



# HELP FOR SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS

a funding information leaflet from *funderfinder*

Social entrepreneurs are people who run businesses in an entrepreneurial manner, but for public or social benefit, rather than to make money. Governments in England and Scotland are keen encourage social entrepreneurship and to build capacity and have put money into funds for the purpose. Some of the main sources of help are listed below.

## **UnLtd**

UnLtd - the Foundation for Social Entrepreneurs - is the organisation chosen by the Millennium Commission to administer the Millennium Awards Trust, a £100 million permanent endowment fund that will ensure people across the UK will continue to benefit from Lottery money, through the Millennium Awards Scheme, for generations to come. UnLtd was set up by seven leading UK organisations to develop the role of social entrepreneurs as a force for positive change in the UK. It provides not only awards, but also tools and resources for social entrepreneurs.

### UnLtd Millennium Awards

UnLtd's Millennium Awards provide practical and financial support to people who have both the ideas and commitment to develop projects which will benefit their community. The Awards are for people over the age of 16 and projects must:

- benefit the public or a community in the UK
- be in need of an UnLtd Millennium Award to ensure their success
- offer a learning opportunity for the applicant(s)
- be either a new initiative or clear expansion of an existing project.

There are currently two levels of awards:

- Level One awards provide funding and support of £500 - £5,000, (with an average award size of £2,000) for people just getting started on a project. The Award can be used for the things needed to start or develop the project: materials, equipment, renting rooms for meetings and so on. At Level 1 several people can come together to develop a project as a group. The awards are for people who:
  - have an idea which will benefit their community
  - have thought about how they will run their project
  - have some evidence that there is a need for their project
  - will learn a new skill from carrying out their project.
- Level Two awards, of up to £15,000 enable individuals with promising projects to expand and develop them. These awards are given out in two phases each year, once in the spring and once in the autumn. Level 2 award applications are encouraged from inspiring individuals who can clearly articulate a compelling vision to bring about social change. At Level 2 UnLtd is looking for entrepreneurs who can demonstrate a viable business case for their project development and a clear social

need for their work. Applicants should have usually been operating their projects for over a year.

Full details of the awards are on their website: [www.unltd.org.uk](http://www.unltd.org.uk), you can apply online or phone 0845 850 1122 for an application pack.

### **Further information**

Head Office: 123 Whitecross Street, Islington, London EC1Y 8JJ, tel: 020 7566 1100

Birmingham: Unit G2, The Ground Floor, The Arch, 48-52 Floodgate Street, Birmingham B5 5SL, tel: 0121 766 4570

Bradford: 15 Hallfield Road, Bradford BD1 3RP, tel: 01274 750630

Northern Ireland: Room 55-57, Scottish Mutual Building, 16 Donegal Square South, Belfast BT1 5JG, tel: 028 9024 4007

Scotland: 3rd Floor, Epic House, 30-32 Cadogan Street, Glasgow G2 7LP, tel: 0141 221 2322, and 54 Manor Place, Edinburgh EH3 7EH, tel: 0131 226 7333 (see also below)

Wales: 4th Floor, Baltic House, Mount Stuart Square, Cardiff CF10 5FH, tel: 029 2048 4811

### **Social Entrepreneurs Fund**

[www.socialentrepreneursfund.co.uk](http://www.socialentrepreneursfund.co.uk)

In Scotland, Firstport and Scotland Unltd work together to provide advice and funding opportunities for new start social entrepreneurs. Two main funds are available to individuals who have great ideas and the vision, passion, drive and commitment to develop them:

- Social Entrepreneurs Fund - the Scottish Government's £1 million fund aimed at individuals with ideas to start up new social enterprise in Scotland.
- Millennium Awards Trust - Scotland UnLtd's Millennium Awards.

The two funds have been drawn together into one joint programme, with a single application form and process for both funds.

### **Bridges Social Entrepreneurs Fund**

[www.bridgesventures.com/social-entrepreneurs-fund](http://www.bridgesventures.com/social-entrepreneurs-fund)

This is an initiative of the Bridges Charitable Trust to address the funding gap often faced by fast growing social enterprises looking to scale. It does not give grants or loans, but invests in social enterprises based in England that have a clear social mission, and have the ability to grow to scale and increase their social impact and the ability to generate surpluses to repay financing.

### **School for Social Entrepreneurs**

[www.sse.org.uk](http://www.sse.org.uk)

The SSE runs practical learning programmes aimed at helping develop the individual entrepreneur and their organisation. It has regional schools across the country and the website contains links and information about the resources available to social entrepreneurs and social enterprises in the UK.

Leaflet supplied by