community development foundation

Funding research

Introduction

There is no shortage of information about funding. It's useful to refer to several sources regularly, to keep track of opportunities. Funding deadlines come up quickly and it helps to have identified the funder and planned your application early so that you have the necessary time to submit a strong application. Knowing as much as possible about the person or organisation you are approaching for funding is important. Someone once said that there are only three key elements to good fundraising:

– research, research and research!

Some types of funding you can research

- Central government
- Local (and regional) authorities
- European funding (often more relevant for bigger organisations)
- Lottery funds
- The corporate sector
- Individual and major donors
- Charitable trusts and foundations

Useful links to information on funding and fundraising

A great way of keeping informed about the latest funding opportunities is to do a regular check of key funding websites – maybe every fortnight or every month. Some are free, but many require a paid annual subscription. Below are just some of the websites we have found useful. (Please note that these links are a suggestion and not an endorsement.)

Funding websites

All these sites aim to provide the latest funding information for the British charitable and non-profit sector, from central government, the National Lottery, devolved governing bodies, the EU and quangos – some are more detailed and focused than others. Many have email newsletters to which you can subscribe.

www.fundingcentral.org.uk
www.governmentfunding.org.uk
www.lotteryfunding.org.uk
www.fundinginformation.org
www.funderfinder.org.uk
www.grantfinder.co.uk
www.access-funds.co.uk
www.grantsonline.org.uk
www.j4b.co.uk
www.fundersonline.org
www.fundraising.co.uk
www.ukfundraising.co.uk

www.co-financing.co.uk
www.fit4funding.org.uk

Useful information and resources

http://www.dsc.org.uk/Home
Directory of Social Change - information and training for the voluntary sector.

www.communityfoundations.org.uk
Central website for the Community Foundation Network.

www.acf.org.uk
The Association of Charitable Foundations (ACF) is the support organisation for grant-making trusts and foundations. The website provides facts and figures about trusts and foundations in the UK, and also links to the websites of many of ACF's members. Information leaflets can be downloaded from the website.

www.charitycommission.gov.uk
You can search for any registered charity on this website (including charitable trusts and foundations).

www.refugeesintobusiness.org.uk
Toolkit for advisers in refugee community organisations to support refugees in setting up their own businesses, and other useful resources.

www.youthinformation.com
Resources for working with young people and young adults.

www.ncvo-vol.org.uk
Website of the National Council of Voluntary Organisations.

www.philanthropyuk.org.uk
This website includes latest news and developments in Philanthropy.

www.knowhownonprofit.org
Information and resources for the non-profit sector.

www.cdf.org.uk
Information about government funding programmes managed by CDF, such as Grassroots Grants and Faiths in Action.

Corporate and individual donors

www.companygiving.org.uk
An online search facility about corporate and company giving (subscription payable).

www.factary.com
Factary works with both fundraisers and philanthropists to help organisations find funding and partners.

www.prospectingforgold.co.uk
Prospecting for Gold researches potential donors for the non-profit sector.

www.ccr.co.uk
Helps charities and not-for-profit organisations search for information on individuals.

Making a good funding application

Below are a few tips for avoiding common errors, to help you create a good funding application. They are based on the advice giving to applicants of the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund.

Before you apply:

- Begin by reading through the guidance notes to get a good understanding of what the fund is about.
- Make sure that the work you want to do is relevant to the funding scheme you have identified, and that your organisation is eligible to apply.
- Research your project properly. Funders will check whether the amount of money requested in your budget is realistic in light of your objectives, the work you want to do appears viable, and your plan is clearly worked out. Make sure you are offering something of benefit that meets the needs of your community. The outcomes you describe need to be realistic and relevant to your project.
- If funding is awarded under several different categories, make sure you apply under the most appropriate one.
- Read any guidance that helps you fill out the form or gives details on how to answer each question. Don't miss out or change any questions. If you are asked to tick only one box, make sure that you tick only one box. Where relevant, your answers need to reflect the information in your constitution and annual accounts.
- Answer the questions asked in a straightforward and concise manner. Decisions will be made based on what you say, not how much you write. If there is a word limit, stick to it.
- Make sure that you sign the form. It sounds obvious, but you'd be surprised how many people forget to.
- Make sure your form reaches the funder by the specified deadline with all the necessary paperwork attached (for example, constitution/rules of the organisation, annual accounts, an up-to-date budget or cash flow) – and with any extra pages required to answer questions if your form is handwritten.