

Funding the East Midlands

A guide to finding Funding, Investment and Support
for the VCS and Social Enterprises

Welcome to the East Midlands Funding Forum



The East Midlands Funding Forum exists to provide a space for funders across the region to share experiences, knowledge, expertise and best practice. One of the key themes in recent discussions has been the challenges faced by the voluntary and community sector on the ground.

The biggest of these challenges for front line organisations has clearly been shifting patterns in the way funding works, with moves to commissioning, contracting, reductions in grants etc. For many this has been a difficult transition, for some it has been easier.

As a response to some of the feedback we receive, the Forum made the decision to reaffirm to voluntary and community organisations, that as funders and investors, many of us are still open for business, actively seeking applications and looking to support good community based work. Hence the production of this leaflet.

The funders, investors and supporters listed in this publication show a rich and varied stream of funding and help that is still available to you. They vary in size and include both national and local funders and grant sizes can vary from a few hundred to many thousands. Each organisation has its own criteria and range of support available, so if you find a funder or investor that that may be appropriate, use the contact details and visit their website.

We have also included some additional information and hints and tips for those new to fundraising (and reminders for those more experienced) and please remember these when approaching funders and investors in order to improve your chances.

We hope you find this leaflet useful and wish you the best of luck with your fundraising. We look forward to working with many of you over the coming years.

Regards

Gary Beharrell

Gary Beharrell
Chair East Midlands Funding Forum



BBC Children in Need

BBC Children in Need funds not-for-profit organisations who work with disadvantaged children and young people 18 years and under living in the UK. The focus is firmly on children and young people experiencing disadvantage.

General grant programmes include small and main grants with funding awarded for between one and three years. In addition, the Emergency Essentials grants program (administered by Buttle UK) provides struggling families with items that meet children's most basic needs.

For more information please visit: www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey

Tel: **0345 609 0015** (Helpdesk)

Regional Officer in the East Midlands: Dawn.watts@bbc.co.uk

Tel: **0115 902 1851**



Big Lottery Fund

The Big Lottery Fund (BIG) is responsible for distributing 40 per cent of all funds raised for good causes (about 11 pence of every pound spent on a Lottery ticket) by the National Lottery. This totals around £600 million each year. Since June 2004 BIG has awarded over £6bn to projects supporting health, education, environment and charitable purposes. 80-90 per cent of our funding is awarded to voluntary and community sector organisations. BIG also distributes non-Lottery funding on behalf of public bodies such as the Department for Education and the Office for Civil Society.

For more information please visit: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

Telephone the Big Advice Line: **0845 4102030**



Charity Bank

Charity Bank is a social purpose bank that seeks deposits from socially-conscious individuals and lends solely to charities, community organisations and social enterprises. We aim to make the loan process as simple as possible, helping organisations access the finance they need on terms that are appropriate to their circumstances.

Charity Bank has a mission to transform people's lives by harnessing the nation's wealth and using it as a positive force for change.

For more information please visit: www.charitybank.org

Tel: **01732 774040** or email: enquiries@charitybank.org



Comic Relief

Comic Relief is a UK based charity with a vision to create a just world free from poverty and a mission to drive positive change through the power of entertainment. We welcome applications from charities and other eligible organisations in the UK dedicated to improving the lives of vulnerable and disadvantaged people in the UK and around the world. Details of our new Grants Strategy and funding themes are available on the Comic Relief website. The UK programme is now open and has no deadlines for applications.

For more information please visit: www.comicrelief.com

Tel: **020 7820 2000**



Heritage Lottery Fund

The Heritage Lottery Fund is the largest dedicated funder of the UK's heritage. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, HLF invest in every part of our heritage. Funding opportunities range from £3,000 to over £100,000.

The East Midlands team are based in Nottingham and cover Leicestershire, Rutland, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire. Please visit the HLF website for information about individual programmes and project enquiry support.

For more information please visit: www.hlf.org.uk

East Midlands Office Tel: **0115 9349050**



Key Fund

Key Fund is a social enterprise that provides investment and development support to enable the growth of other social enterprises, helping them to increase trading activity, whilst also increasing their community, economic and environmental impact.

We believe that Social Enterprises have a significant role to play in providing better public services and improving the lives of the most disadvantaged in society. However, they often struggle to raise finance from mainstream providers. Founded in 1999 Key Fund has been providing a mixture of flexible grant, loan and equity packages for over 13 years, investing over £29 million to date. Investments range between £2,000 and £150,000 and are tailored to support client need.

For more information please visit: www.thekeyfund.co.uk

Tel: **0845 140 1400**



Leicestershire County Council

Leicestershire County Council has a range of community grant funds available for projects and initiatives in the County. Grants put local people at the heart of community involvement with the choice, decision making and leadership for community improvements placed firmly with communities themselves.

