

Hints and Tips for Funding Applications (advice provided by SSVCA)

These are testing times for anyone who is making funding applications, so we have put together this list of 10 tips which we hope will help whichever grant you are applying for.

1. Apply for the right grant – When you see a grant which you think will be all right for you, check the application criteria very carefully. For online applications there is usually a section on the website which says grant criteria – but you also need to look in the exclusions section. The grant may be perfect for the activities of your group, but it may only be for charities, for example, and therefore no good for you if you aren't a charity. If there is a helpline or if you are dealing with a local grant giver, for example the Somerset Community Foundation, phone them if you are not sure whether your application will be welcome.

2. Don't make the application super professional – Though you do want to answer the questions fully. Some bodies, like Awards for All, positively don't like applicants to use professional fundraisers. They like to get a sense of what the organisation is like from the way the questions are answered. But if you are applying for larger amounts, for example for new buildings, you may want to get professional advice and/or consult someone who has been successful in funding applications before for a similar project.

3. Don't be afraid to repeat information – Lengthy application forms from larger organisations, e.g. some Big Lottery awards, may be assessed by more than one person, with the application sections divided between different people. So if two questions seem to be asking for the same sort of information, then just give it again with the slightly different slant which the question is asking for.

4. Fill in the boxes – When filling in applications, if there is a large box you need to fill it with information. This is your chance to explain in detail about your project. On the other hand don't expand the box too much when doing an online application.

5. Show evidence of need – Every application form asks about the need for your project. This is very obvious to you because you are already working on it. But if you are applying for new funds for an existing project, it is a good opportunity to think about the continuing need for your group. For example, if it is a youth group are more and more young people turning up, if you are a group which is for people with disabilities, have you consulted professionals about the number of people who have a need for your service. If you are starting a new group you will have done some research on the need. For example you will have tried to discover if there are people doing similar things locally. You can include all this in your application. Statistics will impress, as long as you don't use too many. Somerset County Council is a useful source of statistical information.

FUNDING SUPPORT

If you look up your local county councillor on the SCC website, next to their name is a link to a PDF file on their local ward, which will give you a wealth of

information under headings such as Age Structure, Teenage Pregnancy Rates etc. You can, for example, find out that Frome South has above average numbers of children and young people, to support your bid for funds for a holiday club or that Wells has a higher than average number of people over 75, to support your bid for the Active Living Centre. All the council's information is based on the 2007 census and other recent statistics and much of it is linked to the Somerset Local Area agreement. The PDF files also signpost you to other national sources of information.

6. Show Local support – It is worth contacting your local Somerset county councillor to ask him/her to support your cause. They should have money to allocate this financial year. They may not be able to give you any funding for your particular project, but may well be quite happy to support your bid or act as a referee. The same applies to parish and town councillors – they can lend support and act as referees, if you don't have anyone else in mind for this. Some funders expect to see such people supporting your application. For other funders, you may want to use an expert who works with your group in a professional capacity, if, for example, your group relates to some medical condition.

7. Make sure the budget adds up – Look carefully at the box where you have to put what you are applying for. You usually need to put the whole cost of the project, which includes money you have already got or hope to get, for example, from your own fund raising. This shows funders that you aren't just relying on their money, but are working hard yourselves to raise money as well. Make sure the figures add up i.e. own fundraising plus grant asked for equals total cost of project.

8. Check the application very carefully – Give it to someone who doesn't know anything about your activity and see if they can understand what it is about. Then ask them to proof read it carefully for you as well.

9. Make sure you have all your policies in place – Really you should have done this before applying, but make sure you send all the extras asked for, like the child/ vulnerable adult protection policy, along with the form.

10. We are here to help – Our Development Worker, Becky Britten will be happy to help with application forms. We can advise which grants would be best for you to try and help with advice on filling in the forms. Although we can't guarantee success, we will do our best to help. For more information please call Becky on 01935 475914.

FUNDING SUPPORT

Children and Young People

Children in Need – grants to organisations that work with disadvantaged children and young people.

Four deadlines in 2010. Next deadlines 15th April, 15th July & 15th October. They are keen to receive local applications for under £10,000 www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey

Youth Music – www.youthmusic.org.uk Check website for availability.

