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**Brief for the Greater Manchester Refugee Integration Partnership Small Grants Scheme**

**Date:** 31st March 2023, 11.00am - 12.00pm

**Location:**

Remote - Microsoft Teams

**Interested parties should register their interest on The Chest by no later than midday on 30th March 2023**

## Purpose

The purpose of this Market Engagement Event is to notify interested parties that the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) will be looking for organisations to the deliver innovative projects that support the objectives of the Greater Manchester Refugee Integration Partnership (GMRIP, also known as the Refugee Transitions Outcomes Fund, RTOF).

The GMCA invites organisations who may be interested to attend a supplier event on 31/03/2023 where the project will be outlined and discussed.

On 4/04/2023, a formal procurement exercise will commence, with all documents and published on The Chest. Bidders will then have a deadline of noon on 02/05/23 for submission of their formal responses.

Further details on the timeline are located on Section 5 of this document.

## Background

RTOF is a national initiative which seeks to improve employment, housing, and wider integration outcomes for newly recognised refugees. The key aims of the RTOF programme are to:

* Enable innovative and place-based approaches to supporting newly recognised refugees in the selected local areas
* Improve employment, housing, and wider integration outcomes for newly recognised refugees in the selected local areas and to increase refugee self-sufficiency
* Generate evidence about what works, to be able to evaluate the impact of funded projects on refugee integration and self-sufficiency.

GMCA acts as the lead partner for RTOF (or GMRIP) in GM, coordinating and providing strategic oversight to the delivery across all 10 boroughs across its duration from January 2022-March 2024. GMCA works in collaboration with dedicated key workers and strategic leads in each Local Authority as well as Specialist Employment Support providers - Breaking Barriers and Caritas Salford’s The Entrepreneurial Refugee Network (TERN).

Once enrolled, service users receive 1-2-1 holistic support with a keyworker, including support to access healthcare, sign up to welfare benefits, improve English language and digital skills, build social connections, look for work and find housing. The project also seeks to build and strengthen links between Local Authorities and specialist VCSE organisations already working with refugees, in order to develop the systems and partnerships needed to deliver effective place-based support for refugee integration in the longer-term.

**Eligibility**

To be eligible individuals must have received refugee status or humanitarian protection on or after 24th February 2020.  Individuals must be economically active (actively seeking work or ready to take steps towards securing work in the foreseeable future) and therefore need to:

* be of working age (18 or over, and under the State Pension age);
* not be in full-time education;
* be available for work in the foreseeable future, even if not ‘ready’ to work straight away due to factors such as housing, mental health or language barriers.

Refugees resettled to the UK are unfortunately not eligible.

1. Overview of Funding Opportunity

We are seeking quotations from suppliers who can deliver services that support **one or more** of the following objectives for GMRIP service users. We are seeking to fund services in all 10 GM boroughs and suppliers may offer services in **one or multiple boroughs**.

1. **Access to suitable English language education is increased.** Support the improvement of GMRIP service users’ English language skills, especially for those not currently accessing ESOL classes. We are particularly interested in increasing the provision of informal language classes at a variety of levels, spanning pre-entry/entry levels to more advanced and conversation clubs. Where possible, face-to-face classes will be preferred.
2. **GMRIP service users can access affordable housing and sustain it.** Housing is consistently cited as the principal challenge and priority for new refugees and GMRIP service users are no different. While GMRIP key workers provide support to access housing for service users facing or at risk of homelessness, we would welcome bids that can supplement this work. This could include for example, support work to access social housing or the private rented sector or tenant education to support housing sustainment.
3. **GMRIP service users have access to volunteering and community participation opportunities** that support wellbeing, community connection and/or employment and skills goals.We are interested in funding projects that facilitate volunteering and community group participation opportunities for service users, whether through placements and programmes or involvement in organised group activities. Activities can support service users’ language skills, wellbeing, community connections, and/or help them improve and evidence skills and knowledge relevant to their employment goals. *Projects under this Objective should be designed to facilitate service user participation of at least 20 hours spanning over at least 5 days, regardless of the activity.*

Services may choose to target specific cohorts with shared characteristics and/or needs within the GMRIP cohort (e.g. women, young people, LGBTQ+ refugees, specific language, ethnic or nationality groups).

## Procurement Approach

The RTOF programme is an outcomes-based contract, which requires achievement of defined outcomes (including those linked to housing entry and volunteering) by 31 December 2023. For this reason, bids for projects which can offer rapid mobilisation and support the delivery of these outcomes by that deadline will be strongly preferred. We are happy to fund the adaptation of pre-existing services, if they fulfil the objectives of the grant and can be targeted to the needs of GMRIP clients.

In order to maximise balance of provision and project type across GM’s boroughs, according to GMRIP service user need, we will consider geographic spread as part of our evaluation criteria.

## Value and duration

The total funding available to fund providers under this commission is £139,000.

Maximum budget available for bids which provide services to GMRIP service users across two or more boroughs: £30,000

Maximum budget for single-borough bids: £15,000

All contracts must be delivered between 1 June 2023 - 31 March 2024.

## Guiding Principles

Delivery will need to be costed against by completing a pricing schedule and further enhanced by completing a Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) or a Cost Breakdown Structure (CBS). Bidders should consider how they will demonstrate:

* Experience in delivering similar initiatives with similar populations and expertise they can draw upon;
* Ability to rapidly mobilise;
* Adaptability in working with the target group to meet their needs within a challenging environment.

## Bidding Requirements

When responding, bidders will need to:

* Be registered on The Chest where the entire process will be managed;
* Complete the Selection Questionnaire & Evaluation document, and;
* Complete a pricing schedule and WBS/CBS.

## Timeline

Following the release of this notice the following activities will take place:

* 24 March 2023 – notice for Market Engagement Event posted on The Chest.
* 30 March – 12pm deadline for registering to attend the Market Engagement Event via The Chest
* 31 March 2023 – Market Engagement Event with interested bidders to outline delivery requirements, give feedback and provide input.
* 4 April 2023 – publication and release of the procurement notice via The Chest
* 2 May 2023 – 12 noon deadline for return of bids
* 15 May 2023 – Notification to successful bidders
* Week of 22 May 2023 – Award of contracts

Please note GMCA reserve the right to amend the timelines stated above & The Chest will be updated accordingly. The GMCA is not liable for any costs, fees, or expenses incurred by any party in attending this event. Any questions interested parties may have should be directed through The Chest.