

## Tower Hamlets Council Guidance for the Household Support Fund Rough Sleeping Food Provision 2025 Grant

---

### Background:

Accessing quality, nutritious food is a significant challenge for people experiencing rough sleeping. The 2023–24, LBTH Homeless Health Needs Assessment highlights nutrition as a key issue for this population. Poor diet and food insecurity are clear indicators of health inequality, with inadequate nutrition being one of the leading causes of avoidable harm to health. For people sleeping rough, food is not just sustenance—it is a vital health intervention.

In Tower Hamlets, many individuals sleeping rough face challenges related to substance and alcohol use, which can make it difficult to prioritise nutrition. However, research shows that good nutrition can aid recovery in individuals with substance use issues and mental health needs. Additionally, food acts as a valuable engagement tool, helping connect individuals with essential services such as housing, healthcare, substance use support, and advice services.

Commissioned services in the borough focus on helping individuals move away from the street quickly to prevent both immediate dangers and long-term harm. As part of this, access to nutritious, balanced food provision is a critical element in supporting recovery and stability.

The Department for Work and Pensions is providing funding to local authorities through its Household Support Fund to coordinate initiatives that provides hot meals to residents in need.

Tower Hamlets wants to commission a programme providing hot, nutritious food to people sleeping rough in the borough from the private, voluntary and public sector that responds to local need.

*If you are interested in delivering hot food as part of this grant, please read the guidance below to see if you can meet the delivery requirements and complete an **Expression of Interest form**, submitting it to [costofliving@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:costofliving@towerhamlets.gov.uk) 1pm, **20 October 2025**.*

**The link to fill out this form can be found here: [HSF Rough Sleepers Support - Application Form](#)**

---

### Eligibility Checklist for Grant Funding

To be eligible for grant funding, applicants must be able to provide the following supporting documents upon request.

- Constitution or Articles of Association
- Approved Accounts or Record of Income and Expenditure

- Bank Statement dated within the last 3 months, displaying the account in the organisation's name, account number, and sort code.
- Up to date Equality & Diversity Policy relevant to the nature of delivery
- Up to date Safeguarding Policy relevant to the nature of delivery
- Up to date Health and Safety Policy relevant to the nature of delivery
- Insurance Policies, including:
  - Evidence of Employer's Liability Insurance- £5,000,000
  - Public and Products Liability Insurance- £5,000,000
  - Products Liability Insurance- £2,000,000
  - Professional Indemnity Insurance - no less than £100,000
- Accessibility and Inclusiveness Policy

Additionally, please be aware that organisations currently receiving similar funding from the Council may not be eligible to apply. Verify eligibility with the awarding grants team for that grant before submitting your expression of interest.

---

### **Purpose of the Household Support Fund Grant**

This grant is funded through the Department for Work and Pensions Household Support Fund, awarded to the council to support residents with food and fuel costs. The purpose of the grant is to provide hot meals to residents in need.

This will be made available to residents in the local authority area who are experiencing rough sleeping, those who are homeless with a history of rough sleeping, and those who have recently secured accommodation following a period of homelessness.

All provision funded by the local authority as part of this grant must meet our framework of standards (as set out in this document) and meet the following core aims and objectives:

#### **Core aims and objectives:**

As a result of this programme, we want residents who receive this provision to:

- Receive hot, nutritious food, with a low threshold to access this provision
- Be provided with a safe and appropriate environment to eat this food
- Be more engaged with local services

We also want to ensure that the organisations who participate in this programme:

- Utilise food provision as an engagement tool, to support clients to access appropriate services, for example, accommodation and housing advice, health, substance use support, employment, and education
- Support people to improve their diet and food access
- Integrate nutrition within recovery and health services
- Establish strong partnerships with local healthcare providers
- Can demonstrate how they are already reaching the specified client group

### **Framework of standards**

All provision funded by the local authority must adhere to our framework of standards, as outlined below. Please ensure that your Expression of Interest form addresses the following:

## 1. Healthy Meals:

### With the HSF Grant funding, organisations can:

- a) Produce healthy food in house (providing that all food hygiene and safety standards are met).  
**and/or**
  - b) Source healthy food from a local provider.
2. **Signposting and Referrals:** Organisations must provide information, signposting, or referrals to other services and support beneficial for attending residents. This may relate to the organisation's integrated care offer, and may include advice on increasing awareness of healthy eating, referring to other rough sleeping services, and other relevant services such as digital inclusion programmes and public health initiatives.
  3. **Policies and Procedures:** Organisations must demonstrate and explain their safeguarding arrangements. Relevant and appropriate policies and procedures should be in place for safeguarding, health and safety, insurance, accessibility, and inclusiveness.

## Minimum Delivery Expectations:

Below details the minimum delivery expectations which must be met.

*\*If you feel you would be able deliver a HAF programme but may not be able to meet all the standards outlined, please contact The HAF Team at [HAF@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:HAF@towerhamlets.gov.uk)*

1. **Cost:** Funding can be used to provide free meals to residents.
2. **Delivery Structure:** Organisations must deliver a minimum of one meal a day, five days a week.  
\*Please note, due to budget constraints the Council will reserve the right to amend or reduce delivery periods.
3. **Delivery Dates:** Delivery must fall within **Monday 20 October – Tuesday 31 March 2026**.
4. **Monitoring & Evaluation Expectations:** To derive as much learning as possible Tower Hamlets Council will gather a range of information from funded activities. HSF funded programmes must collect the following information for all individuals receiving support  
(Monitor the impact of the programme – numbers of people and meals)

## Grant Funding amounts

The total available amount for this grant is £80,000. We are searching for two providers, with the expectation being that we will split the funding into two amounts valued at £40,000 each.

## Other Considerations

**Capacity:** When applying for funding, programmes should be expected to operate at full capacity. It is expected that the quantity of food produced and the number of staff corresponds with the number of residents expected.

**Capital costs:** *No capital spend*

**Payments:** If awarded a grant, 75% of the payment will be made upon the start of the programme delivery and 25% after the programme end and dependant on targets and conditions being met.

**Volunteer Support:** If you wish to receive support with sourcing and managing volunteers for your programme, we encourage you to register with the Volunteer Centre Tower Hamlets (VCTH), who recruit volunteers for a wide variety of non-profit organisations in Tower Hamlets. To enquire, please email: [info@vcth.org.uk](mailto:info@vcth.org.uk).

#### **What We Won't Fund**

- activities where a profit will be distributed for private gain or projects that have no charitable or community element
- religious or political activity (we can fund religious organisations if they are providing benefit for the wider community)
- activities that are not accessible to the wider community
- retrospective costs and loan repayments
- expenditure or activities that have already taken place outside of the funding period

#### **How to Apply**

Organisations can apply by completing an **Expression of Interest Form**.

The form can be accessed at this link <https://forms.office.com/e/1JmusvTekj> by **1pm 20 October**

#### **Notification of Application Outcome:**

If your expression of interest is successful, the council will contact you for additional information and required documents. The timeframe for this process cannot be stipulated, but you will be promptly notified of the acceptance or rejection of your application.

If you have any questions about the programme, please feel free to contact [costofliving@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:costofliving@towerhamlets.gov.uk).