

# ROYAL BOROUGH OF GREENWICH UKRAINE SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME: SPECIFICATION

## I. Background

- I.1 The invasion of Ukraine by Russia has created a humanitarian crisis. The UK (United Kingdom) Government has responded by establishing various schemes to enable Ukrainian people seeking safety to apply for visas and to come to the UK.
- I.2 There are immediate needs for Ukrainians arriving in Greenwich, and their families who are resident here, in terms of subsistence and access to benefits, physical and mental health, access to communications and access to education and care services. Families may also need support in terms of employment, housing advice, establishing bank and utility accounts and learning English.
- I.3 There is a range of support and funding for Ukrainians forcibly displaced who arrive through the Homes for Ukraine scheme, and their hosts, but there is not this funding and support in place for Ukrainians arriving on family visas or other routes. The Council recognises the support needs of both groups, and the financial and other pressures on families already resident in Greenwich who are supporting their relatives.
- I.4 Ukrainians forcibly displaced, and the Ukrainian and other households providing accommodation and refuge, may be traumatised by their experiences and events and need access to mental health and wellbeing services. Some older refugees may have complex care needs.
- I.5 Host families, whether through the Homes for Ukraine scheme, or as relatives, are supporting new arrivals to put in place bank accounts, benefit applications, requests for school places, GP registration and so on, rapidly, and without prior knowledge of some of these systems. Peer support arrangements between hosts are emerging but may need support to develop them.
- I.6 Some of these “host” and “guest” relationships may come under pressure and be at risk of breakdown. There may be a lack of support in place to help mediate relationship. It is also possible that some hosting arrangements may break down, and Ukrainians forcibly displaced will need to access timely support in terms of alternative accommodation

arrangements. There may also be safeguarding issues, as many of the people arriving from Ukraine are vulnerable, and open to exploitation.

- 1.7 Existing voluntary and community organisations that support refugees, migrants and more generally low-income families and children are likely to experience increased demand for services and may lack capacity to respond quickly and at the scale required.
- 1.8 There are currently several hundred people of Ukrainian heritage living in the Royal Borough of Greenwich, and as yet there is no robust estimate on the number of adults and children who may seek refuge in the short and medium term in Royal Greenwich. As of the end of May 2022, more than 300 sponsors had come forward under Homes for Ukraine.
- 1.9 No-one knows how the situation in Ukraine will develop over the next weeks and months, and this grant funding aims to support the immediate response and ensure that short term needs are met, and the best conditions created for Ukrainians forcibly displaced to stay safe and secure, for as long as they need.

## **2. Summary of Grants Programme**

- 2.1 Voluntary and community organizations based in Greenwich are invited to apply for a one-off grant, to be used to address specific support needs of Ukrainians forcibly displaced and their Greenwich-based family members. This is to provide support regardless of the route of entry (including both the Homes for Ukraine and the Family schemes).
- 2.2 To apply for the grant, voluntary community organizations need to complete a short application form identifying needs of Ukrainians forcibly displaced and Ukrainian families in Greenwich, and setting out plans to address those needs, to complement the response of the Council and pan-London and national organisations.
- 2.3 The funding is intended to help meet the short term needs for support to Ukrainians and local families who are supporting them (including “hosts” through the Homes for Ukraine scheme), and to be a bridge to longer term resettlement plans. Community and voluntary organizations will need to demonstrate how they have identified needs, what their plans are to respond to these needs, how they involve Ukrainian residents and new arrivals in identifying needs and delivering responses,

and how they will work in partnership with the Council and other voluntary and community organisations.

- 2.4 This is intended as the first tranche of funding (which is using Government funding to the local authority specifically to support the Homes for Ukraine programme). Based on emerging and continuing needs, the Council intends to identify further funding to support Ukrainians displaced by the Russian invasion, which may be part of broader funding and initiatives to support refugees and migrants.

