



## **Health Improvement Fund for Fast Track Cities**

Fast Track Cities (FTC) is a global network of more than 600 cities and municipalities working to accelerate their responses to HIV, tuberculosis (TB), and viral hepatitis. In February 2023, Leeds became the first city in the Yorkshire and Humber region to sign the Paris and Sevilla declarations to become a Fast Track City, declaring to end HIV, viral hepatitis and TB epidemics in Leeds by 2030.

The Health Improvement Fund has been developed by Leeds FTC to facilitate opportunities for innovation and cross-partnership working on projects that address the FTC goals and ambitions. This funding pot, established by Leeds City Council's Public Health, will allow organisations in Leeds to put forward a proposal for grants that work towards raising awareness of symptoms and testing, addressing stigma and improving access to treatment.

All funded projects will be expected to report on the progress of the project to the Leeds Fast Track City leadership group.

### **Key information**

1. Proposals of up to £57,000, to be spent over 2026/27 and 2027/28 are invited.
2. Submissions to be received by 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2026, panel to meet to discuss July 2026.
3. For further information contact [lucy.simpson@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:lucy.simpson@leeds.gov.uk)
4. All applications to be emailed to [fast-track-city@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:fast-track-city@leeds.gov.uk)

### **Funding Priorities**

Any grant proposals must include and focus on one or more areas below:

1. **Enhance Testing and Treatment:** Increase access to HIV, TB, and viral hepatitis testing and treatment services to ensure early diagnosis and effective management.
2. **Reduce New Infections:** Implement prevention and engagement/retention in care programs to significantly reduce new infections of HIV, TB, and viral hepatitis
3. **Combat HIV, TB and Viral Hepatitis Stigma and Discrimination:** Develop initiatives to eliminate stigma and discrimination associated with these diseases, particularly in healthcare settings.



4. **Support Community-Led Responses:** Empower and fund community-based organisations to lead local health responses to HIV, TB and viral hepatitis and provide support services.
5. **Promote Integrated Health Services:** Integrate HIV, TB, and viral hepatitis services with other health and social care services to provide comprehensive care.
6. **Foster Innovation:** Encourage the development and implementation of innovative approaches to prevention, treatment, and care.

### **Preparing the proposal**

- This funding opportunity is intended to support new work.
- Activities or projects that are currently funded through existing grants, contracts, or other financial support mechanisms are not eligible for funding under this grant.
- Applicants must clearly demonstrate that the proposed work is distinct from any work already funded and must disclose all current sources of funding relevant to the proposed activities.
- Panel: grant reviewers will be selected from the FTC leadership group. To avoid a conflict of interest, grant reviewers will not score their own organisational submissions. Depending on the number of bids received the grant reviewers will rotate and be selected from varied backgrounds.
- Collaborative bids are welcomed. While proposals will have a lead organisation, we expect providers to work closely with all necessary parties to develop the bids.
- Please ensure you have support from relevant commissioners.

### **Bid Preparation**

**Please prepare the bid based on the following headings.**

#### **1. Organisation Information:**

- Name of the organisation
- Mailing address
- Contact details (phone, email, website)

#### **2. Project Details:**

- Title of the project



- Brief description of the project (please link to grant objectives)
- Objectives and goals of project initiative
- Target population and geographic area served
- Expected outcomes and impact (including explicit link of the project to FTC ambitions)
- What makes your organisation unique and effective, as compared with other organisations working in your geographic area with similar populations?
- Is your organisation working in partnership? (Please list them and any opportunities for collaboration with relevant FTC and wider partners)

### 3. Budget and Funding:

- Detailed budget breakdown
- Amount of funding requested
- Other sources of funding (if any)
- Explanation of how funds will be used
- **Please declare any existing funding related to the proposed work and explain how the proposed work is new or in addition to what is already funded**

### 4. Organisational Capacity:

- History and mission of the organisation
- Previous experience with similar projects
- Staff qualifications and roles
- Partnerships and collaborations

### 5. Evaluation and Sustainability:

- Methods for evaluating project success
- Plans for sustaining the project after the grant period
- Metrics for measuring impact

### General Formatting Guidelines Bids should be between 3-5 pages

- **Font:** Times New Roman or Arial, 11–12 pt
- **Spacing:** 1.5 or double-spaced
- **Margins:** 1 inch (2.5 cm) on all sides



- **Page Numbers:** Bottom or top right corner

**All applications to be emailed to [fast-track-city@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:fast-track-city@leeds.gov.uk)**