

Data Overview Report

May 2021

London Community Response Key Numbers

- 67 funders collaborating
- Launched **4 days** after lockdown
- 5 waves of funding from March 2020 to March 2021
- **10,605** applications received, **£225m** requested
- Fastest decision **2 days** from application
- **£57.4m** distributed through **3,426** grants
- **In Waves 3,4 and 5, over 75% of the grants went to organisations led by the communities most affected by Covid.**

1. Purpose of this report

To provide an overview of the key data from the London Community Response funder collaboration for all stakeholders.

2. Overview of the London Community Response process

- 67 funders, supported by London Funders, collaborating to get grants to London's civil society organisations quickly, easily, equitably and flexibly;
- Sharing intelligence to develop a common understanding of needs and priorities;
- Equity partners help funders to shape funding programmes and processes;
- A single, simple application form at www.londoncommunityresponse.org.uk;
- Applications are checked for eligibility by experienced staff from collaborating funders;
- Eligible applications are uploaded to a funder-only portal where they are viewed by multiple funders;
- Decisions made by individual funders (who are either part of a pooled fund with joint decision-making, or are aligned funders who retain their own decision-making) who contact grantees directly to agree a grant;
- Grantees then report directly to their funder on the use of funds.

3. Overview of funding waves

Wave 1 – React

- Small grants up to £5k for food and essentials
- Open for applications from 27th March – 8th April
- 420 grants, £1.8m

Wave 2 – Respond

- Crisis Response grants up to £10k
- Delivering Differently grants up to £50k
- Open for applications from 9th April to 19th May (Delivering Differently) and 15th June (Crisis Response)
- 1,363 grants, £21.1m

Wave 3 – Resource

- Small grants up to £10k
- Large Grants up to £50k
- Crisis, Enable and Adapt – prioritising equity and inclusion
- Open for applications from 1st to 31st July
- 800 grants, £18.8m

Wave 4 – Revitalise

- Small grants up to £10k
- Crisis - prioritising equity and inclusion
- Open for applications from 12th November – 3rd December
- 456 grants, £4.4m

Wave 5 – Renew

- Crisis small grants up to £10k
- Project and Core Large grants up to 50K
- Focusing on renewal missions:
 - Building strong communities,
 - New deal for young people
 - Robust safety net
- Open for applications from 14th January – 15th February
- 391 grants, £11.3m

Demand for funding, eligibility and success rates

The London Community Response saw high levels of demand for funding.

Not all of the applications received were eligible, although the eligibility rate improved significantly between Waves 1 (25% eligible) and Wave 5 (85% eligible).

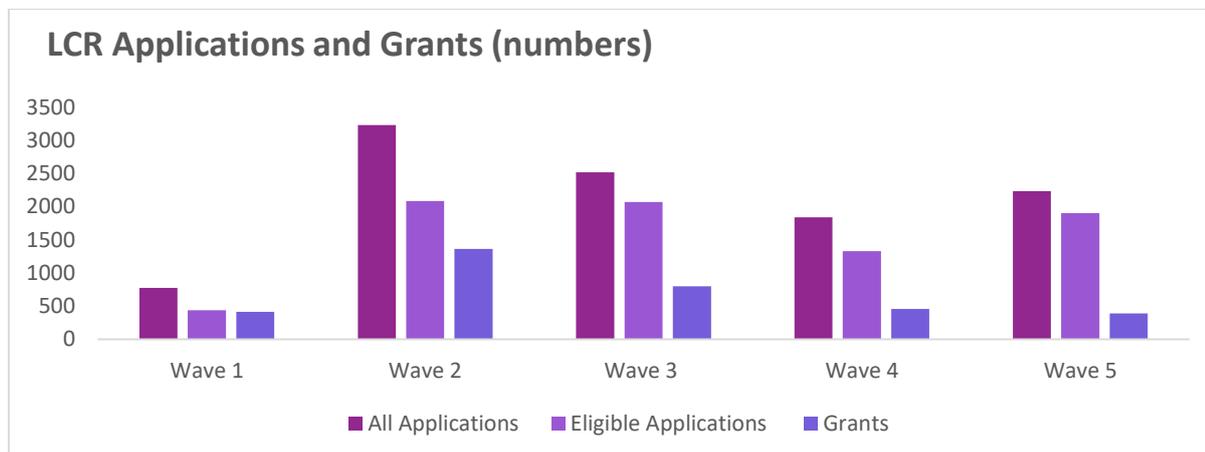
Number	Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	ALL WAVES
All Applications	773	3,233	2,521	1,841	2,237	10,605
Eligible Applications	440	2,089	2,073	1,328	1,902	7,832
Eligibility Rate	57%	65%	82%	72%	85%	74%

In each Wave, we saw a different pattern of success in securing a grant.

