



Summer Skills Grants 2026

Guidance for applicants

March 2026

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Background information

For another year, London Youth is partnering with CVC, with additional funding from Infosys and London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG), to offer our members grants to run employability projects for young people during the summer holidays.

Summer Skills projects should **creatively empower and support young people aged 14+, in effectively thinking about their future and supporting their personal and professional development**. We'll be funding projects that provide support, training, and skills-based opportunities to young Londoners to kick start their employment pathways. Our members will have the flexibility to tailor the programme based on the needs of their young people and the local area. We're offering members the opportunity to apply for a **grant of up to £4,000 to support delivery, which takes place between July and September 2026**.

We're looking to fund projects that are innovative and creative in supporting young people to think about their employability prospects. **We're particularly looking to support small organisations and/or those that are new to delivering employability support.**

Included as part of the Summer Skills Grant programme this year, with the support from our partner Infosys, we will be funding **five summer skills projects that focus on young girls/women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)**. If you deliver support with this focus and meet all other requirements of summer skills projects as detailed above, we encourage you to apply.

Infosys is a leader in digital services and consulting, helping clients navigate their digital transformation and are on a mission to encourage and inspire young girls/women to pursue careers in STEM.

Infosys will also be hosting an insight day for the five successful projects, during the summer, to enhance your project idea and expose young girls/women to the technology sector.

Key Dates

Applications open:	Tuesday 24th March 2026
Application close:	Friday 24th April 2026 at 23:59
Information drop-in sessions for applicants:	Wednesday 8th April and Monday 13th April 2026
Projects to be delivered:	July to September 2026

Further information

If you have any questions about the Summer Skills Grants 2026 process or would like to discuss your summer project ideas, please email employability@londonyouth.org

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Eligibility requirements to receive this grant:

- You must be an active member of London Youth and have completed your membership renewal before submitting your application. If you haven't completed your membership renewal, then we will be unable to accept your application. If you are unsure about your membership status with London Youth, please contact membership@londonyouth.org
- Delivery of your project **must be completed between July and September 2026**
- You must be committed to completing all the MEL requirements for the programme **by 10th October 2026**.

All successful organisations will be required to complete the London Youth due diligence process if they haven't completed this since September 2025.

How much and what can organisations apply for?

Each member can apply for up to £4,000, to support your organisation's delivery of activities.

How to apply

1. Please complete the **online application form**. We have provided the application form in word version, if you wish to prepare your answers first. **Please note that we won't accept word version application forms via email, you must be submit using the online application form.**

If you require an accessible method/format to apply for this programme, please get in touch at employability@londonyouth.org

We receive a high number of applications and encourage any organisation who has questions, to join one of the information drop-in sessions,

If you would like to discuss your summer project idea one on one, please email employability@londonyouth.org

Please note that any applications received after the deadline of Friday 24th April 2026 at 23:59, will not be considered.

What projects will the 2026 Summer Skills Grants fund?

Member organisations will have the flexibility to tailor their projects based on the needs of their young people and the local area. While there are no specific targets to meet, all projects are required to demonstrate - and will be scored - on **how they will work to achieve at least 2 of the following key outcomes:**

- Improved essential skills (e.g., confidence, communication, leadership)
- Improved professional skills (e.g., training, qualifications)
- Increased knowledge of future career paths
- Increased confidence in pursuing careers in industry of choice
- Improved access to workplace/work experience opportunities
- Increased access to job opportunities

Please note that this funding should not be used for equipment or technology costs unless it relates directly to your project.

Applications for summer projects will be reviewed and scored based against the above outcomes and on the following criteria:

1 Young people's involvement (youth-led approach)

- You should be able to demonstrate that your project will be youth-led; young people will be meaningfully involved at multiple stages of the project design, from inception to planning, delivery and evaluation.
- We want to see how you will engage with young people who face multiple barriers into employment.

