

Big Lottery Fund 2010 to 2015 - The New Programme

Introduction

The Big Lottery Fund in Scotland launched its new programme on the 30th of June. The fund has been closed to applications for almost 2 years whilst a re-evaluation of the priorities was undertaken. The new programme is remarkably similar in structure to the old programme, but on closer inspection, the types of initiatives to be supported are now much more tightly defined.

Programme Structure

A total of £400M is to be made available from 2010 to 2015, with 80% currently ring-fenced for third sector organisations (i.e. public sector organisations may currently access up to 20% of the funding). Projects can request funding of between £10000 and £1M for up to 5 years of activity. 100% of project costs can be supported. Applications can be submitted by voluntary organisations; local authorities; social enterprises; private companies (no profit making allowed) and community councils. To be eligible organisations must have a written governing document i.e. constitution, set of rules or trust deed, 3 unrelated people on the management committee, bank or building society account in the name of your group which requires 2 unrelated signatories and have approved annual accounts, signed and dated by the chair, secretary or treasurer which cannot be older than 12 months.

There are 3 key investment areas (which will be familiar to those who looked at the previous programme):

- Supporting 21st Century Life
- Life Transitions
- Growing Community Assets

The new funding programme also indicates that other areas/issues will be targeted for support and that these initiatives will be developed over time. The issues/areas to be addressed include: domestic abuse, support for asylum seekers & refugees, lone parents moving into employment, developing community spaces.

Supporting 21st Century Life

This strand will fund projects that:

- Build stronger families and communities
- Help families most in need to deal with the challenges of family life by taking action to prevent poverty and disadvantage and give children a better chance in life.
- Parenting and family support
- Tailored support to help people access services
- Mentoring, befriending or peer support
- Play
- Volunteering
- Outdoor experiences

This strand has 5 outcomes and projects must address at least 1 of the outcomes:

- Children at risk of isolation are successful learners, confident and maintain better relationships with their families and communities - *this could include the emotional and social development of children in care, children at risk, children affected by parental substance misuse, children who care for another family member*
- Lone parents, kinship carers, families at risk are more resilient and have improved relationships
- Carers, older people and lone parent families cope better with financial crisis and have reduced financial stress
- Families with caring responsibilities are more able to cope and better connected to their communities - *this could include family members who are old, long term ill, disabled or those who are caring for someone for the first time*
- More older people live at home and have better social connections and relationships

Life Transitions

This strand seeks to support individuals at key times of change in their lives - making transitions such as leaving care or stopping people making unexpected transitions, like falling into debt. The strand will fund projects such as:

- Supported employment
- Projects creating new jobs
- Mentoring, befriending & peer support
- Building financial literacy, financial capability and financial inclusions
- Developing soft skills such as communication skills

This strand has 6 outcomes and projects must address at least 1 of the outcomes:

- More vulnerable young people are in a job, training or education, in a home of their choice and have a positive attitude to their future - *guiding vulnerable young people towards adulthood, including helping them get a job for the first time*
- More economically inactive people are in touch with job-seeking services - *engaging people who are disengaged from the world of work, focusing on economically inactive people*
- More people previously outside the labour market access sustainable jobs created in enterprises and organisations working towards social aims
- Fewer people with serious mental health or substance misuse issues enter the criminal justice system or experience homelessness - *addressing the connections between addiction, offending, homelessness and mental health*
- People who are homeless or offending and experiencing serious mental health or substance misuse problems access a full range of appropriate services - *addressing the connections between addiction, offending, homelessness and mental health*
- More people from disadvantaged groups have key financial products

Growing Community Assets

Growing Community Assets allows local groups and local people to exercise control and influence over their own future through the ownership of assets. These are usually physical assets such as land, buildings or equipment but could also include other asset types such as energy.

This strand has 4 outcomes and projects must aim to achieve all of the outcomes:

- Communities work together to own and develop local assets
- Communities are sustainable and improve their economic, environmental and social future through the ownership and development of local assets
- Communities develop skills and knowledge through the ownership and development of local assets
- Communities overcome disadvantage and inequality through the ownership and development of local assets

Application Process

The application process is a 2-stage process. The stage 1 application is available on the Big Lottery Fund website, but the stage 2 application will only be released to those organisations that are successful at Stage 1.

Projects submitting a stage 1 application should hear the outcome within 6 weeks, whilst the stage 2 applications should be assessed within 4 months.

Development Funding

The Big Lottery Fund is offering development funding to projects to enable them to strengthen the project and ensure a best fit between what the project seeks to do and what the Big Lottery Fund wants it's funding to achieve. The funding could be used to develop a project's outcomes, increase the project's ability to deliver those outcomes, improve the scope and depth of consultation with project users and to help assess the viability of a project. It can also cover the cost of architects fees and feasibility studies.

There is an application form for development funding which should be submitted alongside a Stage 1 bid.

http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_investing-in-communities.htm?regioncode=-sco