%	Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	ALL WAVES
Grants awarded	420	1,363	801	456	391	3,431
Value of grants (£)	1,799,448	21,090,267	18,820,746	4,390,850	11,300,914	57,402,225
Grants (of eligible applications)	95%	65%	39%	34%	21%	44%

Whilst the eligibility rate increased, the success rates dropped for eligible applications from Wave 1 (96%) to Wave 5 (21%). However, the success rate of 44% across all Waves still compares well to the success rates for a 'business as usual' application to most funders, demonstrating that the London Community Response has been an effective way for civil society to access grant funding during the crisis.

A summary of the financial values of applications, eligibility and grants awarded is set out in the chart below.

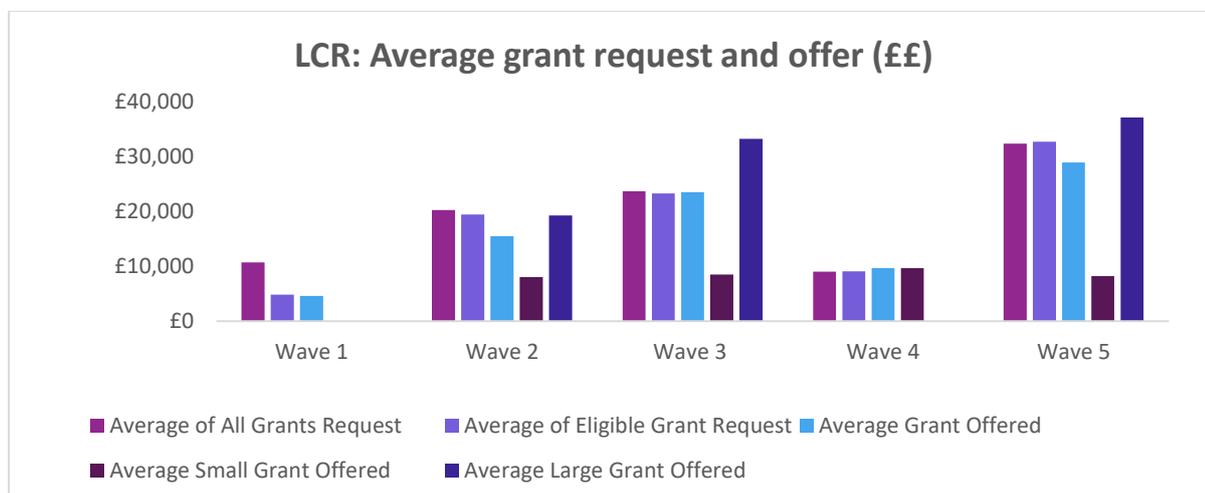


4. Grant size

Wave 1 and Wave 4 were for small grants up to £5k and £10k respectively, but Wave 2, 3 and 5 offered the option of a Small Grant (up to £10k) and Large Grant (up to £50k). The table below shows the average size of grants awarded in each Wave and shows that the average size of large grants increased significantly between Wave 2 and Wave 5.

	Wave 1 Small Grant	Wave 2 Small Grant	Wave 2 Large Grant	Wave 3 Small Grant	Wave 3 Large Grant	Wave 4 Small Grant	Wave 5 Small Grant	Wave 5 Large Grant
Average Grant	£4,274	£8,028	£19,217	£8,452	£33,197	£9,629	£8,202	£37,110

The chart below shows the average size of the grant requested, compared to the average size of grant awarded.



5. Prioritising equity and inclusion

Given the unequal impact of covid-19 on communities across London, and the link between this and structural inequalities, the LCR collaborating funders commissioned a partnership with four equity partners: Ubele (with Council of Somali Organisations and London Gypsy Travellers as partners in Wave 2), Inclusion London, Consortium and Women’s Resource Centre.

An additional question to identify organisations that were led by and for marginalised communities and those most affected by the covid-19 crisis (particularly Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME)¹; Deaf and Disabled; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT+); and women’s-led groups) were added part-way through Wave 2 (on 1st May).

