

DSC - Report: Over one-third of grant applications are ineligible

DSC research shows that over the latest financial year over one-third of all applications to charitable grantmakers were ineligible – over 361,000 went in the bin.

Did you know that if each application took 10 minutes to write (a very conservative estimate) it would add up to nearly 7 years of wasted effort every year? And if each one were posted first class, that amounts to around £141,000 just in postage stamps?

They're not talking about projects which just weren't up to scratch, or which were good but couldn't be funded due to lack of money. They're talking about applications which just didn't meet the funder's stated criteria. For example, applications for work in England going to trusts which state they only fund in Scotland. Or a foundation which funds respite breaks for carers receiving requests to support scientific research.

Individually it might seem of little importance, but when you view it collectively it's clearly a waste of time and effort that the voluntary sector cannot afford. Think about this: even if it's only the time spent opening an envelope and throwing it away, the administrative burden for the funder adds up. Fewer ineligible applications could mean quicker responses to the eligible ones, better feedback or engagement with applicants, or even more resources to allocate as grants.

Of course a certain amount of this is unavoidable, and there are plenty of reasons for why things are as they are. Demand for funding will always outstrip supply, with the result that people ask for money where they think there might even be the slightest chance of success.

Understandable as that is, surely we can do better – because as pressures on funding increase, we are going to have to find ways of making limited resources go further. We are going to have to find ways to better match funders with the right organisations and projects, to build good relationships between them which work in the interests of both.

Their first step is to try and get a rough sense of the scale of the problem – which their research has done. You can read all the details in a new report on their Website:

www.dsc.org.uk/greatgiving

Next they want to get a discussion going about the causes and possible solutions.

The specifics will vary from funder to funder and from fundraiser to fundraiser, but from our experience it seems clear that there are a number of causes for ineligible applications:

Lack of clear and accessible information from the funder, leaving the issue of eligibility open to interpretation
Lack of an available contact point for the funder to respond to queries, or not enough resources devoted to answering queries
Lack of constructive feedback or help from funders, which could help fundraisers to better target their efforts
Applicants submitting requests without having fully researched the funder's criteria
Lack of experience or knowledge about how to research and approach funders
Applicants taking a quantity not quality approach (i.e. blanket appeals which target large numbers of funders inappropriately)
Unclear or missing information from applicants

Guidance for Faith-based bodies and religious organisations

Faith-based bodies and religious organisations make a significant contribution to the well-being of society. They are eligible, like any other suitably qualified bodies, to be awarded a tender to deliver publicly funded services, or to be given a grant to carry out a project of benefit to the wider community or to their own members or constituency of supporters.

However, a number of myths surround the funding of faith-based bodies to deliver publicly funded services and can obstruct the fair access of such bodies to public funding and tendering opportunities as part of the third sector. Some of these myths, followed by the facts in each case, are set out in a document on Website:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/15073411.pdf>

Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) and Youth Capital Fund (YCF) - Bradford

There are two funds for young people given to Bradford Council by central government. These are the Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF), which is money to spend on 'things to do' and activities, and the Youth Capital Fund (YCF), for 'places to go', equipment and to change existing facilities or develop new facilities.

Applications are welcome from all organisations that work with young people aged between 13 and 19 (up to 25 years for young people with disabilities). Young people must be heavily involved in the application but it is expected that experienced adults will need to be involved to ensure adequate deployment of this money. Applications can be made only by organisations working with young people based in the Bradford District. Applications from agencies working with the following are encouraged.

This is a fund that is designed to have maximum impact on places to go and things to do for young people - so the council is looking to fund small and large projects, with up to a maximum of £100,000 per project. It is desirable that bids will be a mixture of Youth Capital and Youth Opportunity funding initiated and run by young people.

Agencies/voluntary organisations can apply from £5,000 to £50,000 from YOF

Agencies/voluntary organisations can apply from £2,500 to £50,000 from YCF.

The deadline date for the YOF/YCF is 4.30pm on Friday 11 June 2010. All applications should be submitted to:

Luke Eloi, YOF/YCF Co-ordinator, Services for Children and Young People

Integrated Youth Support – Localities, 1 City Road, Bradford BD8 8ER Email:

luke.eloi@bradford.gov.uk

Leeds Building Society Charitable Foundation

Leeds Building Society Charitable Foundation was established by the Society in 1999 to support the communities around its nationwide network of branches by making donations to charities working in those areas. Since its establishment the foundation has made total donations of over £890,000.

The following information tells you about the kind of groups which can apply, the sort of projects the Charitable Foundation can consider, and how to apply.

Who can apply? Applications will normally only be considered from registered charities. They may also consider applications from groups affiliated to registered charities.

What kind of projects will the Charitable Foundation support? Generally, we will consider applications for community based projects which aim to provide relief of suffering, hardship or poverty, or their direct consequences.