Heritage Lottery Fund – Young Roots – Between £3,000 and £25,000 available for young people between the ages of 13 and 25 to find out more about their heritage www.hlf.org.uk

Media Box – funds for disadvantaged 13 -19 year olds to produce creative media projects, using film, television, print, radio or the net £1,500 - £40,000 www.media-box.co.uk

Hilden Charitable Trust – Up to £1,000 funding for summer play schemes. Application forms available from April. www.hildencharitablefund.org.uk

Steve Redgrave Trust – Focus on improving young peoples lives in relation to medical, social, educational and economic needs www.steveredgrave.com

Somerset Crimebeat – Awards of £500 available for projects lead by young people to reduce crime and disorder and/or support youth activities. 'Google' Somerset CrimeBeat for website and apply online or contact Simon Selby on 07768598106.

Somerset Youth Bank – Applications open to young people aged 11 to 19 for the benefit of young people, either for things to do or places to go (new or enhanced facilities) £350 maximum grant. Contact

Sarah Stevens on 01823 447129 or sstevens2@somerset.gov.uk Or try website

www.somersetyouth.co.uk

Help Yourselves Awards - run jointly by Save the Children and British Gas. Awards of £1,000 were given for projects which help young people to get involved in community projects. Check website for next funding round. www.helpyourselves.org.uk

Change it Awards For young people between 11 & 18 who have made or want to make a positive change in their school, community or youth organisation.

Check website for new schemes. www.changeit.org.uk

Somerset Play Forum Small Play grants aimed at promoting natural outdoor play. Up to £400 available for schemes involving young people up to 19. www.somersetplay.org.uk

Comic Relief Projects for young people aged between 11 and 21 with mental health and alcohol problems, also those abused by trafficking and prostitution. See details under Age, Disability etc

Terrence Higgins Trust grants of up to £1,000 available for projects led by young people related to educating young people about relationships and sexual health. Check website for next deadline

www.tht.org.uk/youknowyou

Age, Disability & Disadvantage

South West Foundation – with Esmee Fairbairn Grants of up to £1000 available for small rural local community groups and networking. Could be available for groups turned down for Grassroots grants.

www.southwestfoundation.org.uk or phone 01275333666

Awards for All – See above

Comic Relief now administered by Somerset Community Foundation www.somersetcf.org.uk .

Current priorities are projects involving young people aged 11- 21, older people, mental health, sport, domestic violence, disadvantaged communities and rural areas.

UIA Charitable Foundation – Up to £1,000 for voluntary organizations helping victims of domestic violence, drug and alcohol addiction and the rehabilitation of offenders. Deadlines end of July and end of January www.uia.co.uk

Age Concern England – Two grants available, up to £120 for smaller items that may benefit a group, club or individual and up to £2,000, generally for capital items e.g. a computer.

Age Concern Somerset also has grants up to £250 for projects relating to older people. For both grants contact 01823 448971 or email info@ageconcernsomerset.org.uk

Yapp Charitable Trust – ongoing costs for small registered charities up to £3000. For examples of projects supported see www.yappcharitabletrust.org.uk

Buildings, playing fields and local communities

Funds for Historic Buildings is a good place to look for a list of funding www.ffhb.org.uk

Your Heritage www.hlf.org.uk aim to help groups who want to involve the community in the preservation and use of heritage. Grants of between £3,000 and £50,000 for heritage projects including building preservation and community projects.

The Conservation Foundation – Various awards available including O2 Award of up to £1,000 called **Its Your Community** www.itsyourcommunity.co.uk Also Wessex Watermark Awards for Environmental Projects www.conservationfoundation.co.uk

Somerset Global Grants – grants of up to £10,000 for projects aimed at helping people overcome the barriers they face in accessing learning, employment or volunteering 01823 355630 or globalgrants@somerset.gov.uk

NEW GRANT Somerset County Council Rural Services Fund – grants for community groups and organisations, 'not for profit' businesses, community planning organisations and local authorities for capital investment in new projects for example community-owned shops, post offices, or co-operatives providing local services for local people. Contact Paul Chadwick 01823 358060 & 01749 812420

(Wed-Fri when not in County Hall) pchadwick@somerset.gov.uk

Somerset Community Foundation - Rural Grants Programme – up to £1,000 for local community projects and new voluntary groups in rural areas. Many other funds also available see www.somersetcf.org.uk

Somerset Grass Roots Grants – Up to £5,000 available over 3 years for local voluntary groups with an income of less than £30,000 for core costs, capital expenditure and projects For guidelines and application forms go to www.somersetcf.org.uk or phone 01749 344949

Esmee Fairbairn Foundation – grants and loans tend to be for larger projects – most grants are around £50,000 for cultural life, education, the natural environment and enabled disadvantaged people to play a greater role in society. No deadline. www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk

Lankelly Chase Foundation – grants for local charities including arts and heritage, as well as disadvantaged groups in society, also grants for community enterprises www.lankellychase.org.uk

