

GROW Fund FAQs - 30 April 2025

Q. How will GROW support my business?

A. GROW includes one-to-one coaching and peer learning, a £10,000 grant and access to investment opportunities. GROW is especially good for early-stage organisations because of the style of support.

Q. What if I'm turning over more than £350,000?

A. GROW is for businesses that have a turnover below £350,000.

Q. What is “evidence of trading”?

A. Trading is buying and selling of products and services. This could be live contracts or commissions, sales from selling products to customers or services to your clients.

Q. How do I describe or prove the “positive impact” my business has in the borough?

A. We are not prescriptive about what positive impact is - we want to hear how you believe your business benefits local communities and contributes to the local economy. However it could mean activities such as, e.g. employing local people, procuring local goods and services, supporting specific communities or improving the local environment.

Q. Can individuals apply?

A. Yes if you are a sole trader and can evidence trading.

Q. Can I do this alone?

A. Yes, absolutely. While it's important you have people around you who support your vision, you can participate in this programme on your own, as a solo-entrepreneur or soletrader, for example.

Q. How many people will be interviewed?

A. It depends on how many applications we get but it could be around 20-40 entrepreneurs.

Q. Would you fund less than 10 businesses?

A. Possibly but we're aiming to support 10 businesses per year between 2025 and 27, 30 businesses in total.

Q. Is there a downloadable version of the application form, to read through before completing the application?

A. Yes, it is on the GROW Fund webpage.

Q. When undertaking a loan, does BD Giving carry out a credit /check analysis?

A. No, BD Giving doesn't carry out credit checks / analysis but some other lenders will.

Q. What is the interest rate for the loan?

A. At the moment this is 5% APR over 5 years with two repayment holidays, but this is subject to change;.

Q. Can the investment be used to pay freelancers?

A. Yes it can. The investment can be used to support the development of your business in the way your business needs it, that could be paying freelancers as you test a new model, or to give you capacity to grow.

Q. Do I need to illustrate how I'd use social investment in the application form?

A. No, you just need to show that you are open to exploring what social investment could do for your business. We'll talk about it with you at the interview.

Q. Do you have any resources explaining social investment?

On the GROW Fund web page there is a presentation on [Demystifying Social Investment](#) with our friends Growth Impact Fund, [a Social Investment Jargon Buster](#) and you could look at [Good Finance](#) for more resources.

Q. How many people will be on the panel for interviews?

A. 2 or 3 people will be on the panel.

Will they be in person or online?

Interviews will take place in the borough (location tbc). We will strive to have all meetings in person but if this is not feasible we can do online.