Some examples of the areas in which we have made donations include: Support to: Homeless people Adults and children with physical and mental disabilities; Older people; Underprivileged families; Deaf, blind and partially sighted people; and Community projects benefiting local residents Victims of natural and civil disasters in the UK.

The project must operate in the area of one of their 67 branches.

Church projects will be considered only where they involve community outreach and benefit, (e.g., supporting the homeless, disadvantaged families).

How much can we apply for? Donations are normally in the range of £250 to £1000. The application must be for capital expenditure. We cannot consider applications towards general running costs.

Will the Foundation make donations to general fundraising appeals? No. However, they may consider applications for specific items as part of a wider appeal.

Do we have to have an account with Leeds Building Society? No. The Charitable Foundation was established by Leeds Building Society and is funded by an annual donation from the Society, but makes its decisions independently. You may be interested to know that Leeds Building Society does offer CharityLine, an account especially designed for charities. Your local branch can give you more information.

Are there any projects that the Charitable Foundation will not support? The Foundation is unlikely to make donations for: The restoration or upgrading of buildings, including churches; Environmental charities (unless there is a benefit to a disadvantaged community); Administration equipment such as IT equipment for a charity's own use. The Foundation is unable to support: Projects with religious, political or military purposes Overseas charities or projects Individuals, including sponsorship of individuals Animal welfare projects Medical research

How do we apply? In order to keep costs down, there is no application form. Simply write to: The Secretary, Leeds Building Society Charitable Foundation, 105 Albion Street, Leeds LS1 5AS Tel: 0113 216 7296 Remember to include the following information: The name of your organisation The name of the project, and brief information about its work A contact name, address and phone number Your registered charity number Details of what the donation would be used for Who would benefit from the donation Your nearest Leeds Building Society branch Your local branch can forward your application if that would be more convenient.

All applications will be acknowledged. The Trustees meet quarterly in March, June, September and November. Following the meeting we will write to you and let you know whether or not your application has been successful.

They regret that we are unable to support every application we receive and the Trustees have sole discretion in the choice of projects which they wish to support. Usually we are unable to consider applications if support has been provided in the last two years.

Where can I get more information or advice? Write to the Secretary of the Charitable Foundation at the address above who will be happy to provide you with a copy of the Foundation's current guidelines. Because the Foundation operates independently of the Building Society, local branch staff are unable to answer questions about the Foundation.

Website: http://www.leedsbuildingsociety.co.uk/about/charitable_foundation.html

Shipley Health and Wellbeing Grant - Bradford

The Health and Wellbeing Grant is designed to encourage local groups/organisations in the Shipley constituency to deliver health and wellbeing activities, for example through increasing physical activity and improving the diet of local residents. The scheme is a partnership between HALE and CNet with funding from Shipley Area Committee.

Any community group or voluntary organisation in the Shipley constituency ie Shipley, Baildon, Wharfedale, Windhill, Wrose, Bingley, Bingley Rural (Harden, Wilsden, Cottingley, Denholme, Cullingworth), Bolton Woods, Esholt and Menston, with an annual income of less than £10,000 and that is developing a programme of activities to address health and wellbeing issues is eligible to apply. Grants are between £250 and £1,000.

Closing dates for applications are as follows: 12noon Wed 15 June 2010 12noon Wed 15 Sept 2010 12noon Fri 3 Dec 2010

To download guidance notes visit Website:

http://www.cnet.org.uk/uploads/health_wellbeing_2010_guidance.doc

To download an application form visit Website:

http://www.cnet.org.uk/uploads/grant_app_form.doc

For further information visit <http://www.cnet.org.uk/grants.php> or contact Alison Silver or Abdul Ismail at CNet 01274 714144.

Grassroots Grants - Bradford

Grassroots Grants is a National Programme that aims to invest in a thriving community sector across the whole of the UK to build stronger and more active communities. CNet has been appointed the Local Funder to deliver Grassroots Grants in the Bradford Metropolitan District. The Grant aims to support small, largely volunteer led community organisations and groups, often with limited resources, have been in existence for at least 12 months, and has an annual income of less than £30,000 (averaged over last 3 years). These grants are intended for projects and activities that will build their capacity and address local needs.

Grants from £250 - £5,000 are available under the scheme.

For further information on Grassroots Grants, what can be applied for, the process, etc. please download the guidelines http://www.cnet.org.uk/uploads/gg_info_sheet_for_websitefinal.doc

CNet are running two schemes under this Programme.

(1) For grants of £250 to £900 please apply under the Fast Track Scheme.