These questions were enhanced in the Wave 3, 4 and 5 application forms, and equity and inclusion became an explicit priority for funders in the Wave 3, 4 and 5 criteria. Working with the advice of the equity partners, in Wave 5 the definition of equity-led was raised from 50% of leadership (Trustees and senior managers) to 75% of Trustees and 50% of all staff.

The table below shows the impact of this approach.

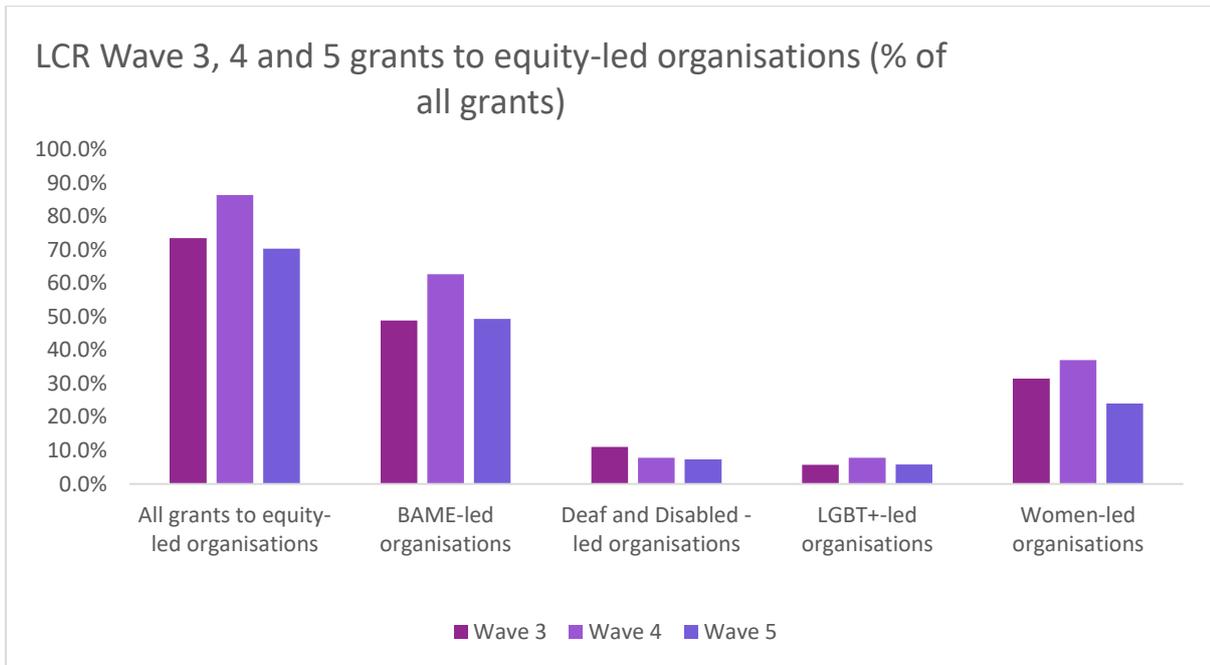
	Wave 2 (£)	%	Wave 3 (£)	%	Wave 4 (£)	%	Wave 5 (£)	%
Total grants	£21,090,267		£18,820,746		£4,390,850		£11,300,914	
BAME-led	n/a	43.8%	£9,249,010	49.5%	£2,650,523	60.4%	£5,668,532	50.2%
D&D-led	n/a	8.0%	£2,001,797	10.7%	£334,217	7.6%	£963,638	8.5%
LGBT+-led	n/a	5.8%	£1,130,019	6.0%	£329,267	7.5%	£726,621	6.4%
Women-led	n/a	58.8%	£6,582,399	35.2%	£1,679,856	38.3%	£3,121,492	27.6%
Total to equity-led orgs	£2,585,121	n/a	£13,739,473	73.5%	£3,792,917	86.4%	£7,952,685	70.4%

Because the equity questions were added part way through Wave 2, the percentages in Wave 2 are based on a sample of data, but the total in the bottom row is the actual total of W2 grants to organisations identifying themselves as equity-led. Note that the cumulative total of the four equity pillars that the total in the bottom row as 27% of grantees are intersectional or belong to more than one equity and inclusion pillar.

Over all five Waves of the LCR, £28m of funding was channelled to organisations led by people from communities most impacted by Covid.