Grants are discretionary with no automatic entitlement to funding. Projects are assessed and allocated in line with criteria and process specific to each fund, subject to availability. The schemes include small grants which enable communities to participate and allocate funds to projects of their choice and grants to enable consultation, feasibility, piloting or expansion of community activities/services, for environmental improvements to public open spaces as well as grants and loans to support community buildings and the groups that manage them.

For more information please visit: www.leics.gov.uk/grants

Tel: **0116 305 7269**



Leicestershire and Rutland Community Foundation

Leicestershire and Rutland Community Foundation is a grant giving charity offering grants of up to £15,000. We give to a wide range of projects in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland and hold a number of different funding opportunities. Further information and links to apply can be found on our website.

For more information please visit: www.llrcommunityfoundation.org.uk

Tel: **0116 2624 916** Email: grants@llrcommunityfoundation.org.uk for further advice and guidance.



Lincolnshire County Council

Lincolnshire County Council provides a range of grant schemes and funding services to support community groups, voluntary organisations, charities, parish councils and social enterprises. We deliver various grant schemes to help provide funding for projects including community buildings and activities, rural enterprises and community wildlife work. Our funding services include free grant search tools such as the Lincolnshire Funding Portal, giving free access to information on hundreds of grant schemes available to organisations in Lincolnshire. We also provide the Really Useful Stuff Handbook, a free toolkit for community organisations which includes a detailed guide on how to apply for funding.

For more information please visit:

www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/communitygrants

Tel: **01522 552222**



Lloyds TSB Foundation

The Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales supports and works in partnership with registered charities helping disadvantaged people to play a fuller role in the community. Our funding focuses on core and project funding to charities with an income of less than £1 million and national charities with an income of less than £5 million. Applicant organisations must hold less than 12 months of reserves and grants are made appropriate to the size and needs of the charity.

For more information please visit: www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk

Tel: **0870 411 1223**



Northamptonshire Community Foundation

Northamptonshire Community Foundation is a grant giving charity providing grants across a range of project themes from £250 up to £5000 to benefit Northamptonshire communities. Applying for a grant is an online application process via the website: www.ncf.uk.com. If you have a project idea phone the grants team on 01604 230033 and we will match you to the right funding programme.

For more information please visit: www.ncf.uk.com Tel: **01604 230033**



The Nottinghamshire Community Foundation (NCF)

NCF provides philanthropy services for individuals, families, companies, charitable trusts and local authorities in Nottingham city and county. NCF is a local registered charity delivering grant schemes, on a not for profit basis, using quality accredited grant giving processes as approved by the Charity Commission. NCF has given over £22 million away since they begun and are currently running over 25 local funds.

NCF is often able to match fund new named funds and offers strategic philanthropy services (dragons dens) as investment in micro enterprise as well as traditional grant giving.

For more information please visit: www.nottscf.org.uk

Email enquiries: enquiries@nottscf.org.uk Tel: **01623 620 202**



Nottinghamshire County Council

Nottinghamshire County Council encourages and supports voluntary and community action. Through Grant Aid, the Council provides discretionary financial contributions towards the delivery of non-statutory services which complement our strategic priorities. Currently, there are a number of Grant Aid award categories and further details can be found on our webpage.

For more information please visit: www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/thecouncil/democracy/partnerships/voluntary-sector/grant-aid/



Santander Foundation

Santander Foundation provides one-off grants to organisations with charitable status for work in the UK. There are two grants programme, both focus on benefiting disadvantaged people and have no deadlines.

Central grants offer funding of up to £10,000 (for capital or revenue projects) to help disadvantaged people through either financial capability or education and training. The Community Plus programme offers grants of up to £5,000 and nominations can be made by visiting any branch of Santander. The only criteria are that it must be for a local charity or local project of a larger charity and of benefit to local disadvantaged people.

For more information please visit: www.santanderfoundation.org.uk

Tel: **01908 343224**



Social Enterprise East Midlands (SEEM)

SEEM is a not for profit company operating across the East Midlands, providing support, guidance and access to Social Finance for social enterprises and social businesses. Our aim is to facilitate development, growth and sustainability amongst organisations wanting to deliver significant and enduring social impact.

We have approved partner status with a number of social finance lenders and are partners delivering the Cabinet Office financed Social Incubator North funding. Social Finance can be sought for: Start up Unsecured loan; Fixed Asset Acquisition; Working Capital; and Bridging grant facilities.

For more information please visit: www.seem.uk.net

Tel: **0115 900 3299** Email: info@seem.uk.net



The Sported Foundation

sported. is the foundation established as a direct result of the legacy promises of London 2012 which vowed to use sport to change the lives of young people. It is now the largest organisation supporting thousands of community and grassroots organisations across the UK who deliver sport for development.

sported. is a membership organisation which offers financial support and business mentoring to community and voluntary groups who are focused on securing social development through young people's access to sport.

