

## Appendix One

### City Premium Grant to City of London Academies

#### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **What is the City Premium Grant?**

- The City Premium Grant is an annual grant to City Corporation's sponsored academies and special grants around strategic and partnership projects across the Family of Schools. Decisions on the grant are delegated to the City Corporation's Education Board with operational responsibility owned by the Education Strategy Unit.

#### **What is the purpose of the City Premium Grant?**

- The City Corporation is committed to deliver a tripartite of strategies<sup>1</sup> focused on education and learning. These strategies share a common vision: "To prepare people to flourish in a rapidly changing world through exceptional education, cultural and creative learning, and skills which link to the world of work".
- The City Premium Grant is an annual grant to provide financial support to academies towards programmes and activities which will deliver the aims of the strategies, in particular:
  - Developing pupils' Fusion Skills (e.g. oral communication, collaboration and teamwork, initiative, problem solving, creativity).
  - Improving teaching and learning practices.
  - Driving equality of opportunity by promoting social mobility and good health and wellbeing.
  - Providing opportunities for pupils to experience the world of work.
  - Providing opportunities for pupils to access culture, and for teachers to use culture and creativity as tools in teaching and learning.

#### **What can the City Premium Grant be used for?**

- As a basic principle, the City Premium Grant is to support '**additionality**' to the education offer.
- This means that the City Premium Grant should not be used to fund basic school needs, capital purchases or routine school staffing. For example: building works, computer hardware, software and telephony, staffing, basic stationary such as paper and pens, and school meals cannot be included in the school's bid.
- Instead, the grant should be used for resources or activities which are '**additional**' to those already provided under regular day-to-day circumstances, for example: bespoke projects for targeted groups of pupils, trips and visits, Continued Professional Development (CPD) for teachers, additional staffing for revision sessions, additional arts and cultural provisions, offers to broaden the curriculum, and resources to enrich aspects of the curriculum.

#### **How are the funds received?**

- From March 2022, the City Premium Grant will be divided in **three** separate funding streams.
  - 1) City Premium Grant: Disadvantaged Pupils Grant**
    - This is an amount based on the number of pupil premium or equivalent (PP) pupils in each sponsored academy.
    - The amount per school is calculated each December based on the census return for the school. Note that this will be calculated on the current year's number of PP and applied to the funding agreed in March each year for the following academic year. So, for example, if the 2021 census showed that school X had 220 PP in December 2021, this figure would be used to calculate the amount that the school will be allocated for the 2022-23 academic year.
    - Schools will be informed of their allocation in December and have to present a costed plan for how the money will be used for the next academic year before February. A digital form will be provided for this purpose.
    - Education Board will decide if the proposed plan meets the goals and intended outcomes of the City Premium Grant and if so, will approve the release of funds.
    - The funds should be in the school's accounts by May or June before the start of the new academic year.
  - 2) City Premium Grant: Partnerships Grant**
    - Every December, a single amount will be agreed and released as a competitive partnership grant.
    - Across the Family of Schools (including academies, schools and independent schools) , collaborations will be encouraged to apply for grants on a digital form.

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<sup>1</sup> The Education Strategy 2019-23, The Skills Strategy 2019-23 and The Cultural and Creative Learning Strategy 2019-23.

- All grants need to involve at least two or more schools and can involve all the Family of Schools.
- They can be to address particular skills, issues, needs, priorities, subject/s, learning phase/s, projects, staff development goals, youth generated learning, curriculum goals and so on.
- Bids can be small or up to the full amount of the grant for anyone year.
- We warmly welcome bids developed by teachers or even by students.
- A panel will judge the bids and make recommendations to Education Board
- Education Board will decide if the proposed plan meets the goals and intended outcomes of the City Premium Grant and if so, will approve the release of funds.
- Depending on the nature of the bid, the funds should be in CoLAT's or the schools' accounts by May or June before the start of the new academic year, based on the proportion indicated per school in the bid proposal.

### **3) City Premium Grant: Strategic Grant**

- Every December, a single amount will be agreed and released as a strategic grant.
- The strategic grant will be linked to a core general priority identified across all the Family of Schools (including academies, schools and independent schools) and directly linked to the tripartite group of strategies. For example, pupil wellbeing could be identified as a priority, or SEND, or the performance of boys, or environmental education and so on.
- The strategic priority area will be based on a combination of need identified, the views of the Heads and other forums, and through evidence from the Education Strategy Unit.
- All grants need to involve at least two or more schools and can involve all the Family of Schools.

**4)** A paper will make recommendations to Education Board.

**5)** Education Board will decide if the proposed plan meets the goals and intended outcomes of the City Premium Grant and of the strategies and if so, will approve the release of funds.

**6)** Depending on the nature of the proposal agreed, the funds may be held centrally to support delivery, released to CoLAT, or to the schools' accounts by May or June before the start of the new academic year, based on the proportion indicated per school in the bid proposal.

#### **How much can I receive?**

- The size of the grants will vary from year to year in each of the three grants, but the overall envelope of funds will be the same or greater.
- Based on PP numbers some schools may receive more than they have in previous years and others may receive less.
- All schools in the Family of Schools can apply to the partnership and strategic grants as well as their dedicated school grant.

#### **Do we need to be accountable?**

- Yes, no matter what grant you are applying for you will be required to complete the digital application forms and also answer fully the digital impact reporting and evaluation.
- Failure to be accountable or to evidence outcomes and impact may result in the school being ineligible for applying for additional funds the following year. Support will be provided to assist with ensuring schools focus on impact and value for money in their decision making and reporting.

#### **What happens if we change our minds or don't spend all the money?**

- If it is necessary to change the scope and nature of what you proposed in your bids, there will be a digital form to complete to indicate the changes. You will need to complete this variation form for any significant changes.
- The grant money should have separate account references in your accounts to make reporting easier.
- Any unspent monies will be re-claimed centrally and reallocated to areas of need following the final reporting.
- The City of London also reserves the right to claw-back significant underspends against the grants at the end of each financial year.

#### **Who can I contact for support?**

- If you have any queries on the City Premium Grant process and/or require support completing the application form and/or evaluating the impact of the activities/projects, please contact the Education Strategy Unit which can support you to benefit from external expertise if required.

What is the timeline of the process?

Grant type	Who can apply?	When to apply?	When will I know the results?	When do I need to finalise the impact evaluation?
<b>City Premium Grant: Disadvantaged Pupils Grant</b>	<b>Academies only</b>	<b>December</b> when you will be told the amount for your school.  You will have six weeks to complete the online application form	<b>March</b> , following the decision by Education Board. You should receive the funds into the school's accounts by <b>May or June</b>	<b>October</b>
<b>City Premium Grant: Partnerships Grant</b>	<b>All the Family of Schools</b>	<b>December</b> when you will be told the overall grant size that can be applied for.  You will have six weeks to form a collaborative partnership and complete the online application form.	<b>March</b> , following the decision by Education Board. You should receive the funds into CoLAT or the school's accounts by <b>May or June</b>	<b>October</b>
<b>City Premium Grant: Strategic Grant</b>	<b>All the Family of Schools</b>	<b>December</b> when you will be told the overall grant size that can be applied for and also the strategic theme.  You will have six weeks to complete the online application form if you want your school to be part of the agreed strategic initiative/s	<b>March</b> , following the decision by Education Board. You should receive the funds into CoLAT or the school's accounts by <b>May or June</b> or the grant may be held centrally to deliver the strategic grant depending on the nature of grant proposed.	<b>October</b>