The chart over the page gives this data in a visual format. Note that the drop in the % of all grants in Wave 5 is due to the use of a higher definition or threshold for an equity-led organisation.

¹ In this report and on our applications we have used the abbreviation BAME. We recognise the diversity of individual identities and lived experiences, and understand that BAME is an imperfect term that does not fully capture the racial, cultural and ethnic identities of people that experience structural and systematic inequality. We will be working with partners from across London’s diverse communities to find better language for any future waves of funding from the London Community Response.



A full report on the learning from the LCR’s approach to equity and inclusion is available here <https://londonfunders.org.uk/resources-funders/london-funders-publications>.

6. Reaching smaller organisations

In Waves 3, 4 and 5 funders also explicitly prioritised smaller organisations – typically those with a turnover of up to £1m a year (though the LCR welcomed applications from grassroots and much smaller groups too), in order to reach the communities most affected.

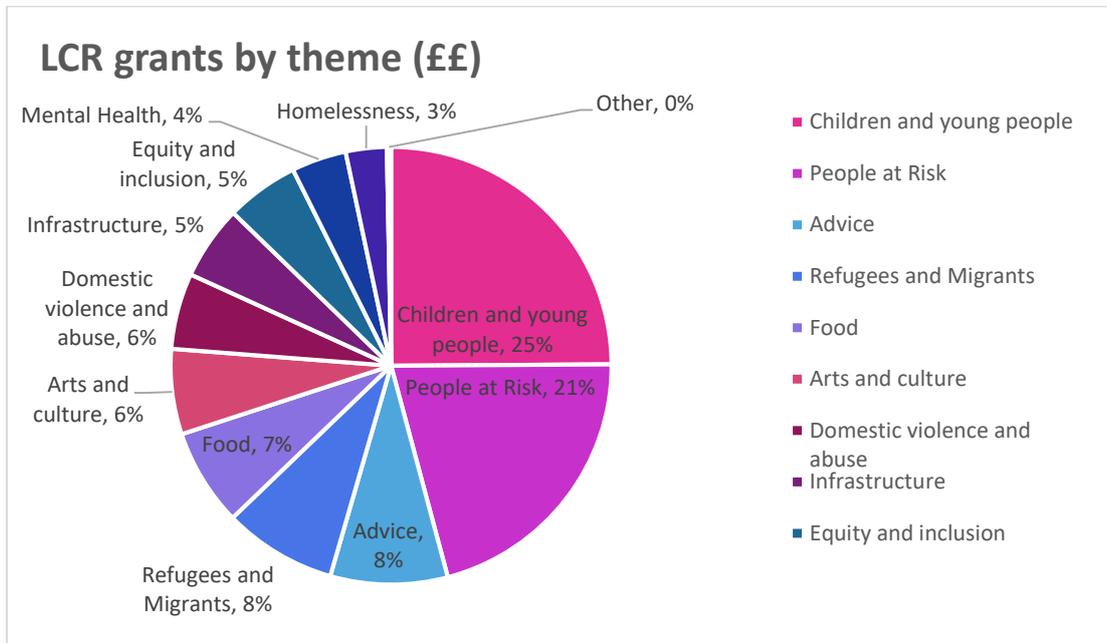
Wave 3	All organisations	Organisations under £1m	% of smaller organisations
Applications	£59,588,600	£41,099,557	69.0%
Eligible	£48,216,311	£34,128,579	70.8%
Grants	£18,810,801	£15,981,949	85.0%

Wave 4	All organisations	Organisations under £1m	% of smaller organisations
Applications	£16,606,323	£15,791,508	95.1%
Eligible	£12,125,841	£10,573,472	87.2%
Grants	£4,390,850	£3,658,132	83.3%