### **3. Funding offered**

- 3.1 The UK Government has not established a formal resettlement scheme (for instance as it has for Syrian and Afghan refugees) and has confirmed that there will be no restrictions on access to public services, welfare benefits or education and employment, with a right to remain granted for up to three years. It is hoped that this will facilitate the rapid integration of people from Ukraine who wish to stay. Government is providing local authorities with £10,500 for each adult accommodated in their area under the Homes for Ukraine scheme.
- 3.2 The Council has decided to use some of this Government funding to support voluntary and community organisations who are providing direct help and support to people arriving from Ukraine, and the Greenwich families supporting them. This is intended as short-term funding to meet immediate needs, some of which may be used to identify longer term needs and proposals for meeting those needs.
- 3.3 Due to their historical and existing links with the Ukrainian community, the Council has commissioned the Big Red Kick CIC sister organisation to the Big Red Bus Club for the next six months to:
- Deliver a Greenwich wide Ukrainian language signposting and referral programme (that includes signposting to housing, education, immigration, health, employment support through GLLaB, ESOL classes, youth and community services and supporting access to appropriate statutory and voluntary services). This programme will work in partnership with the council and other statutory and voluntary partners, ensuring that it integrates and compliments with multi-agencies safeguarding and data systems.

- Assessing the needs of Ukrainian individuals arriving and undertaking case work and advocacy as required
  - Establishing a partnership Ukrainian Advisory Group to support practitioner level delivery, minimise duplication of services and support and undertake an initial voluntary sector capacity assessment to support the casework referral process, as well as a Ukrainian Users Steering Group to oversee the programme so that the needs of Ukrainian users are centred and shape the services provided.
- 3.4 To complement this approach, an additional **£50,000** has been made available for a one-off grants programme to support voluntary and community organisations working with people arriving from Ukraine, and the Greenwich families supporting them. A small number of grants, between a minimum of **£1,000** up to a maximum of **£9,999** will be awarded, for activity delivered over a period of six to twelve months from September 2022.
- 3.5 Organisations are asked to identify the short to medium terms needs they are planning to meet; how they plan to do this; how they will support people from Ukraine and the families hosting them to access mainstream services (at local and London level); and how they will work with other voluntary, community and statutory services in Greenwich (including the Big Red Bus Company), South East London, and London to minimise the gaps in services and support.
- 3.6 Organisations are asked to set out their short- and medium-term objectives, and the funding and resources they will need to deliver on these, including the estimated number of adults and children they will support. They are also asked to set out how Ukrainians living in Greenwich, and Ukrainians forcibly displaced, have been involved in identifying needs, and will be involved in delivering support. Support may include expanding services to meet increased need generated by the Ukraine crisis.
- 3.7 Possible areas for funding include:
- i. **Peer support:** developing peer support networks for Ukrainian arrivals, Ukrainian families receiving relatives, and host families through the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

- ii. **Support to maintain placements and reduce homeless presentation:** Work with the forcibly displaced families, and host/sponsor families to maintain placements through a range of holistic wellbeing initiatives and potentially mediation type services and flag any issues to statutory services.
- iii. **Mental Health support:** Initiatives supporting the mental health and wellbeing of newly arrived Ukrainian families and supporting them with whole family interventions to support their processing of trauma and grief.
- iv. **Interpretation and supported communication services** Informal interpretation, translation, and advocacy, and ensuring access to statutory interpreting services (RB Greenwich, NHS).
- v. **Short term expansion of core, existing services** where capacity is needed to meet additional demand generated by the humanitarian crisis.
- vi. **Reducing isolation of young people:** Initiatives for teenagers to be less isolated who may be struggling to fit into the UK education system or may still being schooled in the Ukraine remotely or home-schooled.
- vii. **Reducing isolation for older people:** Initiatives for older people 65 + to support their mental health and wellbeing, increase their social circles and support healthy, meaningful lifestyles.