Closing dates for receipt of applications will be as follows: 15 January 2010; 15 March 2010; 07 May 2010; 01 July 2010; 01 September 2010 - THIS IS THE LAST CLOSING DATE FOR THIS SCHEME

Download application here: http://www.cnet.org.uk/uploads/application_900.new_copy4.doc

(2) For grants of £901 - £5,000 please apply under the General Grants Scheme.

Remaining closing dates are as follows: 01 July 2010; 01 September 2010 - THIS IS THE LAST CLOSING DATE FOR THIS SCHEME

Download application from Website: http://www.cnet.org.uk/uploads/application_5000_copy5.doc

Download guidelines from Website:

http://www.cnet.org.uk/uploads/grassroots_guidance_notes_copy3.doc

Please download the appropriate application form, complete and return it to us together with all the relevant documentation for further consideration.

CNet, 385 Canal Road, Frizinghall, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD2 1AW Tel: 01274 714144 Fax: 01274 714140 Email: contact@cnet.org.uk

Website: <http://www.cnet.org.uk/grants.php>

Impact Groups Young People's Fund - Bradford

The Healthy Minds Participation - Impact Groups are promoting their young people's fund for the second year running.

Individual young people, young people projects, organisations and groups can all apply for a maximum of £1,000 as a one-off grant to fund a piece of work that will help to improve and develop young people's emotional and mental health and how they participate and have a say in their lives. The Healthy Minds - Impact Groups (which are made up of young people across the Bradford district who meet together to have their say about young people's emotional and mental health issues) will judge all applications that are received.

The deadline is 5pm on Friday 25 June 2010. Forms should be sent to Nicola Swales, Barnardos, Healthy Minds Participation Worker, Seen and Heard, Unit 14 Park View Court, St Paul's Road, Shipley BD18 3DZ or Email: nicola.swales@barnardos.org.uk

For further information contact Nicola Swales Tel: (01274) 531466 or Email: nicola.swales@barnardos.org.uk

Training events from fit4funding

Finding Funding - Wakefield Half day workshop

Finding the right funder can seem an impossible task, but there are many free resources available to make it easier. This is a practical session, showing you how to use those resources to find the right funder quickly. Basic computer skills are helpful when attending this session.

- What tools are available
- How to use them effectively
- Guided practice using computer-based resources

Venue: fit4funding, 93 Lawefield Lane, Wakefield, WF2 8SU

Date: 8th June 2010 Times: 10.00 - 1.00

Cost: Free to Voluntary and Community groups in Wakefield district
£25.00 to Voluntary and Community groups outside Wakefield district but within West Yorkshire
£50.00 to Voluntary and Community groups outside West Yorkshire and to all Statutory Organisations

Booking: Contact fit4funding-The Charities Information Bureau on 01924 239063 (between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm) or e-mail - info@fit4funding.org.uk

Please download Booking Form with Terms and Conditions from http://fit4funding.org.uk/assets/uploads/files/f4f_booking_form.pdf

Steps to Developing Fundraising Skills - Leeds -Step 1

Six half-day sessions

This course is aimed at people from Voluntary and Community groups new to fundraising. It is designed to cover everything you need know in order to plan your fundraising and develop your skills in making good funding applications. You will be guided through all the stages needed to start applying for small grants. By the end of the sessions you will have developed your fundraising skills and produced a draft fundraising application and fundraising strategy. You will also have produced a portfolio of work that may be submitted for a formal OCN qualification at level 2 or 3 if you wish.

Step 1 - Packaging Projects for Bids - 9th June 2010

This session will help you to plan and present appropriate projects and activities to attract funding, the session will cover:

- Checking that the organisation carrying out the project is ready for funding
- Prioritising and outlining appropriate projects and activities
- Key considerations when planning projects (e.g. need, outcomes, equal opportunities, user involvement)
- Putting your project across to funders effectively

Step 2 - Budgets for Bids -16th June 2010

To help you budget for your project/activities the session will cover:

- Identifying resources needed to deliver your project
- Estimating costs
- Preparing a budget for a funding application
- Common budgeting mistakes and how to avoid them

Step 3 - Finding Funding -23rd June 2010

To help you identify appropriate funders for your projects, this session will cover:

- Types of funding, from grants to income generation
- Researching appropriate funders
- Getting the right funder for your project

Step 4 - How to Make a Successful Funding Application - 30th June 2010

To help you complete successful funding bids, the session will cover:

- What to include in a bid and how to present it
- Why some bids succeed where others fail
- Drafting bids, looking at key questions and presentation

Step 5 - Measuring Success -7th July 2010

To help you plan to show what you have achieved and will cover:

- How to monitor the progress of your project
- How to prove your success
- Sorting out the jargon - outputs, outcomes, long term change etc
- Planning monitoring & evaluation systems for funding bids

Step 6 - Developing a Funding Strategy -14th July 2010

To help you plan your fundraising effectively and sustain your organisation and will cover:

- Developing a fundraising strategy - how and what to include
- Planning strategically - looking at opportunities and threats
- Knowing what's going on - national and local strategies
- Developing your group's fundraising skills

Venue and times:

Each session will take place at Voluntary Action Leeds. Stringer House, 34 Lupton Street, Hunslet, Leeds, LS10 2QW

Time : 10 am - 1 pm.