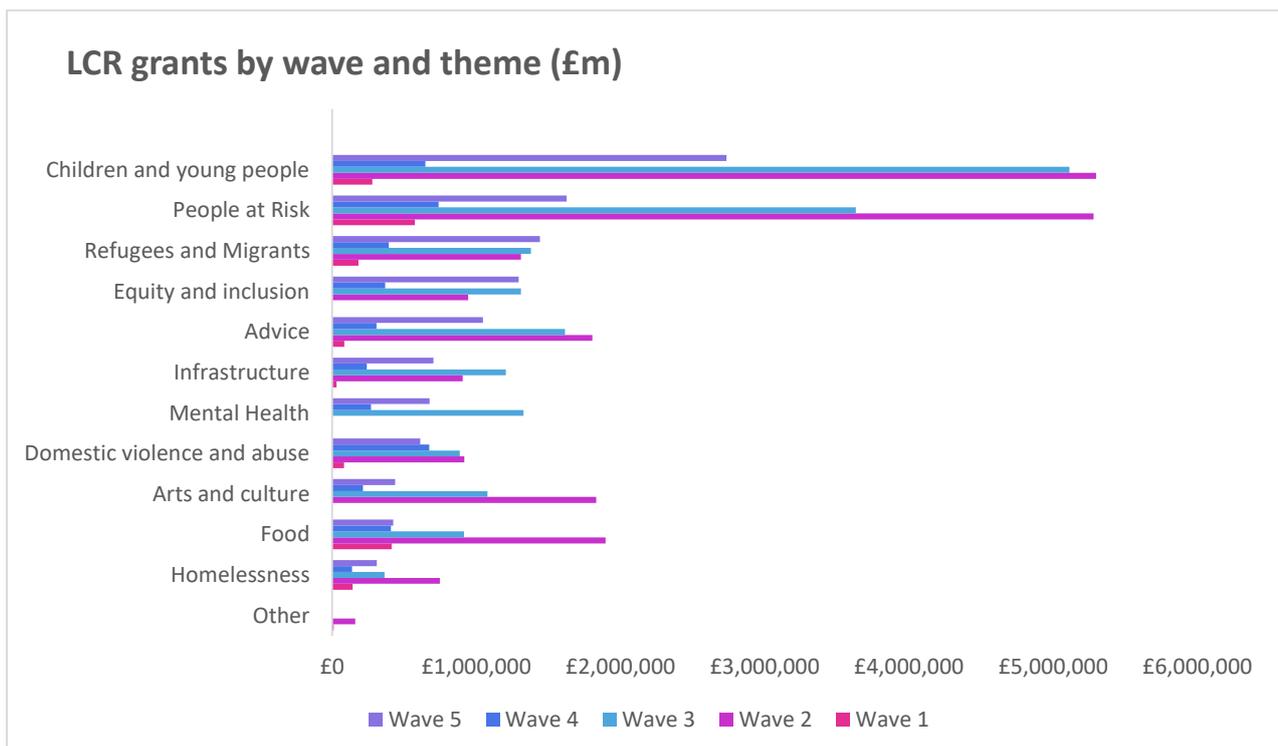
Wave 5	All organisations	Organisations under £1m	% of smaller organisations
Applications	£72,326,786	£56,881,915	78.6%
Eligible	£62,397,081	£50,281,553	80.5%
Grants	£11,300,914	£9,288,462	81.2%

7. Where the grants have gone: themes

Applicants were asked “Please select which of these themes most describes the focus of the activities for which you are seeking a grant now?” Note that this has not proved to be a rigorous way of sorting e.g. some youth organisations applied through the food theme, some homelessness organisations applied through the advice theme etc. The table below shows the average split across themes for all Waves of funding.



Additional themes were added in subsequent Waves as funders understanding developed of the changing needs of London’s communities. ‘Other’ was removed after Wave 2, ‘equity and inclusion’ was added in Wave 2 and ‘mental health’ became a separate theme in Wave 3. The next chart shows the value of grants made in each theme for each Wave.



8. Where the grants have gone: geography

Overall, we can see that there are higher numbers of applications from and grants to inner London boroughs and lower numbers of both in outer London boroughs, which reflects the experience of funders in their 'business as usual' programmes. It is also indicative of the numbers of organisations operating in each borough (i.e. the numbers of applications) and the numbers of collaborating funders operating in each borough (i.e. the numbers of grants).

We can see that in Wave 3, 4 and 5 there were higher levels of funding going to inner boroughs than outer boroughs. The London Borough of Hackney received the most funding in all waves, with the London Boroughs of Bexley, Sutton and the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames receiving the lowest funding.

9. Finding out more

This report shares an overview of all of the grants data for the London Community Response. Full lists of grants in each Wave are published on the London Community Response website <https://londoncommunityresponse.org.uk/>

Funders involved in the London Community Response have been working with 360 Giving to upload their data. You can search <https://covidtracker.threesixtygiving.org/> for more information on grants and funders.

London Funders is working with DataKind UK to publish the London Community Response data in an interactive and searchable format.

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