and confidence to reduce inequalities.

Contact

If you have any questions then please contact us at nelvcse@thcvs.org.uk