



# STATUTORY FUNDING

a funding information leaflet from *funderfinder*

Statutory funding is public money distributed by the government, through a variety of routes, in the form of grants. It is one of the most important sources of income for voluntary and community groups. There are numerous pots of money and these are constantly changing in line with changes in government policy. Administration is by a variety of agencies, not always local authorities, and this makes it quite hard to find out about all the statutory money that might be appropriate.

The main distributors of statutory funding are:

- Country Governments (for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland)
- Central Government (for England)
- Regional Government
- Local Government
- European Funding
- Health Funding
- Other agencies e.g. Arts Councils, Sports Councils

## **Country Governments**

### Scotland

The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) publishes advice on fundraising on its website, which includes details of statutory funding. See:

[www.scvo.org.uk/scvo/Information/Money.aspx](http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvo/Information/Money.aspx)

The Scottish Executive produced *A Guide for the Voluntary Sector to Scottish Executive Grants 2005-6* which can still be downloaded from:

[www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/08/2291032/10331](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/08/2291032/10331), although it may be limited in its usefulness as it is three years old.

The Scottish Government website lists the voluntary sector grants available as at April 2007: [www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/15300/funding/funding](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/15300/funding/funding). General enquiries on voluntary sector issues should be addressed to: Voluntary Issues Unit, Area 3A, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ, tel: 0131 244 3540, fax: 0131 244 5508, e-mail: [Thirdsector@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Thirdsector@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

### Wales

The Welsh Assembly has a number of grant schemes for the voluntary sector. The Welsh Assembly website is <http://www.wales.gov.uk>. Some schemes are administered by other agencies, in particular, Wales Council for Voluntary Action at Baltic House, Mount Stuart Street, Cardiff Bay, Cardiff CF10 5FH, tel: 029 2043 1700, website:

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

WCVA produces a range of information sheets on funding in Wales, which includes funding from the National Assembly, WCVA's schemes and grant-making trusts. These are available to be downloaded from their website. In addition, their website also gives details of a whole range of funding sources for organisations in Wales, including charitable trusts.

### Northern Ireland

The Department for Social Development's Voluntary and Community Unit is the main department dealing with the voluntary sector. Contact them at: Lighthouse Building, 1 Cromac Place, Gasworks Business Park, Ormeau Road, Belfast BT7 2JB, tel: 028 9082 9424, email: [vcu@dsdni.gov.uk](mailto:vcu@dsdni.gov.uk), website:

[www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/voluntary\\_and\\_community.htm](http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/voluntary_and_community.htm)

There is also a website giving details of grants available from government departments. Organisations must register online first: [www.volcomgrantsni.gov.uk/](http://www.volcomgrantsni.gov.uk/)

The Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA) produces *Grant Tracker*, an interactive software package which contains information on sources of funding available to the voluntary and community sector in Northern Ireland. Updated quarterly and available on CD and online, the annual subscription is: £85 (NICVA members), £130 (non members). Contact them on tel: 028 9087 7777, website: [www.grant-tracker.org](http://www.grant-tracker.org)

*Much of what follows in is only applicable to England, but do look at European Funding (p.5), Other Agencies (p.6), and Finding Out More (p.6).*

### **Central Government (England)**

Most central government departments have a funding programme open to voluntary organisations, but these are generally for organisations with a national remit for piloting new, innovative projects which can be copied elsewhere.