Charges:

Voluntary and community (VCS) groups in West Yorkshire: £25 per person, per step.

Non-VCS groups and VCS groups outside West Yorkshire: £50 per person, per step.

Bursaries covering the full cost of Leeds Courses are available to groups based in the Leeds District with an annual income of less than £20,000. Contact Tina Ashby at VA-L on 0113 2977920 for more information.

Booking: Contact fit4funding-The Charities Information Bureau on 01924 239063 (between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm) or e-mail - info@fit4funding.org.uk

Priority will be given to learners who book on all 6 steps.

Please download Booking Form with Terms and Conditions from http://fit4funding.org.uk/assets/uploads/files/f4f_booking_form.pdf

Community Cascade - Introduction to loan finance - Leeds Introduction to loan finance

21st June 2010 10-1pm
Venue: Leeds

This training is being provided by Community Cascade a Big Lottery funded project for community centres and Community networks across West Yorkshire

This is an introduction to loan finance.
Is your organisation interested in finding out more about loan finance?

This session will look at:

- Sector specific loan finance providers and the loan options that are being offered to the Voluntary and Community Sector
- The pro's and con's of loans
- Looking at when it might be appropriate to use loan finance

To book a place please contact Tina Ashby at VAL:

Tel: 0113 2977 944

Email: tina.ashby@val.org.uk

Introduction to Business Planning for small voluntary and community groups - Leeds Half day session

This introductory session aimed at voluntary and community groups new to business planning will cover the need for a plan for both funder's and for an organisation's development. It will look at key terms, what should be included in a business plan, the process of putting one together and funders' requirements

For details of location of venue, cost and to book places please use booking contact below.

Venue: Voluntary Action - Leeds (VA-L)

Date: 22nd June 2010

Time: 10.00am - 1.00pm

Booking: Contact: VA-L on 0113 2977920

Bursaries covering the full cost of Leeds courses are available to groups based in the Leeds District with an annual income of less than £20,000

Finding Funding - Half day workshop - Kirklees Half day workshop

Finding the right funder can seem an impossible task, but there are many free resources available to make it easier. This is a practical session, showing you how to use those resources to find the right funder quickly. Basic computer skills are helpful when attending this session.

- What tools are available
- How to use them effectively
- Guided practice using computer-based resources

For details of location of venue and to book places, please use booking contact below.

Venue: Voluntary Action Kirklees (VA-K) **Date: 29th June 2010 Times: 10.00 - 1.00**

Booking: Contact VA-K on 01484 518457

Applying for Large Grants - Calderdale Half day workshop

Aimed at groups who are considering applications to larger funders such as the Big Lottery Fund, larger trusts, European sources and Government funding streams.

The session will cover:

- Understanding funders' criteria
- Understanding how forms are assessed
- Sustainability

For details of location of venue and to book places, please use booking contact below.

Venue: Voluntary Action Calderdale **Date: 7th July 2010 Times: 10.00 - 1.00**

Booking: Contact: VA-C on 01422 348777

Applying for Small Grants - Wakefield Half day workshop

This session is aimed at groups looking for small grants to help run and expand their activities and services. We will look at identifying appropriate funds (such as local council pots, Awards for All and charitable trusts) and how best to approach them.

The session will cover:

- Identifying small and local funding sources
- What the funders want to know about your work
- Completing application forms
- What funders will expect from you if you get the money

For details of location of venue and to book places, please use booking contact below.

Venue: fit4funding, 93 Lawefield Lane, Wakefield, WF2 8SU

Date: 8th July 2010 Times: 10.00 - 1.00

Cost: Free to Voluntary and Community groups within Wakefield district.

£25.00 to Voluntary and Community groups outside of Wakefield district but within West Yorkshire

£50.00 to Voluntary and Community groups outside West Yorkshire

£50.00 to all Statutory Organisations

Booking: Contact fit4funding - The Charities Information Bureau on 01924 239063 (between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm) or email - info@fit4funding.org.uk

Please download Booking Form with Terms and Conditions from http://fit4funding.org.uk/assets/uploads/files/f4f_booking_form.pdf

fit4funding provides a website full of resources to help you with the process of funding your group at www.fit4funding.org.uk

You can view the events diary to see details of the latest training workshops and courses run by fit4funding.

Use the online form to sign up for a free trial of the fit4funding monthly email newsletter full of the latest national funding opportunities.