2 Your ability to identify and describe how the funding will be spent and how you will be supporting young people through the project

- You must provide a budget outlining how the funding will be spent. Please use the budget template provided. You should be able to demonstrate the link between your activities, their cost, and the outcomes for young people.

3 How your project will achieve sustained impact for the young people who take part, to help them gain skills and experience that will contribute to successful employment or positive outcomes in the future.

- ***Projects that will provide ongoing, intensive support throughout the summer, and are able to retain young people for the duration of the project. This approach will better support sustained impact as opposed to a variety of large-scale events/activities that attract different young people each time.***
- ***Depth over scale - there is evidence that smaller cohorts can lead to longer engagement periods and intensive programmes yield greater skills and confidence outcomes. However, the benefits of high volume/larger cohorts are still recognised.***
- ***Embed structured reflection, mentoring, and post programme progression routes.***

This programme is looking to fund projects that will support young people's employability prospects. We are especially looking for projects that will help young people who face multiple barriers into employment, through developing **employability skills**, attaining new **qualifications**, providing opportunities to gain **meaningful experiences**, and improve their **future career pathways**.

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We encourage organisations to take a person-centred approach to planning of their summer projects and are innovative in their approach to supporting young people. The table below summarises some different elements of employability and approaches used by organisations, funded previously:

	Example activities
Employability skills	Group workshops and 1-1 support in developing CVs, interview skills, job search techniques etc
Essential Skills	Development of communication, teamworking, time-management, leadership skills, managing emotions and behaviour and confidence building through participating in programmes, 1-1 support and group-based activities.
Job/Sector- specific training	Some organisations are supporting young people to receive training and experience of specific sectors; for example, self-employment support, cooking, sport, tech, creative arts, music etc.
Accredited and non-accredited qualifications/certifications	A range of accredited qualifications/certifications, including Health and Social Care, IT, Food Safety, First Aid, Arts Awards, sports coaching, and sports leaders, refereeing, safeguarding etc. As well as any in-house, non-accredited certifications.
Work experience, volunteering, internships	Young people are provided with a range of work experience opportunities, either within youth organisations, partner organisations or local businesses. These include volunteering at a community café, running and delivering social action projects, sports coaching opportunities (paid and unpaid), and traineeship placements within youth organisations.
Exposure to a range of employers	Youth organisations provide ways to expose young people to a range of employers, in order to expand their horizons, increase knowledge about career opportunities and options available and raise aspirations. These include visits, workshops, careers fairs and other engagements
Mentoring	In addition to group-based activities, young people are provided with 1-1 mentoring support, from youth workers and/or professional mentors or career coaches.

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Good practice and different project delivery approaches – examples

Below are examples of Summer Skills Grants projects that were previously funded and successfully delivered.

Organisation Overview	Summer Skills Grants Project Overview	Who took part?	What was delivered?	What did young people achieve/learn?
Empowers disabled and neurodiverse children and young people to increase their independence and overcome barriers. Their work spans two key areas; employability and mobility. They deliver job coaching, work experience and placements in North London and provide mobility equipment (up to those aged 25) nationwide,	Summer Business School – an intensive programme where young people who are disabled and/or neurodiverse learn about what is required to become self-employed. It provided an opportunity to fine tune their business ideas and hear from industry experts.	9 young people took part in the programme. 5 were male and 4 female, aged between 17 and 30 with an average age of 23. All young people are from Black, Asian or other ethnic minority communities.	A total of 16 sessions and 40 hours of support were delivered. The young people attended between 4 and 16 session each, with an average of 10 sessions attended per young person.	Young people learnt how to use Canva as a marketing tool, develop marketing strategies, financial planning, researching and analysing their target market and target audience, branding and creativity, communication skills and thinking independently.
Provides and facilitates development and support services for the local community, in particular services for young people including employability programmes and 4 youth clubs in the borough. Its youth provision engages with the hardest to reach communities empowering	Their football themed youth provision and usually attracts 80 young people per week with over 300 registered, all aged 14 to 19, with the majority keen to work in football. They delivered a summer programme to include employability workshops, a Referee course, purchasing	17 young people took part in the programme. All were young men aged 14-16. 71% live in areas of deprivation and 65% are from Black, Asian or other ethnic minority communities.	A total of 8 sessions and 33 hours of support were delivered. The young people attended between 1 and 8 session each, with an average of 6 sessions attended per young person.	Improved confidence, developed teamwork, communication and leadership skills and have raised aspirations. As a result, 14 young people have since completed some work experience within the youth organisation and 8 have completed paid work experience with some local

