

BASIS-Round two

(Building and Sustaining Infrastructure Services)



West Midlands region priorities

This leaflet describes our priorities for the West Midlands region for the second and final round of our BASIS programme.

Please study our priorities carefully before you read the BASIS programme guidance notes, so that you can find out if your project is one that we might fund.

- ▶ If your project meets one of our priorities then we would like to receive an application from you. You can download the programme guidance notes and an application form from the BASIS page of our website www.biglotteryfund.org.uk
- ▶ If your project will not meet one of our priorities, we will not fund it under this programme.

About BASIS

BASIS aims to ensure that voluntary and community organisations throughout England have access to high quality support that will help them be more effective. In round two we expect to spend up to £5.6 million in the West Midlands region on 16 projects.

Only voluntary and community sector infrastructure organisations can apply to BASIS.

- ▶ By voluntary and community sector (VCS) we mean charitable or not-for-profit organisations and social enterprises.
- ▶ By infrastructure organisations we mean organisations that provide information, advice, training and other support that helps voluntary and community groups do their work better, as well as help with networking or partnerships and advocacy or campaigning.

Our round two priorities

Our priorities are the services we would like to fund in round two. We know from round one that there is a high demand for funding from this programme. By clearly describing what we want to support we can save many organisations time and effort that would otherwise be wasted in developing applications that would not be funded. We will only consider applications for projects that meet a priority described in this leaflet.

We also describe the type of organisation or partnership that should apply and the key stakeholders that should be consulted.

- ▶ We will not consider applications from other types of organisation or partnerships.
- ▶ If we have identified key stakeholders you should enclose letters of support from them with your application.

Where there is only one organisation with the skills and experience to provide a service we would like to support, we will write to that organisation and invite it to apply, through a process we call 'solicitation'.

How were these priorities decided?

Before deciding our priorities for round two we analysed the grants we made in round one and considered research into needs and gaps in services, as well as funding for infrastructure development from other sources. We then consulted with voluntary and community organisations and other key stakeholders during the summer and autumn of 2007. There is more information about our consultation and how we chose our priorities, as well as answers to frequently asked questions about the programme, on the BASIS page of our website www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

How to apply

If your project will meet one of our priorities the next step is to download the programme guidance notes and an application form from our website. You must insert the relevant code from the table below in question 2.1 of the application form, to confirm the priority your project will address. Your application must reach us by 2.00 pm on 27 August 2008.

We would like to fund all our round two priorities but this will depend on the amounts requested and the quality of the applications. The application process is competitive and we will only fund high quality projects. So you must not enter into any contractual agreements or start your project before you receive a decision from us.

If you are not sure whether your project will meet one of our priorities or if you have any particular communication needs (such as Braille or large print, audiotape, sign language or a community language) please contact our Big Advice Line on 0845 4 10 20 30 (textphone 0845 602 1659, this is for those with a hearing impairment) or email: general.enquiries@biglotteryfund.org.uk

Code	Priority	Applicant
<p>WM1</p> <p>WM2</p> <p>WM3</p>	<p>We will consider funding up to four projects to strengthen specialist voluntary and community sector (VCS) infrastructure networks.</p> <p>Up to two projects that develop infrastructure services for VCS organisations supporting black and minority ethnic communities.</p> <p>A single project that develops infrastructure services for VCS organisations supporting young people.</p> <p>A single project that develops infrastructure services for VCS organisations supporting disabled people.</p> <p>The projects should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● operate across the whole region or a least two sub-regions; and ● increase representation and influence of the full range of VCS organisations the project targets; and ● meet needs identified in the relevant VCS infrastructure consortia business plans; and ● share good practice and learning with other networks within the region; and ● plan to link with the other projects we might support under these priorities. 	<p>We will consider applications from a single VCS infrastructure organisation, or a partnership led by a VCS infrastructure organisation, based in the region.</p> <p>The organisation or partnership must have a track record of supporting the types of VCS organisations that the project targets, at a regional or sub-regional level.</p> <p>Applicants should provide a letter of support from the relevant regional or sub-regional VCS infrastructure consortia explaining why the project is important to building and sustaining VCS infrastructure services.</p>
<p>WM4</p> <p>WM5</p>	<p>We will consider funding up to four sub-regional projects to increase collaborative working or enable mergers between VCS infrastructure organisations.</p> <p>A single project in Shropshire</p> <p>Up to three projects covering any other sub-regions but no more than one project in each sub region.</p> <p>The projects should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● improve access to services for the full range of VCS organisations the project targets; and ● meet needs identified in the relevant VCS infrastructure consortia business plans; and ● complement the work of the Capacitybuilders Modernisation Fund; and ● make more efficient use of existing resources; and ● share learning and good practice with other VCS infrastructure organisations in the region. 	<p>We will only consider applications from partnerships, which must be led by a VCS infrastructure organisation based in the area that the project targets.</p> <p>Partnerships must include VCS infrastructure organisations that are working collaboratively or intending to merge.</p> <p>Applicants should provide letters of support from the relevant VCS infrastructure consortium and local strategic partnership, explaining why the project is important to building and sustaining VCS infrastructure services.</p>

Code	Priority	Applicant
WM6	<p>We will consider funding up to two projects that will broaden the funding base of VCS infrastructure organisations in one or more sub regions.</p> <p>The projects should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● encourage a more entrepreneurial approach to income generation by VCS infrastructure organisations; and ● reduce reliance on grant income; and ● test ideas and ways for generating independent income; and ● disseminate good practice and learning to other infrastructure organisations; and ● complement work funded through the Capacitybuilders Modernisation Fund. 	<p>We will consider applications from a single VCS infrastructure organisation, or a partnership led by a VCS infrastructure organisation, based in the region.</p>
WM7 WM8 WM9	<p>We will consider funding up to four projects that will increase infrastructure services for the full range of small VCS organisations in the following areas:</p> <p>Up to two projects in Birmingham.</p> <p>A single project in Sandwell.</p> <p>A single project in Stoke-on-Trent.</p> <p>The projects should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● deliver support to VCS organisations working at a neighbourhood level; and ● target areas where small VCS organisations currently have limited or no access to support; and ● meet needs identified in the relevant VCS infrastructure consortium business plan. 	<p>We will consider applications from a single VCS infrastructure organisation, or a partnership led by a VCS infrastructure organisation, based in the area that the project targets.</p> <p>The organisation or partnership must have a track record of providing support to a wide range of small VCS organisations throughout the area that the project targets.</p> <p>Applicants should provide letters of support from the relevant VCS infrastructure consortium and the local strategic partnership, explaining why the project is important to building and sustaining VCS infrastructure services.</p>
WM10	<p>We will consider funding up to two projects that will increase infrastructure services for the full range of small VCS organisations based in rural areas of Herefordshire and Worcestershire.</p> <p>The projects should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● deliver support to VCS organisations working at a parish level; and ● target areas where small VCS organisations currently have limited or no access to support; and ● meet needs identified in the relevant VCS infrastructure consortium business plan. 	<p>We will consider applications from a single VCS infrastructure organisation, or a partnership led by a VCS infrastructure organisation, based in the area the project targets.</p> <p>The organisation or partnership must have a track record of providing support to a wide range of small VCS organisations in rural areas.</p> <p>Applicants should provide letters of support from the relevant VCS infrastructure consortium and the local strategic partnership, explaining why the project is important to building and sustaining VCS infrastructure services.</p>