Trusthouse Charitable Foundation – Small grant scheme up to £10,000, larger grants up to £30,000 for projects relating to health care, disability, community support, the arts and education. Also similar projects abroad www.thetrusthousecharitablefoundation.org.uk

Connecting Communities Plus – grants to meet the specific needs of black and minority ethnic groups www.cdf.org.uk

The Big Lottery - Reaching Communities – grants of between £10,000 and £500,000 for projects aimed at helping people most in need, especially those who are hard to reach. Now funding a greater range of activities including out of school clubs & family learning Funding can include capital grants up to a maximum of £200,000. www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

Sport and the arts

Sport England will support projects which increase participation for groups not currently doing sporting activities, particularly those from minority groups. New small grant scheme £300 to £10,000 available for capital & revenue projects. Sportsmatch £10,000 - £25,000 available to match funding already secured. Sustainable Facilities Fund for capital projects. www.sportengland.org.uk

The Football Foundation grants include Capital Projects Scheme, Goal Post Safety Scheme, Community Education Scheme, Junior Kit Scheme etc www.footballfoundation.org.uk 0845 345 4555.

Foundation for Sport and the Arts – money from football pools. Fund finishing in March 2012. For projects aimed at increasing the numbers of people participating in sport and the arts, particularly young people. 0151 259 5505 www.thefsa.net

Lords Taverners awards for cricket equipment and non-turf pitches for clubs and schools. Also support for young people with disabilities to take part in sport and recreation. www.lordstaverners.org

Arts Council England - grants of between £1,000 and £100,000 available for projects relating to the arts www.artscouncil.org.uk 0845 300 6200

Peter Harrison Foundation – grants mainly for capital projects which help disabled or otherwise disadvantaged people to fulfill their potential through sport. www.peterharrisonfoundation.org

Other Funding

Parish Councils have a limited amount of funding.

Community Budget - County Councillors have £10,000 each to give to local projects which benefit communities. Contact your local councilor. Contact details are on the SCC website.

Bath Building Society Check website for local branches and eligibility. Awards of £100 and £500 plus balloon fight tickets to raffle for community activities www.bathbuildingsociety.co.uk

Banks, building societies and big stores also have grant schemes e.g. **Abbey National Awards** of up to £2,500 for projects benefiting disadvantaged people. For registered charities only.

www.aboutabbey.com

Lloyds TSB Foundation Grants for registered charities only. Support for projects involving disadvantaged people. New online initial application form. www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk

Nationwide Small grants Programme – up to £5,000 for registered charities for projects related to domestic violence, prisoners families and young offenders www.nationwidefoundation.org.uk

Britannia Building Society - Britannia Foundation Between £1,000 and £25,000 for registered charities and schools for projects relating to numeracy or financial literacy usually for capital expenditure www.britannia.co.uk click on home page, about us, then Britannia in the community.

Co-op Dividend Fund for community and voluntary groups as well as charities. Funding of between £100 and £5,000 to support projects that benefit the local communities in which at least one Co-operative group business trades. www.co-operative.coop/membership/Community-Fund/

B&Q One Planet Living Grant between £50 and £500 worth of materials available for community groups, within 20 miles of your local store. Contact the store manager. www.diy.com click on social responsibility.

NLDC Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities capital or revenue grants from £1,000 to £7,000 available to support learning leading to economic activity for people over 18 available in certain areas. Deadlines throughout the year. Contact Pauline McCarthy on 01823 355733 or pmccarthy@somerset.gov.uk

JA Clark Charitable Trust Projects orientated towards social change in areas of health, education, peace, preservation of the earth and the arts. Particularly interested in the work of small, new or innovative projects in the South West. Contact Mrs P Grant 01458 842374 or email jactrust@ukonline.co.uk

First Group PLC Community Fund Funding for projects relating to young people, health and the environment. Applications must be supported in the form of a letter from a FirstGroup employee.

www.firstgroup.com/community/charity_and_sponsorship.php

The Well Being of Yeovil Community Association supporting worthy causes, big and small, which benefit those living in Yeovil and the surrounding community.

This Committee meets regularly through the year in January, March, June and September and

receives applications for help from voluntary organisations involved in charitable work for the Yeovil Community. Where appropriate, advice is given and contributions made towards capital projects (equipment etc.), but as a matter of Policy does not normally make contributions towards the running costs (revenue expenditure) of these

organisations. For more information or to make an application please contact the Association on Tel: 01935 812922, or visit their website on www.yeovilwellbeingcharity.org

For more information and advice on making applications please call Becky Britten or email

beckybritten@ssvca.org.uk