

Voluntary Action-Leeds Funding: Sources

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FUNDING: SOURCES

(This factsheet is part of a series of 3. The other factsheets are *Funding: Overview* and *Funding: Making Applications*).

The aim of this factsheet is to give an overview of the sources of funding available to voluntary and community groups. It is also about targeting appropriate funders for your group and project.

1: Researching and Targeting Funders

Firstly, think about approaching any past or existing funders, although check first as some funders do not allow this. 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.

Thirdly, use tools such as FunderFinder (a database with details of 1000's of charitable trusts & foundations) and directories of grant-makers (like the Directory of Social Change *Guide to the Major Trusts*). Both the directories and FunderFinder are available to use at Voluntary Action-Leeds, certain libraries and Resourcing the Community. VA-L also holds regular training sessions on how to use the database effectively.

Register with funding email alert services i.e. Government Funding, the Big Lottery, Esmee Fairbairn, etc.

Carefully read all the information you have about each funder, to see that you are eligible, and meet the funding criteria. Some funders target very specific causes, others give more generally, to all kinds of groups that deal with community or disadvantage. Target those whose criteria you most closely meet first. List potential funders in order of priority. Think about 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.

2: Types of funders

Apart from individual giving, there are 5 different types of funding available to voluntary organisations:

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

Which of these sources you go for depends on your organisation, the funders' priorities, and what you want the money for.

Charitable Trusts

Trusts (sometimes called Foundations) are set up by companies or individuals as a way of giving money to certain causes. There are local trusts, preferring to give in specific geographical areas. 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 can be a 2 page letter or basic application form. More details might be requested for larger amounts.

You can find details of charitable trusts through FunderFinder or grant-making directories, as mentioned above.

Lottery Funding

The Lottery gives money to "good causes", each of which has its own pot of money and application procedure. They are:

- The [Big Lottery Fund](#) replaces both the Community Fund and the New Opportunities Fund from 1st June 2004 with funding programmes being published in the Autumn of 2005. At least initially, it is likely that priorities will include those of both predecessors i.e. meeting the needs of the most disadvantaged people, particularly severe, long-term and multiple needs, plus projects in the areas of health, education, the environment, and children and young people.
- The [Heritage Lottery Fund](#) which supports projects which relate to the national, regional or local heritage of the UK.
- [Sport England](#) which supports projects that, for example, aim to increase participation in sport among groups such as disabled people, ethnic minority communities, young people, and women and girls.
- The [Arts Council England](#) which aims to foster and support the country's artistic talent and create more opportunities for people to experience and participate in life-changing artistic experiences.

There is also [Awards for All](#), which offers small grants to projects in one or more of the above areas. The maximum grant will increase to £10,000 in 2006.

You do not need to be a registered charity to apply, but your group must have charitable aims.

Company Giving

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.

More often companies will give 'in-kind' contributions. This may involve contributions like staff time, rather than cash donations. For more information contact Business in the Community who may be able to find a company which is interested in supporting your group in this way.

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. You may want to read the Charity Commission's guidance on their website entitled 'Fund-raising through partnerships with companies'.

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 a local, regional or national Government body such as the Council, Health Authority (or Primary Care Trust) or Education Authority.

Strategic grants are given to voluntary groups for work that the Government or local agencies have identified as a priority. To find out more, or for guidance and application forms, see the Council's guide 'Small Grants to Voluntary Organisations' available at www.leeds.gov.uk.

There are also small grants of up to £5,000 for community groups through Neighbourhood Renewal. This Community Chest programme is administered in Leeds by Leeds Voice and Resourcing the Community.

Also look at www.governmentfunding.org.uk which provides details of grants to the voluntary and community sector through various government departments.

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). The Charities Information Bureau can provide advice on different types of European funding.

4: Further help

Voluntary Action-Leeds



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info@val.org.uk



www.val.org.uk

Training in fundraising is available through Voluntary Action-Leeds. Contact us for details.

Arts Council England	0845 300 6200	www.artscouncil.org.uk
Awards for All	08456 00 20 40	www.awardsforall.org.uk
Big Lottery Fund	08454 10 20 30	www.biglottery.org.uk
Business in the Community	0870 600 2482	www.bitc.org.uk
Charity Commission	0870 333 0123	www.charity-commission.gov.uk
Charities Information Bureau	01924 239 063	www.cibfunding.org.uk
Leeds Voice	0113 277 2227	www.leedsvoice.org.uk
Heritage Lottery Fund	020 7591 6042	www.hlf.org.uk
Resourcing the Community	0113 380 5622	www.resourcingthecommunity.org.uk
Sport England	020 7273 1500	www.sportengland.org
Directory of Social Change		www.dsc.org.uk
Leeds City Council		www.leeds.gov.uk
Government Funding		www.governmentfunding.org.uk

5: Further Reading

Charity Commission Publications



CC20 Charities and Fund-raising from: www.charity-commission.gov.uk



Fundraising-through partnership with companies (available from: http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/supportingcharities/pdfs/com_fin2.pdf)

Voluntary Action-Leeds

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