Lambeth Schools UFSM Rollout Fund
Frequently asked questions
Updated: January 2024

1. What is the Lambeth Schools UFSM Rollout Fund?

The fund is a £140k pot allocated to support Lambeth schools in the rollout of the Mayor of London's universal primary free school meals (UFSM) policy in London. The £130m scheme came into effect in September 2023 to provide all primary school children in the capital with a free school meal for one academic year. The Mayor also recently pledged to extend the policy for a further academic year 2024/25, with funding rising to £140m, should he be reelected. More information about the policy here.

Impact on Urban Health wants to support the mayoral UFSM policy to have the best possible impact for primary school aged children, school kitchen staff and schools in Lambeth and Southwark, the boroughs in which we operate and learn as an organisation. We are particularly focused on learning or investment opportunities that will support UFSM policies to be implemented in a way that contributes to more equitable outcomes for local children and their wider school communities.

While primary schools in Southwark have been delivering a UFSM offer for a decade due to Southwark Council's public health investment in school food, Lambeth primary schools have likely had to scale up their provision of school food this academic year. As a result, Impact on Urban Health are setting up a small grants fund for the upgrade of kitchen equipment and dining facilities in Lambeth primary schools, to help ensure that all schools have the required infrastructure to successfully implement the policy and to support continued delivery of a good-quality school food experience beyond that.

2. Who is involved in the fund?

- Impact on Urban Health (Funder)
- Walcot Foundation (Administrator of the fund)
- The decision making panel includes representatives from Greater London Authority, Lambeth Education, Chefs in Schools

3. What can this funding be used for?

Complete or partial costs of kitchen/catering/dining equipment and facilities needed to scale up provision of school food to deliver the Mayor's UFSM policy.

4. Can I apply for funding for costs already incurred/items already purchased?

- Yes – you can apply for funding for costs incurred since the start of the 2023/2024 academic year.
- Schools are encouraged to use the funds for new and/or additional spending wherever possible.

- Applications for incurred costs will be expected to include commentary on why the expense was necessary to enable the school to deliver the policy well.

5. Who can apply for funding?

All state primary schools in Lambeth, including special schools and all-through schools that include primary.

6. When does the fund open and close for applications?

- The fund opens for applications on Monday 22 January 2024.
- You will be able to access the application form **through this link** from that date. The fund will be open for six weeks.
- Applications close on Friday 1 March 2024.

7. What is the application process?

- The application process consists of one application form
- The application should be completed via the link above.

8. When and how will I hear about the result of my application?

- Walcot Foundation will aim to respond to all applications by mid-March 2024, whether you are successful or unsuccessful.
- You will hear from them by email, to the email address used on your application form.

9. How much funding can I apply for?

Individual schools can apply for up to £3000 maximum.

10. Can I get any support with my application?

- Yes – Oval Learning are available to provide light touch support to eligible schools with their applications. They will run two group sessions to go through the application form with schools and answer any questions.
- Session details and booking here:
  - Monday 5 February 3.45-4.30pm - https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lambeth-schools-ufsm-rollout-fund-briefing-session-tickets-794118729497
  - Thursday 8 February, 3.45-4.30pm - https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lambeth-schools-ufsm-rollout-fund-briefing-session-tickets-794074497197
- Oval Learning will also be available to answer questions through bookable 1-2-1 slots. To book a slot, please contact Oval Learning by email: hello@ovallearning.org.uk

11. How will you make decisions on funding allocations?

- The decision-making panel (see Q2 above) will make decisions on funding allocations based on information in schools' applications, alongside data points that provide an indication of increased complexity or structural barriers when seeking to ensure that all children can access a healthy lunch at school.

- The focus of the fund is to ensure equitable distribution of funding to schools with the most need.

12. When will funds be administered, if my application is successful?

- Walcot Foundation will aim to administer funds to all successful schools by April 2024.
- Once a grant has been agreed, Walcot Foundation will send a grant agreement email, which asks that the successful applicant agrees via email to the T&Cs and confirms when the grant should begin from. Once this agreement is returned, payment will be made via bank transfer within 14 days.

13. When will I need to spend the money by, if my application is successful?

Funds will need to be spent by the end of the 2023/2024 academic year.

14. What reporting will I need to do, if my application is successful?

- Reporting requirements are being deliberately kept to a minimum to reduce the burden on schools.
- All that will be required is a short financial summary to show how the money was spent.
- Walcot Foundation will email a link to complete the report on how the grant money has been spent, once funds have been paid to the successful applicant.

15. Can I reapply if my application is unsuccessful?

At the current time, we are not planning any further rounds of funding.

16. Will I get feedback on my application if it is unsuccessful?

General feedback will be available. However, we will unfortunately not be able to provide feedback on individual applications.