Grants schemes change frequently and it is difficult to keep up to date with what money is available and when. The easiest way to search for information on grants from government departments is to use [www.governmentfunding.org.uk](http://www.governmentfunding.org.uk). This details grants from the following departments:

- Cabinet Office
- Department for Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform
- Department for Children, Schools and Families
- Department for Communities and Local Government
- Department for Culture, Media and Sport
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- Department for International Development
- Department for Transport
- Department of Health
- Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- HM Revenue & Customs
- Home Office
- Ministry of Defence
- Ministry of Justice
- Government Offices for the Regions

## Capacitybuilders

Capacitybuilders is a non-departmental public body (NDPB) set up in 2006 to take over the management of the Government's ChangeUp programme and to work with other funders to build capacity of the Third Sector. It aims to ensure that by 2014 the needs of such groups will be met by support which is available nationwide, structured for maximum efficiency, offering excellent provision accessible to all, truly reflecting and promoting diversity and sustainably funded. It aims to:

- improve the quality and effectiveness of support for third sector organisations
- demonstrate to key stakeholders the benefits of support services
- ensure equal access for all third sector organisations to mainstream support services, and will target resources where necessary to address the needs of particular excluded groups
- influence funding policy and practice to ensure sustainable support to third sector organisations
- engage with the public sector.

It intends to do this by:

- managing and distributing grant funds
- commissioning innovative approaches and facilitating learning across the sector
- investing in the support organisations and networks working with and in diverse communities
- implementing specific programmes relating to the broad equalities and diversity agenda
- working not only with general support bodies in the third sector but also those specialist and functional groups who themselves are offering assistance to their frontline constituencies

It originally set up Hubs as national support services designed to improve the quality of support available to the voluntary and community sector. However, these disappeared in April 2008 and have been replaced by nine National Support Services in the areas of:

- campaigning and advocacy
- change - adapting to social change
- collaboration and partnership
- communications and marketing
- equalities and diversity
- governance and leadership
- income generation
- performance management
- volunteering

For more details check their common website: [www.improvingsupport.org.uk](http://www.improvingsupport.org.uk).

The Capacitybuilders main website is: [www.capacitybuilders.org.uk](http://www.capacitybuilders.org.uk)

Some of the hub websites remain and contain useful information, although are not being updated. These are:

Finance	<a href="http://www.financehub.org.uk">www.financehub.org.uk</a>
Governance	<a href="http://www.governancehub.org.uk">www.governancehub.org.uk</a>
ICT	<a href="http://www.ictHub.org.uk">www.ictHub.org.uk</a>
Performance	<a href="http://www.performancehub.org.uk">www.performancehub.org.uk</a>
Workforce	<a href="http://www.ukworkforcehub.org.uk">www.ukworkforcehub.org.uk</a>

In addition, there is a joint publications guide which pools together a list of all the hubs' publications. It is available as a pdf file from: [www.improvingsupport.org.uk/latest/hubs-joint-guide.html](http://www.improvingsupport.org.uk/latest/hubs-joint-guide.html)

### **Futurebuilders**

Futurebuilders England (FBE) is the government backed investment fund to help the voluntary and community sector deliver better public services. The fund provides a combination of grants and loans and professional support to organisations that deliver public services and earn revenue by forming contracts with public sector agencies. It is managed the Adventure Capital Fund (ACF).

Futurebuilders is about capacity building and sustainable capital investment to enable groups to provide better public services. The aim is to invest in around 250 organisations, with investments ranging from a minimum of £50,000 to several million. Futurebuilders does not offer stand-alone grant funding. However, grants and professional consultancy support may be included within an overall investment package.

Applications are taken online and full details are on their website at: [www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk](http://www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk)

### **Regional Government**

Each of the government regions for England has a number of regional bodies which may be relevant or useful in finding funds:

Regional Development Agencies: these exist to develop social, economic and environmental regeneration of the region. They have responsibility, for example, for the Community Investment Fund.

Government Offices for the Regions: devolved central government, they are responsible for the allocation of European Funds and Community Champions Fund, amongst others.

Regional Assemblies/Chambers: these bring together regional "stakeholders" (local authorities, private and voluntary sector representatives), however, they currently do not make grants.

Regional Forums of voluntary and community groups: exist to promote the voluntary and community sector at regional level and to be a channel of communication. They do not make grants.

### **Local Government**

A main source of funding for voluntary groups is still the local authority or Council. Different departments within a local authority may each have their own pots of money to allocate in the form of grants or contracts. Some local authorities may have a "community chest" - a small grants scheme for voluntary groups. In addition, local authorities may also manage some central government schemes.

