



FACT SHEET 10

Sources of Funding

This fact sheet describes the types of funding available to voluntary and community groups, and how to go about finding the right funders for you.

Researching Funders

Firstly, think about going back to any past or existing funders. Did you spend the grant properly? Was the money used well? Did you get positive feedback from the funder about your achievements? If so, they may be happy to fund you again.

Next, use contacts. Ask management committee members, staff, volunteers or members if they have had any contact with funders, or know of similar groups or projects that have been funded.

Targeting Funders

Your funding search will give you a list of funders that might be suitable. Carefully read all the information you have about each funder, to see that you are eligible, and meet the funding criteria. Some funders will match your organisation or project quite closely others won't. Target those whose criteria you most closely meet first. List potential funders in order of priority. Think how much time and effort you can put into applications, and limit your list to the number of funders you can deal with.

A golden rule: Quality not Quantity. It is better to work hard on a small number of bids, to find the right funders and to show each funder how well you meet their aims.

Types of Funders

There are 5 different types of funding available to voluntary organisations:

- Charitable Trusts
- The Big Lottery
- Company Giving
- Statutory Grants
- European Funding

Which of these sources you go for depends on your organisation, and what you want the money for. The following descriptions outline each type of funding, and will help you decide which kind is right for you.

Charitable Trusts

Trusts (sometimes called Foundations) are set up by companies or individuals as a way of giving money to certain causes. Some target very specific causes, others give more generally, to all kinds of groups that deal with community or disadvantage. There are local trusts, preferring to give in the North West. Many more are national, giving around the country. Amounts can range from a couple of hundred pounds to tens of thousands, or more if you match their aims closely and can show a big impact. Applications to Trusts are often as simple as a 2 page letter or basic application form. More details might be requested for larger requests.

Big Lottery Fund

The Big Lottery Fund is the largest of the good cause distributors. The Fund gives grants to projects that improve health, education and the environment and support voluntary groups, helping those most in need. There is a range of different types of funding programmes, with separate programmes in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

A new funding strategy was announced in June 2009 for the period up to 2015. Funding will focus on projects that "reduce isolation, empower communities and help people through key transitions such as redundancy and bereavement. The new strategy will mean that new grant programmes will be created when the existing ones reach their closing dates.

To view current open programmes visit:

http://www2.biglotteryfund.org.uk/index/funding-uk/all_open_programmes-uk.htm

Or visit the Big Lottery home page at: <http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/index>

Company Donations

An alternative to grants is approaching a local company to ask for money or resources. The advantage of this approach is that you may get a very quick answer, as there may be no official application process. Additionally, you could develop a long-term relationship with the company. Businesses may be willing to enter into a sponsorship deal. This involves you offering a service, usually publicity for the company in your publications or at events, in return for money. It is more of a business deal than a donation, so you have to be able to deliver your side of the bargain. To find out more: Contact companies directly and ask for the Community Affairs or Marketing department, or a person who can deal with donations.

Statutory Grants

Statutory means that the grant comes from the Government or a local body such as the Council, Health Authority or Education Authority. Money is given to voluntary groups for work that the Government or local agencies have identified as necessary.

European Funding

European funds are generally for projects involving regeneration, training and employment. Groups usually access them through a local office.

European grants can be large, but require time and effort due to the large amount of paperwork involved in applying for, monitoring and reporting on your project. The money can take a long time to arrive, and you often need to find match funding (grants will only cover part of your project costs, perhaps 45% and you need to find funding to match that which you get from Europe). To find out more call the North West Network call 0161 236 6493 e-mail: info@nwnetwork.org.uk or visit: www.nwnetwork.org.uk/about-us

A very useful websites which covers all aspects of funding and finance is The Finance Hub – ‘making sense of funding and finance in the Third Sector’ Visit: www.financehub.org.uk

Further Support and Advice is available from Cumbria CVS Locality Offices:

Cumbria CVS - Barrow: 72-74 Scott Street, Barrow-in-Furness, LA14 1QE.

Tel: 01229 823144

e-mail: barrow@cumbriacvs.org.uk

Cumbria CVS - Carlisle: 27 Spencer Street, Carlisle, CA1 1BE.

Tel: 01228 512513

e-mail: carlisle@cumbriacvs.org.uk

Cumbria CVS - Eden: 6 Hobson Court, Gillan Way, Penrith, CA11 0DT.

Tel: 01768 800350

e-mail: eden@cumbriacvs.org.uk

Cumbria CVS - South Lakeland: Stricklandgate House, 92 Stricklandgate, Kendal, LA9 4PU. Tel: 01539 742627

e-mail: south@cumbriacvs.org.uk

Cumbria CVS - West Cumbria: Community Resource Centre, 12a Selby Terrace, Maryport, CA15 6NF

Tel: 01900 819191

e-mail: west@cumbriacvs.org.uk

Visit:

Cumbria CVS website

www.thirdsectorcumbria.org.uk/support_CumbriaCVS.html

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