

Cornerstone Fund Definitions of Terms & Phrases

In this document you will find more information on what we mean by some of the terms and phrases that we use in our Cornerstone Fund programme, along with links to sources of further information.

Collaborations and partnership approaches: We are not necessarily looking for formal, legally constituted partnerships but would expect a collaboration/partnership to have nominated a lead agency to be legally accountable for any funding received and to co-ordinate the activity of the collaboration/partnership. We understand that partnerships take time to develop, so you can identify others with whom you would like to work in the development phase to put formal agreements in place.

Systems change: “Systems change aims to bring about lasting change by altering underlying structures and supporting mechanisms which make the system operate in a particular way. These can include policies, routines, relationships, resources, power structures and values”¹.

We want to see proposals to deliver systemic change to the way that civil support organisations and others work together to build stronger, more resilient communities and to ensure local, regional and national policies influenced by Londoners based on their needs.

Civil society assets and resources: We mean more than fixed assets – buildings, money and material things; we also mean its social assets – knowledge, experience, information and data.

Civil society support organisations: This could mean second tier or infrastructure organisations but it could also be collaborations/partnerships that want to deliver the outcomes as set out in the Cornerstone fund outcomes framework.

Grants of up to £20,000: This could include the costs of facilitating meetings, consultation, research, back-filling existing posts in your organisation.

Co-production: [See Task & Finish Group report on Pragmatic Co-production](#)

Data from multiple sources: [See Task & Finish Group Report on Data Sharing](#)

Data as an evidence base:

- Civil society organisations can access and contribute meaningful evidence that enables all stakeholders to reflect, learn, prove and improve.
- Evidence includes both quantitative and qualitative, embodying principles of no stories without stats & no stats without stories.
- Civil society organisations can access tailored support and resource to enable them to develop data and evidence eco-systems that are useful and valuable, improving decision making and influencing, and enabling organisations to credibly tell their story.

¹ Foster-Fishman, How to Create Systems Change, 2002, quoted in the NPC Guide to Systems Change).

Stronger voice and engagement: [See Task & Finish Group Report on Voice & Campaigning](#)

Lived experience:

- People are encouraged and able to use their experiences to create change for those in similar situations.
- Power is placed firmly into the hands of people who do not usually have it.
- Diversity of experience is valued in communities and opportunities are created to empower all local people to have a voice and an impact.
- Civil society better reflects the people who make it up.
- The voices and work of those with lived experience are identified, valued and celebrated
- A range of people have the confidence and power to influence decisions that affect their life and their community.

Digital resources:

- The use by civil society of digital tools and digital skills, to deliver in ways that are efficient, and that meet modern user expectations.
- A shift in how civil society sees digital - shown by an increase in organisations of all sizes using appropriate digital tools to positively change their ways of working.
- Civil Society having access to support and resources to improve their skills and confidence to use digital tools and services to support their work.

‘Generous Leaders’: Generous leadership is a willingness to share responsibility and power to achieve the common good, together with a drive to build strong alliances with individuals, groups and communities who together can achieve shared objectives. Leaders who are aware of their place in the wider ecosystem, and how sharing their contribution, knowledge and skills can complement those of others for the betterment of civil society.

- Leaders who develops and foster relationships, and are concerned about nurturing shared values and how different roles and skills can complement each other for the common good, rather than status and position.
- Partnerships which bring smaller organisations which can produce ideas rooted in the experience of communities together with the position, reach and size of larger organisations to create the shared collective ecosystem needed to deliver change at scale.
- Funding, data and systems for sharing information which gives people capacity and information to find the common good and discover who to work together with.

Local giving schemes: [Please see further Information.](#)