



16 December 2011

The next edition of Funding News will be sent out on Friday 13 January 2012

Funding News

Welcome to Walsall Voluntary Action's Funding News Bulletin – it will be dropping into your inbox every fortnight. It can also be downloaded from our website www.walsallva.org.uk on the fundraising page.

Walsall Voluntary Action holds fortnightly **Funding and Development Surgeries** to assist groups identify possible sources of funding and offering advice and support completing funding applications.

Each group will be allocated a 45 minute slot to look at issues and queries and agree a plan of action.

- **Wed 11 January 2012**
- **Wed 25 January 2012**
- **Wed 15 February 2012**
- **Wed 29 February 2012**

To book an appointment please contact Amina on 01922 619840 or email reception@walsallva.org.uk

European Social Fund (ESF) Community Grants

What are 'Community Grants'?

The European Social Fund (ESF) is aiming to extend employment opportunities for all, but recognises that some workless people are a long way from the job market, and are not ready for mainstream education and training programmes.

Grassroots organisations are good at reaching such people, and can help reduce unemployment and inactivity, amongst very disadvantaged populations. 'Community Grants' will help local groups do just that, by providing up to £12,000 for projects run by organisations with **an annual turnover of less than £150,000**.

Community Grants are available to community and voluntary organisations (Including Social Enterprises and Community Interest Companies providing they are not for profit organisations with social aims) that provide services to help people to improve their chances of obtaining work. Grants are awarded by Black Country Consortium Ltd. Funding is provided by the European Social Fund (ESF) via the Skills Funding Agency.

Participants

All participants must be unemployed (doing less than 8 hours a week paid work) or economically inactive (those out of work but not seeking work e.g. carers) and aged between 18 and 65, and have a right to work in the UK. Please speak us if your project is aimed at 16-18 year olds.

What type of project will be funded?

Projects helping people move closer to the accessing mainstream provision and domestic employment and skills provision. The programme will support a range of activities that may include: help with basic skills, taster work experience including voluntary work, train advice and guidance, job search assistance, confidence building and personal development and supporting individuals to overcome barriers to learning and/or employment. This project will fund revenue not capital purchase.

How to apply

You must submit an application form to Black Country Consortium. To receive an information pack and application for you can either:

- Ring: 01384 471160 (ask for Toni Hickman)
- Email: Toni_hickman@blackcountryconsortium.co.uk
- Download from <http://www.the-blackcountry.com> (click on link)

Applications open 1st December 2011. The deadline for applications is Thursday 19th January 2012 at 5.00pm.

The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation

Funds the charitable activities of organisations that have the ideas and ability to achieve change for the better.

They like to consider work which others may find hard to fund, perhaps because it breaks new ground, appears too risky, requires core funding, or needs a more unusual form of financial help such as a loan.

They aim to commit £30 million annually towards a wide range of work. Primary interests are in the arts, education and learning, the environment and enabling disadvantaged people to participate fully in society.

Main Fund distributes most of the funding. It is responsive to requests for support across the broad range of our interests, which are: the arts, education and learning, the environment and enabling disadvantaged people to participate fully in society.

They prioritise work that:

- Addresses a *significant* gap in provision
- Develops or strengthens good practice
- Challenges convention or takes a risk in order to address a difficult issue
- Tests out new ideas or practices
- Takes an enterprising approach to achieving its aims
- Sets out to influence policy or change behaviour more widely.

<http://www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk/funding/index.html>

Buttle UK: Small grants for individual families, Children in Need funded.

BBC Children in Need have announced the creation of their Emergency Essentials Programme to deliver the charity's welfare grants for individual families.

The programme will be administered by Buttle UK across three years and will give emergency grants for essential items for struggling families living in extreme deprivation throughout the UK. It will help them meet basic needs, for example ensuring that a child has a bed to sleep in and a hot meal a day. Applications must come through statutory or voluntary agency able to assess the needs of the young person, and administer the grant.

<http://www.buttleuk.org/pages/criteria-eligibility-small-grants.html>

Forestry Commission – More funding for tree planting

There is a new deadline for the Big Tree Plant, a scheme from the Forestry Commission to support community groups to plant trees in neighbourhoods where people live and work.

The trees must be planted in places that are open to all to visit or where local people will benefit from them. Whoever owns the land must give permission and support to the project, and there must be a plan to care for trees after they are planted.

The Big Tree Plant Funding Scheme strongly recommends that you contact them to talk through your project before applying.

Deadline: **14 March 2012**

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/england-bigtreeplant>

Managing Money Better – Comic Relief’s New Older People’s Programme coming soon

Comic Relief is opening a new fund, Managing Money Better, early in 2012.

The £2 million fund is to support projects helping older people (aged 65+) cope with the harsh economic climate and financial exclusion and hardship; it will focus on isolated older people and those living in the most disadvantaged areas. There will be two grant cycles, one in January 2012, and another in April. Comic Relief will be looking for organisations which are already working with older people and for projects which involve older people in their design and delivery. Projects involving partnerships between voluntary, public and private organisations will be looked on favourably.

The minimum grant size is £10,000.

There is further information on the Comic Relief website via the link below.

Deadline: the first grant making cycle will open on **16 January 2012** with a deadline for first-stage applications of 13 February 2012.

The second cycle will open on 10 April 2012.

<http://www.comicrelief.com/apply-for-a-grant/programmes/managing-money-better-comic-reliefs-new-older-peoples-programme>

Sport England - The Sustainable Investment in Communities Facilities Fund

Sport England has announced that they are accepting applications through its new Sustainable Investment in Communities Fund. The fund is open to organisations, including applicants from sports clubs, voluntary or community organisations, local authorities, and education establishments, such as schools, colleges and universities. Sustainable Investment in Communities Facilities Fund will invest £10m a year of Lottery and Exchequer money into innovative projects capable of transforming the places where we play or take part in sport.

The Fund is aiming to invest in projects that demonstrate:

- Impact and the contribution to grow, sustain and excel
- Sustainability
- Ability to deliver.

Priority will be given to proposals that draw in funding from other sources. Priority will be given to projects with a collaborative or consortia approach which can demonstrate the potential to grow and sustain participation in community sport. The funding is for the development of the capital infrastructure, this can include:

- Contributions to the costs of new build
- Modernisation
- Major fixed equipment where it is an integral part of a project.

There will be a two-stage application process. The closing dates are 30 June and 31 December each year.

http://www.sportengland.org/funding/sustainable_facilities.aspx

Wilkinson's Helping Hands

Helping Hands is a new community initiative where each local Wilkinson's store has been given a budget to distribute to projects and schemes within the stores local community. To apply for a donation from the Helping Hands Fund you need to visit your local store and pick up an application form. These forms can be found on your stores red community boards or if you cannot find them, ask for assistance at the customer service desk.

<http://corporate.wilkinsonplus.com/story.asp?id=19>



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www.walsallva.org.uk
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Walsall Voluntary Action is part funded by Walsall MBC

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