### Applying to local authorities

*The following Tips have been produced by Susan Edwards, Training and Development Officer, Knowsley Council for Voluntary Service and Jackie Mullin, Voluntary Sector Liaison Officer, Knowsley Borough Council. They are reproduced here with their permission and our thanks.*

1. Network with similar organisations - you may find that there are larger groups that can act as an umbrella group for disability, age, mental health, carers, women, youth, early years, learning disability. Check with your local Council for Voluntary Service or Rural Community Council to obtain a directory of organisations.
2. Know who the contacts are to access funding in relation to the size of grant required and the nature of the project. Network contacts will be useful here and so will your CVS.
3. Seek help and guidance with the completion of applications. Many CVS and local authorities have support units or structures that will be willing to assist.
4. Be aware of publications that advertise grants. Many communities publish their own free papers and newsletters, get your organisation put onto mailing lists. Your local CVS, authority or RCC should be able to help here.
5. Communicate difficulties with the completion of application forms to funders - offer suggestions for improvement.
6. Do not take for granted that the funder knows your organisation simply because you have applied before. Staff have a habit of moving on and the new administrator will require all the relevant information requested on the application form.
7. Back up your application with documentation that identifies the need for what you propose to do. Examples are letters of support, research and survey findings, figures and statistics. Include any publicity material that you have produced about your organisation.
8. Consider working in partnership with other like groups. This may further improve the service you wish to offer and collaborative working demonstrates commitment, your organisation's willingness to work with others and planning.
9. Speak to other organisations that have been successful in their funding bid.
10. Take control - be proactive seek out people, seek out guidance, seek out funds.

### ***European Funding***

There are lots of different pots of European funding. It is a complex and ever changing area, and is not necessarily appropriate for small community groups. However, Community Grants (currently England only) does make accessing European funds easier for small organisations. For more information details see FunderFinder document *European Funding*.

### ***Health Funding***

Primary Care Trusts manage health budgets at a local level to provide primary and community health care. Funds may be available from them for specific pieces of health-related work. You should talk to your local PCT if your project is concerned with health issues.

### **Other agencies**

There is a large number of Quangos, Non Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs) and government-related agencies which administer delegated funds from central government. They fund other sectors as well as the voluntary and community sector and each has its own guidelines and criteria. Examples of these are:

- Arts Councils – country/regional
- British Council
- Connexions
- Countryside Council for Wales
- English Heritage
- Equality and Human Rights Commission
- Historic Scotland
- Housing Corporation
- Learning and Skills Councils
- Natural England
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- Sports Councils

### **Other considerations**

#### Partnerships

At all levels of government there is much talk about partnerships between the public, private and voluntary sectors as the way forward for tackling social and economic issues at local level. Many recent government initiatives are managed by inter-agency partnerships, and in order to access public funds, groups are increasingly being asked to form or join partnerships.

#### Compacts

The Compact is the agreement between government and the voluntary and community sector in England to improve their relationship for mutual advantage. In 1998 central government published a national Compact and there is a Compact Commissioner whose role is to champion the Compact by acting as the independent voice, overseeing and developing the Compact and its associated codes. Most local authorities have developed Local Compacts covering key issues such as information exchange, consultations, co-operations, funding, resources and support. For more information and details of local compacts see: [www.thecompact.org.uk](http://www.thecompact.org.uk)

### **Finding out more**

To really keep up with what funding is available from statutory sources, you need to "plug yourself" in to some of the existing networks. Start with your local development agency - Council for Voluntary Service/Voluntary Action or similar (contact your relevant country organisation or NAVCA on tel: 0114 278 6636, website: [www.navca.org.uk](http://www.navca.org.uk) if you are not sure of contact details). They will be able to help identify what funding could be available to you locally. You could also join your Regional Forum (your CVS will know how to contact them).

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