For more information please visit: www.sported.org.uk

Tel: **0207 389 1905**

Where to get support

There are a number of organisations offering support to voluntary and community organisations in the East Midlands at a regional and a local level. Local infrastructure organisations (LIOs), sometimes referred to as Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) or Voluntary Action organisations, exist in every urban and rural area in England. They help the local voluntary sector in a variety of ways to ensure that local organisations get the advice, support and representation they need to improve the circumstances of the people and the communities they work with. Most importantly they can provide advice and guidance with finding funding for your organisation.

One East Midlands



One East Midlands is the regional network for the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) in the East Midlands region. Their role is to ensure that all elements of the VCS play a valued role in the development of policies and strategies that impact on the individuals and communities in the region. They do this through their 4 core functions; influencing, enabling; communicating; strengthening. One East Midlands has two tools to help you find support and advice locally:

- **Infrastructure finder:** The infrastructure tool on their website helps you to find local infrastructure organisations in your area, listing the types of advice and support available. For more information please visit: www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk/infrastructure-finder
- **Fanoogle:** The Fanoogle Tool allows you to get help with funding for your community group or voluntary organisation by talking to a local funding advice service. Fanoogle lists funding advice services by area and gives information about what help they offer. Whether you are looking for information about a grant for a new project or advice on your long term approach to your funding, there are services in the East Midlands to help you. For more information please visit: www.fanoogle.org.uk

Business in the Community (BitC)

BitC provide support through two programmes **ProHelp** and **Business Champions**:

- **ProHelp** is a resource of professional firms, formed to provide free professional services to voluntary and community enterprises in their local area. The professional firms undertake one-off projects, which could include feasibility studies, architectural plans, structural surveys, developing PR & marketing strategies and business plans, graphic design and re-branding, legal and accountancy advice and property valuations. Members of ProHelp approach the work in the same way as they would any other fee-paying customer. The only difference is that the community client is not charged for the work undertaken.
- **Business Champions** are individuals with at least five years business management experience who wish to voluntarily share their knowledge and expertise with community enterprises and educational establishments to assist business development and focus direction. They offer their support in a variety of ways where a commercial perspective is needed, such as providing assistance with strategic planning, project management, marketing and fundraising through mentoring and coaching as well acting as board members, governors and trustees.

If you are a community enterprise working for the social regeneration of our local area and need some professional help or business expertise, contact: Ann Hilton at Business in the Community on **0115 924 7408** or ann.hilton@bitc.org.uk.

For more information please visit: www.bitc.org.uk/east-midlands



Top 10 tips when applying for funding and investment

1. Do your own research

Make sure you read the guidance and criteria, do they support your type of organisation and the project you want to deliver? The majority of funders and investors will have websites that have clear guidelines and case studies for you to look at.

2. Deadlines and timescales

Most importantly and most often missed is checking upon any deadlines and timescales that funders and investors have. Make sure that you build this timescale into your work so that you have the time to develop a good quality application.

3. Talk to funders, investors and supporters

Many funders and investors will have enquiry lines or local offices that you can contact. If having completed your research you want to check out how your project fits with them, give them a call and talk it through.

4. Answer the questions asked

Having read the application form and guidance notes, make sure that you answer the questions asked of you on the funders/investors application form. Don't focus upon what you want to tell them, but what they want to know of you, your organisation and your project.

5. Explain and justify the need/demand

Why is your project needed? What level of demand is there? Have you researched this and can you present a good case for this. In many cases you will be the expert on the issue you are looking to address, so make sure you take the time (and space on the form) to fully explain this.

6. When outcomes aren't outcomes

Every funder/investor is different, so make sure you explain your project in the terms they are looking for. What one may call an output might be an outcome with another, so check on the guidance and examples that they give.

7. Does it add up?

Make sure that your budget adds up. Work through the budget 2 or 3 times (at least) and ensure that you have included everything that is needed to deliver the project. When thinking about capital items get quotes or estimates to show that these are realistic costs. And keep your notes, a funder or investor will often come back to ask how you have calculated your budget.

8. Does it make sense?

Once completed, read through your application fully from front to back, does it provide a clear explanation of what you want to do, does it represent the project you have in mind. If not, you need to re-draft it so that it does.

9. Find a critical friend

After re-drafting find yourself a critical friend. Someone who knows you and the type of work you do, but doesn't know the full details. It also needs to be someone who can be honest with you. Let them read your application to see if it makes sense to them, if it does then it is likely the funder or investor will also understand it.

10. Check the checklists

Finally, before sending the application off go through the checklists (one more time) and make sure you attach or upload all the additional documentation that is needed to complete your application.