

## South West London - grants for voluntary and community organisations supporting education and awareness of women's health

Grants available: up to £2,000

Applicants: Voluntary and community organisation(s) based in South West London

### Grant requirements

<b>Objectives of engagement</b>	<p>The aim of this grant is to support culturally relevant locally tailored initiatives that improve health literacy and access to preventative care for <b>women and girls</b> who do not access traditionally delivered NHS women's health services.</p> <p>The activities you deliver will need to focus on improving awareness, education and self-management of women's health, particularly in areas such as <b>menopause, urogynaecology, and menstrual health</b>.</p> <p>We want to provide culturally relevant education and practical resources to overcome barriers such as social determinants of health. Education on menopause, the menstrual cycle or bladder leakage (urogynaecology) explaining to women what is normal and when to seek help or support. The grants aim to encourage preventative care, early detection, and empower local women to make informed healthcare decisions, while fostering community support and long-term behaviour change.</p> <p>Overall, your events and activities as part of this grant will aim to improve health outcomes by creating accessible, inclusive environments for people to learn about women's health and promote awareness for them to access local services as and when they need them.</p>
<b>Grant amount</b>	Up to £2,000 per organisation.
<b>Project lead</b>	Monica Fisk <a href="mailto:monica.fisk@swlondon.nhs.uk">monica.fisk@swlondon.nhs.uk</a>
<b>Date for submission</b>	<p>The deadline for submitting completed applications is Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October 5pm.</p> <p>Applications to be submitted <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<b>Grant Management</b>	<p>South West London NHS is offering funding to support community-led activities and events on women's health. Merton Connected will be administering this grant programme on behalf of the NHS in Merton. <b>The closing date for applications is Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 5pm</b></p> <p>By submitting this application, you agree that the information provided may be shared with relevant partners for the purpose of administering and evaluating the grant programme. If you have any concerns, please contact us before submitting your application.</p> <p>If you're interested, please complete and submit <a href="#">the short application form</a>. If you need any support or have any questions please contact email</p>

	<p><a href="mailto:ali@mertonconnected.co.uk">ali@mertonconnected.co.uk</a> and we would be happy to arrange a conversation with you.</p> <p>Please note you may wish to keep your own copy of your application for future application processes.</p>

## 1. Background

In July 2022, the Department of Health and Social Care published the [National Women's Health Strategy](#), which presented compelling evidence that women's health services must be redesigned to better reflect women's broader needs.

In response, the South West London Gynaecology Clinical Network launched a proof-of-concept project to review local women's health services. As part of this work, a community engagement exercise was carried out from March to July 2023 with over 500 women sharing their experiences and insights through a range of activities, including workshops, focus groups, interviews and surveys.

Key barriers from this first phase of engagement included:

1. Language and communication difficulties
2. Lack of time to prioritise personal health and wellbeing
3. Cultural taboos surrounding women's health topics
4. A widespread feeling of not being taken seriously by healthcare professionals

These findings provide vital insights for shaping more inclusive and responsive women's health services across South West London.

The aim of these education and awareness grants is to work in partnership with community and voluntary sector organisations to deliver education and information sessions on menstruation menopause and reproduction for women and girls from global majority and health inclusion groups that are:

1. Culturally sensitive and appropriate
2. At times, in locations and in formats which are accessible to women within the local community
3. Where possible delivered in other languages, or supported by interpreters. Please note as part of this grant funding we cannot provide translations or interpreters.

## 2. Requirements for the grant

NHS South West London (SWL) is committed to improving women's health, with a particular focus on women and girls who struggle to access traditionally delivered NHS services.

To achieve this, we are seeking to partner with local community and voluntary organisations that have strong, trusted relationships with these communities. Our goal is to support these organisations to deliver inclusive and culturally relevant education and information events that empower women and girls to better understand their health, recognise what is normal/abnormal, and know when and how to seek help.

We are offering grants of up to £2,000 (larger grants may be considered on a case-by-case basis) for organisations to design and deliver at least one of the following:

1. **Targeted and culturally specific workshops/activities** – This can include a number of gatherings, workshops or other initiatives in community settings providing women who traditionally do not engage with NHS run services with a safe and familiar space to discuss menopause, urogynaecology, and menstrual health and provide access to preventative care. As part of this type of grant, VCSE organisations will nurture and empower up to 3 local advocates/champions from their own communities who can support the organisation in running the activities and continue to engage women around their health after the project has ended.
2. **One large-scale, expert-led online or in person learning event per borough attended by up to 250-300 people or/and a series of learning events that reach 250-300 people in total** (e.g. webinars, Q&As, workshops) addressing menopause, urogynaecology, and menstrual health, designed to be accessible, culturally appropriate, and scalable across local populations. Please note we will only provide one grant per borough for this.
3. **School-based menstrual health education programmes** to improve understanding among young girls, reduce stigma, and promote long-term well-being and/or – VCSE groups applying for this type of project will need to prove they are already working in schools.

