

# Investing in Communities

## Questions and answers

### **1. What does Investing in Communities aim to achieve?**

Through Investing in Communities, BIG wants to help bring about lasting social change. The programme aims to bring real improvements to communities and lives of people most in need.

### **2. When can I apply?**

The programme opens on 30 June. Stage one application forms will be available from this date.

### **3. How much funding is available?**

Projects can apply for grants of between £10,000 and £1million. If you wish to apply for more than this you should contact us. Projects looking for less than £10,000 may be eligible for one of our smaller grants programmes *Awards for All, Investing in Ideas or 2014 Communities*

### **4. What length of funding is available?**

Projects can apply for up to five years funding. The average grant length awarded under the previous programme was three years.

### **5. What is the turnaround time on applications?**

Stage one applications will be assessed within six weeks, and Stage two applications will be assessed within four months. If projects receive development funding a further 4 weeks will apply.

### **6. Who can apply for funding?**

A wide range of organisations are eligible to apply. Eligible organisations include voluntary and community organisations, local authorities, community councils, social enterprises and private companies (provided our grants do not contribute to the profits they distribute). We cannot fund individuals or sole traders. There are additional application criteria for applicants to Growing Community Assets – see the [Investing in Communities guidance](#) notes for further details.

### **7. Are groups able to apply to allow them to continue current or previously funded activities?**

Yes, so long as the activity meets with the outcomes of the new Investing in Communities investment areas.

### **8. Can an organisation submit more than one application?**

Yes, organisations can apply to more than one investment area for separate projects. However, we would strongly recommend you contact us before submitting applications to discuss these.

### **9. How does our organisation apply for funding?**

Before you apply we strongly advise that you contact us to discuss your idea. We will tell you if we think your project fits with our investment area outcomes. If we think your project fits with our investment area outcomes we will advise you to complete a Stage one application form. You can also [download this form](#).

### **10. How will we know what is the most suitable investment area for our project?**

You can read more about the investment areas on the website in the Investing in Communities guidance and the Stage one application form. If you are unsure if your project fits with an investment area, please email us at: [enquiries.scotland@biglotteryfund.org.uk](mailto:enquiries.scotland@biglotteryfund.org.uk) or by calling our enquiries line on 0870 240 2391.

### **11. What types of projects can be funded?**

We can fund a wide range of projects under Investing in Communities so long as projects will achieve our investment area outcomes. Further information and case studies on projects funded previously under Investing in Communities are available on our website and in the [Investing in Communities guidance](#).

### **12. Who can applicants contact for additional support?**

Contact us on our enquiries number in the first instance if you are thinking of applying and our Information Officers will provide you with initial advice and support. Once you have submitted an application, one of our development officers will contact you to discuss your application in more detail.

### **13. How do I apply for development funding?**

If you would like to request development funding you should note this on your Stage 1 application form. If your application passes our Stage one criteria and we feel you require development funding we'll send you a Development Funding application form. Development funding applications will take four weeks to assess after submission.

### **14. What development support is available?**

There will be a range of support available for all organisations interested in applying for BIG funding including workshops for new applicants, one-to-one advice on fit with our outcomes and on-line advice through our website. In addition, at Stage one of your application, we will assess and identify any development needs, and provide targeted development support where this is required. This may be advice from our staff or signposting to effective external sources.

### **15. What if I need additional development support?**

We will provide support to all applicants to help them access our funding but we also recognise that some applicants need more help than others. Once your Stage one application is received we will identify the level of support we can offer you.

**16. Why is there no Dynamic Inclusive Communities investment area this time?**

Activity previously funded under our Dynamic Inclusive Communities investment area is still ongoing and a number of these projects are still at a relatively early stage of their development.