



Our proposals for projects in the London region

In Round Two of BASIS we have up to £9.5 million to distribute for projects in London. We expect to be able to fund between 20 and 25 projects. We have identified the following issues and want to know which you think are the most important.

Region-wide projects

- Support and representation for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender and for disability groups. These projects should build on research already done within the region. We expect that organisations providing support to particular sectors will work in partnership with generalist organisations so that support can increasingly be provided by local generalist services.
- A regional-level voice for carers' organisations.
- Increased support at a regional and sub-regional level for organisations using volunteers. We wish to fund one project to support volunteering and consider that this can best be coordinated through the Volunteering sub-group of the London Regional Infrastructure Consortium.
- Work with established refugee and asylum seekers' (RAS) organisations to develop their capacity, particularly their ability to work in partnership and to evaluate the impact of their work. This work should be carried out by an organisation with experience of working with larger refugee groups at a regional level.
- Increasing knowledge and skills among voluntary organisations about how they can change their working practices to reduce their impact on the environment and contribute to stopping climate change. During the consultation period we want to hear from organisations that think they could deliver this project.

Sub-regional and local projects

- Exploration of how third sector organisations providing back office support can move from dependence on grant funding to income generation so that such services become independently sustainable. We are also interested in how support can be provided to medium sized organisations. We think that the sub-regional Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) partnerships, in collaboration with existing regional level infrastructure and local organisations already providing these services are best placed to co-ordinate one or two bids to address this.
- Support to front-line organisations in boroughs that did not receive funding in Round One. We anticipate funding 10 to 15 projects across the region and will prioritise boroughs that did not receive funding in Round One. We think that support can best be provided through a single project in each borough coordinated by the Infrastructure Development Partnership and provided by organisations working in partnership.

Current issues in London and our vision for the future

London Voluntary Services Council (LVSC) estimates that in London there are 40,000+ third sector organisations. Others put the figure as high as 60,000. This number of organisations is probably unsustainable and there is a need to encourage joint working at all levels. The infrastructure supporting the Voluntary Community Sector (VCS) is correspondingly complex. All boroughs have some level of development support and in many this is provided by more than one organisation. The size and capacity of these organisations vary widely.

There is a strong emphasis at the local level on providing support to small groups. Many CVSs have a good track record of working with equalities groups, particularly Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) and RAS organisations. There is evidence that other communities of interest, particularly LGBT and disability groups, are less well served in many areas. Regional level organisations provide representation and organisational development for BME and RAS groups, the women's sector and older people. There is no specialist support at the regional level for the LGBT sector or for disability groups and no coordinated regional voice for carers' groups.

Most infrastructure investment plans emphasise the need for more back office support, including workforce development, human resources and community accountancy. Support for volunteering is under pressure, at a time when the 2012 Olympic Games will require a major volunteering input. The potential impact of climate change is a major concern in London. City Bridge Trust and others have started to look at what VCS organisations can do to combat this, but awareness of what the third sector can do to promote environmental sustainability is at an early stage.

In future we would like to see:

- sustainable generalist infrastructure at a local level supported through a combination of long-term funding from local authorities, earned income and grants or contracts
- generalist and specialist infrastructure organisations working together so that high quality support is available at a local level for all communities of interest and for organisations at different stages of development, and
- increased partnership working between infrastructure organisations at a local, cross-borough and regional level.

BASIS Round One has already contributed to this by inviting 28 projects with a mix of regional, sub-regional and local projects. Projects include specialist skills such as ICT, support for equalities groups and generalist support at a local level. A full list of projects invited to put in a full application can be found at www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_basis_round1_projects

Consultation questions on our proposals

Optional: What is the name of the organisation you are responding on behalf of, or your name if this is an individual response?

1. How important is each of our proposals for London?

Very important	Quite important	Less important	Don't know	Specific proposals
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Regional-level support and representation for LGBT groups
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Regional-level support and representation for disability groups
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	A regional-level voice for carers' organisations
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Regional and sub-regional support for organisations using volunteers
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Work with established refugee and asylum seekers' (RAS) organisations
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Increasing knowledge and skills among voluntary organisations about how they can reduce their impact on the environment
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Finding ways for third sector organisations to generate income from "back office" support
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Local support for front-line organisations

2. If you think other things are more important than some or all of our proposals, please list them here:

3. What evidence do you have that they are needed, and why are they more important than our proposals?