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young people to grow, learn and achieve.	equipment and offering volunteering opportunities at the provision where young people can referee games to help them develop key skills.			grassroots football clubs including Ridgeway Rovers. 13 young people have achieved an accredited qualification.
A performing arts organisation dedicated to nurturing creativity, promoting social inclusion and making daring new theatre.	They gave young people opportunity to train in community arts leadership through a two-week inclusive theatre programme. Young people received two days of training prior to the start of the project and were required to work with children to deliver a performance by the end of the process.	Four young people took part in the programme, aged between 15 and 23. 75% were female and 25% male. Two of the four are from Black, Asian or other ethnic minority communities.	A total of 11 sessions and 72 hours of support were delivered. All four young people attended all 11 sessions.	After two days of training followed by training sessions with the staff team. During the traineeship they worked as a support facilitator on a two-week arts project across four disciplines; dance, acting, design and music. They also took an active role on the creation of a new musical.
Provides supportive pathways to social inclusion for families through educational and personal development opportunities for women and girls in South London. They work with about 750 women and girls per year and offer a great array of 1-2-1	Ran employability camp for girls aged 11-24. There was a menu of activities co-designed by the girls themselves, which included: 1. Skills development workshops: improving in STEM, Marketing, Creative Writing, Web design	32 young people took part in the programme. All were young women/girls aged 14-20 with an average age of 15. 50% live in areas of deprivation and 72% are from Black, Asian or other ethnic minority communities.	A total of 18 sessions and 66 hours of support were delivered. The young people attended between 3 and 10 session each, with an average of 6 sessions attended per young person.	Boosted their leadership and communication abilities by volunteering, The financial literacy sessions have taught them practical life skills like budgeting and managing money. Career insight days and art workshops have given them hands-on experience and a

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mentoring and informal and non-formal learning opportunities	<p>2. Personal development workshops/activities to grow in essential skills (confidence, leadership): mentoring, challenge activities, presentations</p> <p>3. Immersion days in collaboration with corporate partners and also a panel discussion with women from different careers.</p>			better understanding of different fields, helping them explore and define their career goals. They've also developed problem-solving and conflict resolution skills through interactive challenges and projects.
Works with over 1500 young people across Croydon annually, empowering them with personal development opportunities, encouraging them to be leaders of their own lives. Its programmes encompass sports, creative arts, mentoring, youth leadership, employability, after-school and holiday provision, and facilitating youth-led social action projects	A two-month programme throughout July and August, focused on developing employability skills for young people aged 14-18. The programme included work experience placements, paid sessional work opportunities supporting their existing holiday provision during August, as well as a range of employability-focused workshops during August.	28 young people took part of which 68% were male and 32% were female. They were aged between 15 and 18 with an average age of 16. 64% live in deprived communities and 100% are from Black, Asian or other ethnic minority communities.	A total of 20 sessions and 105 hours of support were delivered. The young people attended between 3 and 6 sessions each, with an average of 5 sessions attended per young person.	Developed leadership, communication, teamwork skills and the ability to regulate emotions in a professional setting. Responsibilities common across most work places; punctuality, appropriate uniform, communicating issues to managers and delivering on set outcomes. All young people also attended training sessions, in either safeguarding or effective communication in professional settings.