



**Oldham Enterprise Trust (OET)
Oldham Enterprise Programme (the Programme)**

Programme Eligibility and Terms & Conditions (from 25/3/24)

1. The Objectives

To encourage, develop and promote business start-up and growth across the Metropolitan Borough of Oldham:

- a) Supporting Business Start-Up & Growth.
- b) Supporting the 'Get Oldham Working' campaign through enterprise Business Support and Programming by creating and sustaining jobs.
- c) To stimulate enterprise and entrepreneurial activity in Oldham.
- d) To advise and support applicants and, where appropriate, award a grant, and/or signpost to loan funding via the Government's Start Up Loan Scheme or other funding sources.

2. Grant Funding available – two separate Grant funding programmes are available.

- a. Oldham Council Start up Grants - Grants of up to £1,000 are available.
- b. The Princes Trust Enterprise Grants – Grants of up to £2,000 are available.

3. Grant Funding Eligibility

a. Oldham Council

- i. Applicants must be aged 18-years or over.
- ii. By completing the application form you are agreeing to us sharing your information with our partner organisations.
- iii. Applicants must be residents of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council.
- iv. Businesses that started from 31st March 2023 are eligible.
- v. Applicants must engage in a programme of free Business Support as directed by Oldham Enterprise Trust and its partners.

b. The Princes Trust

- i. Applicants must be aged 18 to 30 years of age
- ii. Applicants must be residents of Greater Manchester
- iii. Businesses must be within 3 years of trading.

4. Loan Funding

- a) Loans are available.
 - o via the Government's Start Up Loan Scheme to those over 18 years of age and
 - o from the Proper Good Social Investment Fund for Social Enterprises
- b) Start-ups aged 18 and over who require loan funding will be referred to the Government's you can Check your eligibility here <https://www.startuploans.co.uk/am-i-eligible/> For the purpose of Start Up Loans Start-ups are defined as businesses trading for less than 3 years
- c) Social Enterprises who require loan funding will be referred to the [Proper Good Social Investment Fund](#)
- d) Anyone meeting the eligibility criteria above for the Oldham Council Grant funding at the time of application can apply for the fund if the Assessment Panel is within 12 months of the date of application.
- e) Applicants must have the legal right to remain in the UK and the right to be self-employed.
- f) Grants and Loans are for business use only.

5. Format of the Programme

- a) All entrants must submit the Programme's Application Form' (available electronically through the enquiry process as listed at: www.oldhamenterprisetrust.org.uk or by Word copy which is available upon request.)
- b) All documentation must be completed fully by the applicant(s).

- c) Applications will be initially assessed.
- d) Grant eligible applicants will be required to access a free programme of business support from either the GM Libraries Build a Business Programme, The Princes Trust, the Business Growth Hub, or other business support agencies deemed suitable by Oldham Enterprise Trust.
- e) Applicants for the Oldham Council grants will present (or pitch) to, and be interviewed by, an assessment panel. More detailed feedback will be given to all applicants at this stage.
- f) If successful at the Assessment Panel, applicants are required to engage with marketing activities and further free business support activities.

By completing the application form you are agreeing to us sharing your information with our partner organisations.

6. Oldham Council Grant Assessment (Grant eligible applicants only)

As guidance, the assessment will be both looking for and assessing details covering the following:

- a) A business idea with the best potential to start-up a new enterprise or the further development of an existing business that has been trading for less than 2 years.
- b) Job creation potential, through the business idea, for Oldham residents *particularly for those under 26 years of age*.
- c) Is it a credible market opportunity?
- d) That there is a realistic approach to carry-out the business idea and that there has been some thought given to commercialisation routes and strategies.
- e) That ethical issues, environmental and social impact have been considered.
- f) Evidence that intellectual property issues have been considered. What would be the potential effects on the business idea for intellectual property owned by others?
- g) What are the personal qualities of the applicants and the degree of drive and initiative they display in their proposals?
- h) The Credit Worthiness of the business owners

The Oldham Council Assessment panel Format (Grant eligible applicants only)

- Applicants will
 - Pitch their business idea and plan.
 - Answer questions from the Assessment Panel members
- The presentation and interview will last around 30 minutes (15-minutes for the presentation/pitch followed by 15-minutes for questions/discussion from a panel of assessors).
- The Assessment Panel will be drawn from:
 - Oldham Enterprise Trust trustees
 - Oldham Council employees
 - Business Support Agencies
 - Experienced businesspeople as appropriate
- **The Assessment Decision is final and no correspondence regarding the judging of entries can be entered into, nor appeals made.**
- **All entries will be treated as strictly confidential.**

Application Terms & Conditions:

- A clear and well written structure to the submitted entry form in plain English (the fonts of Arial, Calibri or Tahoma in font size 10 can be used).
- Entry forms should be submitted electronically. However hard copies of forms are acceptable. Receipt is the responsibility of the applicant. No responsibility can be taken by Oldham Enterprise Trust, GM Libraries Build a Business programme, The Princes Trust, the Business Growth Hub, GC Business Finance, or any partnering organisation working in unison to support the Oldham Enterprise Trust, for lost documentation or documentation not received.
- Faxed copies will **NOT** be accepted.
- Successful Grant applicants must be prepared to engage with the Programme administrators in reporting progress of their business and engaging with business support services, supporting Get Oldham Working on a quarterly basis.
- Grant applicants are required to engage with the support process provided by the Princes Trust, GM Libraries Build a Business Programme, The Business Growth Hub or any other business support agency deemed suitable by Oldham Enterprise Trust
- Successful Grant applicants will be required to engage with further appropriate business support services as directed by the Assessment Panel.
- Entries must be submitted on the official application form.
- Any Funding award must be used for the purpose(s) set out in the application.
- The Grant Funding award must be drawn down within 3 months or the offer is deemed to have lapsed.
- The business should be legitimate and legal with the intention to fulfil all appropriate statutory and legal requirements.
- Grant eligible applicants **must** be able to attend one of the assessment panels to pitch their idea to the Judges/Assessors.
- Successful Grant applicants must be available for PR and marketing activities as required.
- There are a range of other finance packages and Programmes that can also be applied for, if necessary (subject to criteria and application).