



FUNDING FOR VOLUNTEERING

a funding information leaflet from *funderfinder*

The governments of each of the countries of the UK make funds available to encourage and support volunteering. Grants are usually given on a two or three year cycle but the details vary from country to country:

ENGLAND

Opportunities for Volunteering (OFV) is a Department of Health initiative which provides grants to local health and social care organisations in England. OFV grants aim to enable organisations to involve volunteers in the delivery of their services.

The Opportunities for Volunteering scheme is run by the Department of Health for England. The current funding period is 2007-2010. The grants are distributed through 16 national voluntary organisations (agents):

Age Concern England, Barnardo's, BASSAC, The Children's Society, Churches Together in England, Community Service Volunteers, CRISIS, MENCAP, Mind, NACRO, National Association of Hospital and Community Friends, RADAR, RNIB, SCOPE, United Kingdom Council on Deafness and Volunteering England (previously the Consortium on Opportunities for Volunteering, for projects which are not related to any of the specialist agents listed above).

You have to apply to the most appropriate national agent and you can only apply to one national agent per year. The closing dates for the different schemes vary between distributors.

Grants are available up to £35,000 per year but this is lower with some distributors. Grants can be used for administrative, supervisory or developmental costs, including salaries and overheads. The capital element of the grant is limited to £20,000 for any one project. Not all distributors will necessarily make capital grants. Projects should be local in focus. Guidance notes say that: "As a benchmark, around 59% of the volunteers engaged in projects across the scheme must be unemployed."

More information

The best place to start is with Volunteering England's website, www.volunteering.org.uk/WhatWeDo/Funding/ofvfunding/. It gives full details not only of the General Fund which they administer, but also details of the other 15 national agents, their grant schemes and closing dates. Alternatively, contact Volunteering England's Grant Directorate at Regents Wharf, 8 All Saints Street, London N1 9RL, tel. 0845 305 6979.

Guidance notes are available from Department of Health website: www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/HowDHworks/DHrecruitment/DH_4123259 or contact Department of Health Voluntary and Community (VCS) Partnership Team, 1N35 Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds LS2 7UE .

V was set up to deliver the recommendations of the Russell Commission on youth action and engagement. Its aim is to inspire a new generation of young volunteers (aged 16-25) in England and enable a lasting change in the quality, quantity and diversity of youth volunteering. Funding is available to organisations to create new youth volunteering opportunities. There are several different funding programmes so check their website for details of the various funding rounds and application dates: www.wearev.com or contact them at: 5th Floor, Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AF, tel: 020 7960 7000.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Funded by the Department for Social Development, the **Community Volunteering Scheme (CVS)** is designed to support and develop a wide range of projects that promote volunteering opportunities (by voluntary and community organisations) targeted at groups of people who are under-represented in the volunteering population and unemployed people, including people not in paid work. This includes volunteer activities aimed at involving young people aged 16-25, people from minority ethnic communities and people with disabilities.

The current funding round is 2006-2009. There is a main (three year) grants programme (applications are closed until 2009) and a small grants programme for applications up to £1000, which is awarded annually.

More information from: Volunteer Development Agency, 129 Ormeau Road, Belfast BT7 1SH, tel: 028 9023 6100, website: [www.volunteering-ni.org/what we do/community volunteering/](http://www.volunteering-ni.org/what_we_do/community_volunteering/)

SCOTLAND

In Scotland the Voluntary Action Fund has a number of different funding programmes aimed encouraging volunteering:

- **Volunteering Scotland Grant Scheme** resources projects within voluntary organisations, which ensure that those previously excluded from or unaware of volunteering have the information, support, training and encouragement to participate as volunteers. Substantial grants for one, two or three years are available, as well as one-off small grants of £5,000 to smaller organisations. There is an annual deadline for the large grants, but applications for small grants are considered throughout the year.
- **Scottish Refugee Integration Fund** has three themes, one of which is about improving access to public services, thus enabling asylum seekers and refugees to be better integrated and supported. Access to volunteering is one of the areas which can be funded.

Check the website for full details: www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk or contact Voluntary Action Fund, Unit 14 Dunfermline Business Centre, Izatt Avenue, Dunfermline KY11 3BZ, tel: 01383 620780.

WALES

Volunteering In Wales is the name of the Welsh fund, administered by Wales Council for Voluntary Action. It is intended to help voluntary organisations recruit new volunteers and provide support and training so that they are able to make a positive impact for the benefit of their communities.

The fund seeks to:

- support Welsh projects whose aims are mainly achieved by volunteer effort and support
- support not for profit organisations whose primary purpose in seeking grant support is to recruit, train and place volunteers
- encourage good standards and practice in volunteering
- support those people at risk of social exclusion through the medium of volunteering.

Grants can be for up to three years, with a maximum of £25,000 in the first year, £12,500 in the second year, and £6,250 in the third year are possible. Applications for the 2009/2010 round are likely to open in late summer 2008. For more information check their website at www.wcva.org.uk or contact Jemma Ward or Helen Lloyd at WCVA, tel: 029 2043 1700.

WCVA also administers the **Youth Volunteering (Russell Commission) Fund**, aimed at encouraging young people to volunteer. There are two levels of grant - up to £10,000 for Opportunities project funding, and up to £5,000 for Promotion project funding. Deadlines for applications are June and November.

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