Please outline in your application form the types of events and activities you could run to support conversations about women's health. Applications will be assessed on the communities you can work with, number of people you can reach and your approach in supporting local health champions to share this education and awareness. Your project can work with local projects, existing champions or local community workers that might be well placed to support these education and information sessions.

We encourage applicants to use innovative, culturally sensitive, and community-led approaches to ensure sessions are accessible, relevant, and impactful.

The SWL Gynaecology Clinical Network can provide materials such as patient information leaflets, links to reputable resources and power point presentations to support these activities.

The team can provide you with a list of local NHS clinicians you can invite to attend your session; You are welcome to use your own clinicians, as long as the clinical information provided during the sessions is in line with NHS guidance. Please note that requests for a NHS clinician with dates and venue should be sent at least 5 weeks in advance. We have very few clinicians available and their attendance is not guaranteed even if requested on time. Please include in your budget £100 to contribute to clinicians' expenses, as this might be needed.

### **Monitoring and Reporting**

Successful applicants will be expected to complete and submit a monitoring feedback form to report on the impact of their events and activities, including:

- Quantitative data (e.g. number of participants, age ranges, languages spoken)
- Qualitative insights (e.g. participant feedback, emerging themes)

To support this, a simple monitoring template will be provided. Please submit this to [ali@mertonconnected.co.uk](mailto:ali@mertonconnected.co.uk) in the two weeks following your last event or activity.

We will also offer two training sessions to build confidence in delivering effective, community-focused women's health sessions (one on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and one in January 2026 – date TBC).

Through this grant, we aim to:

- Increase awareness and understanding of women's health among groups who may not usually access traditional services
- Ensure women and girls feel heard, supported, and empowered
- Build on the feedback from our previous engagement work by delivering the types of support that women said they want

By working with community-based organisations that are already trusted by local women, we can ensure engagement is genuine, inclusive, and led by the needs of the women we serve.

### 3. Grant management

Merton Connected will manage this grant programme on behalf of NHS South West London in Merton.

They will:

- Provide guidance and support throughout the application process.
- Participate in the evaluation and scoring panel alongside members of the SWL ICB engagement team and Gynaecology Clinical Network
- Manage and distribute the funding, ensuring it is used effectively and in line with the programme's objectives.
- Monitor progress and provide ongoing support to ensure successful engagement.
- Collect reports, ensuring robust data collection

Applications will be assessed based on the following:

- **Reach and inclusion** – how well you connect with the most underserved women in your local communities
- **Your approach** – how you plan to deliver your education and information sessions.
- **Commitment to training and feedback** – willingness to nominate a champion and attend a training session and complete the monitoring and feedback form.

### 4. Engagement proposals

Interested organisations should submit the application form online via MS Forms with your proposal for how you could use the funding to meet the engagement requirements (see section 2).

Grants of up to £2,000 (larger amounts may be considered on a case-by-case basis) are available per organisation. Please ensure you have read the detail required.

There is going to be an online information session for interested applicants on **8<sup>th</sup> October 2025** at 10am. To book your place email [ali@mertonconnected.co.uk](mailto:ali@mertonconnected.co.uk)

### 5. Accountability

The NHS in South West London is offering funding to support community-led activities and discussions that gather valuable insights. Merton Connected will be administering this grant programme on behalf of the NHS in your borough.

**The closing date for applications is Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 5pm**

By submitting this application, you agree that the information provided may be shared with relevant partners for the purpose of administering and evaluating the grant programme. If you have any concerns, please contact us before submitting your application.

If you're interested, please complete and submit [this short application form](#). If you need any support or have any questions please contact us directly at [ali@mertonconnected.co.uk](mailto:ali@mertonconnected.co.uk) and we would be happy to arrange a conversation with you.

Please note you may wish to keep your own copy of your application for future application processes. In addition, organisations must be able to demonstrate they have safeguarding and health and safety measures in place.

## **6. Timeframes**

Deadline for completed applications is 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 5pm.

- Applications open: 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2025
- Online information session for interested applicants: 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025
- Applications close: 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025
- Successful groups informed: by 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025
- Training session for successful applicants: 20<sup>th</sup> November 2025
- Reporting timescales to be confirmed