



Do you care about making Barking and Dagenham a healthier place to live?

We have an exciting opportunity for local residents to help design and make decisions on a new fund for improving health in the borough, with a focus on food.

Background

Barking & Dagenham Giving (BD Giving) are a community-led funder and social investor. We create opportunities for local people to make decisions about how money is spent in Barking and Dagenham. Using proven participatory methods, we put money into the hands of the people who know Barking and Dagenham best. Local people decide where money goes and how it's used.

We now have an opportunity for local residents to get involved, by becoming "Decision-Makers" for a new fund that will be focused on creating a healthier food environment in Barking and Dagenham.

About You

You do not need any qualifications to be a Decision-Maker, just a passion for making a difference in Barking and Dagenham! However, to take part you will need to:

- Be a resident of Barking and Dagenham
- Have some knowledge of your community
- Be open to learning and listening to the perspectives of others
- Be locally available to attend sessions from August-November 2026 (specific dates are further down the page.)
- Be at least 14 years old by 19th August 2026

We want a diverse group of residents to shape this fund, we'd especially love to hear from you if you:

- Have lived experience of barriers to accessing healthy food
- Have experience in the local food or health sectors
- Are passionate about creating a healthier Barking & Dagenham
- Are aged 14-25 (although all ages are welcome!)

If we receive more interest than we can accommodate, we will prioritise selecting a group of residents that is diverse in background and experience, who meet the



above desirable criteria, and who have not previously been a Decision-Maker or Co-Designer with BD Giving.

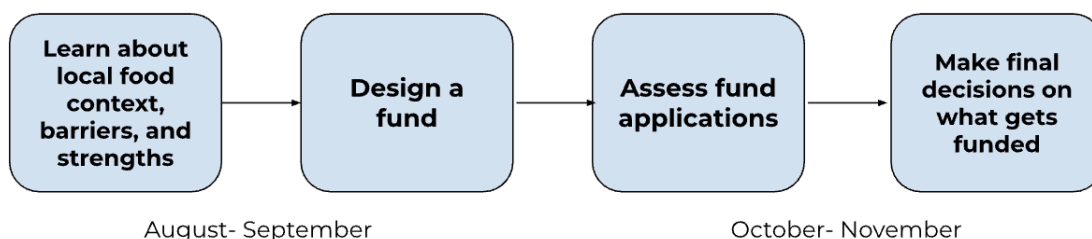
Being a Decision-Maker

As a Decision-Maker, you'll join a group of around 14 other residents from different backgrounds and with varying levels of experience. Together, you'll:

- Learn about food, health, and local initiatives supporting the local food system
- Shape a fund that focuses on food and health- shaping the priorities, and application process.
- Decide which projects or organisations receive funding

Your involvement will run from mid August to mid November 2026, with about 8 in-person sessions in Barking (except for scoring applications, which you'll do digitally at home in your own time).

A rough diagram of what your involvement will look like, is below:



Key Dates:

Tuesday 28th July: Window to apply to be a Decision-Maker closes

WC 3rd August: You will receive the outcome of your application via email, and if progressing, you will be sent calendar holds for the below dates.

Wednesday 19th August, 6-8pm: 1st session- Welcome and Introduction

Thursday 27th August, 6-8pm: 2nd session- Learning about the local context of food and health



Thursday 3rd September, 6-8pm: 3rd session- How grantmaking works and different approaches to funding

Thurs 10th Sept, 6-8pm: 4th session- Designing the fund

Thurs 17th Sept, 6-8pm: 5th session- Designing the fund

Thurs 8th Oct, 6-8pm: 6th session- Training: Assessing applications and budgets

WC 2nd Nov: Score applications digitally

Thursday 19th Nov, 6-8pm: 7th session- In-person Decision-Making meeting

Wed 25th Nov, 6-8pm: 8th session- Wrap up meeting- reflecting on what's been learned.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Who is BD Giving and what do they do?

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BD Giving staff will be present at all sessions and play a coordinating and facilitating role in this project.

Will I be compensated for my time?

In recognition of your time spent participating, you will be remunerated for the time spent in the sessions. Over the course of the project, including participation in all sessions and time spent independently scoring applications, you will be compensated approximately £300.

At regular points during your involvement with the project, you will be sent a link to a compensation form where you have the option to receive a bank transfer or to "pay it forward" to another charity.



Can I become a Decision-Maker if I am under 18?

We welcome residents aged 14 and over to become a Decision-Maker, and are particularly encouraging young people aged 14-25 to get involved that are passionate about: tackling food insecurity, community-led change, or simply having a say in how decisions are made in their community.

You must be 14 by 19/08/26.

Please note that the group of Decision-Makers you will be working alongside will be a mixed aged group. If you're under 18, we'll ensure there's at least one other under-18 resident in the group.

What if I work for an organisation that might apply for the fund?

You can still express interest! Your local knowledge may be valuable to the process. However, if your organisation applies, you won't be involved in discussions or scoring for that specific application to avoid conflicts of interest.

What will I get from being a Decision-Maker?

Being a Decision-Maker, you will:

- Meet and build connections with other local residents and organisations
- Develop skills in assessing grant applications, funding approaches, and collaboration
- Learn about how funding and grantmaking works
- Gain awareness of initiatives happening in your community
- Have a say in what happens locally by directly shaping funding priorities and decisions for your community

Residents who have been Decision-Makers previously have reported an increase in trust, wellbeing, and connection to their communities. Previous Decision-Makers have also put the experience on their CV.

Hear from previous Decision-Maker, Nassaba, about her experience [here](#).

What if I can't make all the meeting dates?



We ask residents to do their best to attend all sessions, and we'll factor in people's availability when selecting Decision-Makers. However, we understand that unexpected things, like illness, can happen. If you miss a meeting, decisions may be made without you, but we'll always share a summary of any decisions with the whole group afterward.

What if I don't know anything about how funding works?

No problem! You do not need to have any prior knowledge. You will be supported to learn through the sessions.

Will there be support available if I need it?

Yes! BD Giving staff will be present at all sessions to facilitate and will be contactable in between sessions. We take your safety and well-being seriously, so appropriate safeguarding measures are in place throughout the process. If you have any accessibility needs or require additional support, please let us know and we'll do our best to accommodate you.

What happens once I've expressed interest in becoming a Decision-Maker?

You will receive an email in the week commencing 3rd of August letting you know if you've been selected. If so, we'll send you a document via email called a Terms or Reference, which you will be asked to sign. This document basically sets out the expectations of the role of a Decision-Maker and the role of BD Giving.

You'll also receive calendar invites for all the sessions. If you are under 18, a separate consent form will be sent for a parent/carer to sign.

**Apply to become a Decision-Maker today by completing the form linked [here](#).
The window to apply closes on Tuesday 28th July at 10am.**

For any further questions, please contact emma@bdgiving.org.uk.