### 3.8 Organisations applying for funding will be expected to:

- i. Monitor the safety of new arrivals and host families, and raise safeguarding alerts to Royal Borough of Greenwich.
- ii. Signpost displaced Ukrainians to the Ukrainian Support Greenwich programme.
- iii. Participate actively in the partnership Ukrainian Advisory Group. Provide expert/lived experience insight, and cultural and communication input to support statutory and voluntary agency service design and response through the partnership Ukrainian Advisory Group
- iv. Collate and disseminate resources about Greenwich, South East London and London support offers, including specialist mental health and trauma services, culturally competent mental health services, and other support offers, and sharing with statutory agencies.
- v. Work in partnership with other voluntary and statutory agencies involved in the humanitarian response, and to avoid duplication of support in order to maximise impact.

- vi. Identify changing and future support needs of Ukrainians forcibly displaced and Ukrainian residents, and advocate to statutory agencies, and to share learning through the partnership Ukrainian Advisory Group to inform responses to refugees, migrants and asylum seekers regardless of country of origin.

3.9 This funding is not intended to support the donation and collection of goods and money for transport to Ukraine and neighbouring countries where the vast majority of people have fled to. It is also not intended to provide cash directly to Ukrainians forcibly displaced but may be used to ensure that new arrivals are supported to access emergency and on-going welfare payments, including children.

#### **4. Eligible organisations will**

- Have a base in Royal Borough of Greenwich, working primarily to support Ukrainians who have been forcibly displaced and the families and households supporting them living in the Royal Borough of Greenwich;
- Be an established not-for-profit organisation (a charity, including groups applying for charitable status, a social enterprise, or a company limited by guarantee with charitable aims and objectives);
- Have a bank account that can receive payment from the Royal Borough of Greenwich and up to date policies in relation to employment, safeguarding and equalities and diversity;
- Be encouraged to become a London Living wage employer
- Not be affiliated to any political party.

#### **5. Application process**

5.1 Applicants are asked to download and complete the grant application form on the webpage ([royalgreenwich.gov.uk/ukraine\\_small\\_grants\\_programme](https://royalgreenwich.gov.uk/ukraine_small_grants_programme)), and to email the application to [ukraine-grants@royalgreenwich.gov.uk](mailto:ukraine-grants@royalgreenwich.gov.uk) along with supporting documents, by 5pm on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

5.2 Advice on completing the grant application is available from [gavs@metrocharity.org.uk](mailto:gavs@metrocharity.org.uk) at METRO GAVS and from [ukraine-grants@royalgreenwich.gov.uk](mailto:ukraine-grants@royalgreenwich.gov.uk).

- 5.3 A zoom webinar about the funding will also be held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June from 5.30-6.30pm where organisations can ask questions about the grant application process.
- 5.4 Grants will be awarded for activities delivered from September 2022 over a period of six to twelve months, between a minimum of £1,000 up to £9,999. Applications can cover additional staffing, venue costs, publicity and printed/digital materials, translation and interpreting costs for access to voluntary and other services (Council and NHS services are required to make interpreting services available for their services). Other costs will be considered if their purpose and intended impact is clearly demonstrated.
- 5.5 The evaluation criteria for funding applications can be found on the webpage. A funding panel including staff from the Council, and METRO GAVS will assess funding applications against the criteria and make recommendations to the Council's Deputy Director of Health and Adult Services. Award decisions will be made within four weeks of the deadline for grant applications.
- 5.6 Activity that has already happened cannot be funded. Funding cannot be used retrospectively to pay for things that have already been delivered, however you can use it to fund further provision of activities you have already started.

## 6. Timetable

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Week commencing 20 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	Programme launch and applications open.
5.30pm 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	Information webinar on zoom
5.00pm 11 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	Deadline of submission of applications to <a href="mailto:ukraine-grants@royalgreenwich.gov.uk">ukraine-grants@royalgreenwich.gov.uk</a>
July - August 2022	Evaluation of bids and notification of successful applicants
September 2022	Contract issued Payment of grants Mobilisation of services
December 2022	Evaluation of impact and review of funding