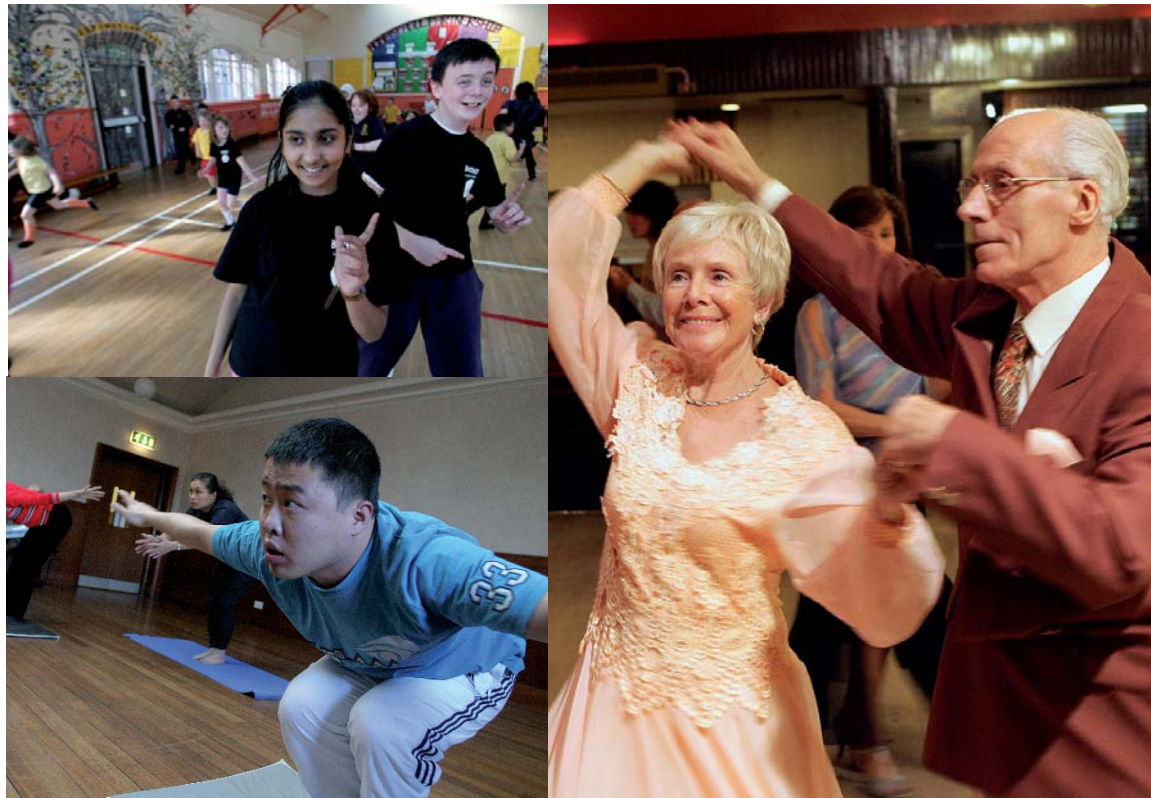


England



Community buildings



Community Buildings programme

Local communities will benefit from a Big Lottery Fund programme to build and improve community buildings and village halls.

Over the next three years the Community Buildings programme will award £50 million for community buildings to provide services and activities for a broad range of people. We define communities by:

- where people live
- a shared cultural background
- a common interest.

We will only fund buildings that house a variety of activities and services. Under this programme we will not fund buildings that are only used for one thing.

We will only fund buildings that are economically, socially and environmentally sustainable. There is more information on this in the programme guide.

Improving people's lives

We expect projects to meet five or more of the following outcomes, by which we mean the changes that will improve people's lives.

- broadening access to, and increasing the use of existing services
- creating a greater number and wider range of new services
- improving opportunities for the community to access a wide range of learning
- improving the skills, knowledge and capacity to respond to community needs
- increasing participation by the community in decision-making processes that affect the community
- improving community relationships and networks
- improving financial viability of community premises
- premises that use less energy, pollute less, create less waste and have a reduced contribution to climate change.

How much can you apply for?

You can apply for a grant of up to £500,000. However, we expect that most grants will be less than £250,000. If you wish to apply for more than £250,000 you will need to show us why your projected costs are so high.

Under this programme we will make grants of between £50,000 and £500,000.

The application process is in two stages. If you want to apply for a grant you must send us your first stage application form by 30th April 2007. You can download an application form from 11 July 2006 (www.biglotteryfund.org.uk). If successful, we will invite you to send us a stage two application.

You may be offered a development grant to contribute towards the cost of developing your project to meet the stage two application requirements. If we offer development funding we will discuss this with you. Development grants will be for no more than £25,000; the combined total of the development grant and project grant funding must not be more than £500,000. Not all stage two applications will be offered development funding.

We will make our first awards in July 2007.

Who can apply?

Under this grant programme we will only make grants to:

- registered charities
- voluntary or community groups
- charitable or not-for-profit companies
- social enterprises – a business with primarily social objectives whose surpluses are principally re-invested in the business or in the community, rather than being driven by the need to maximise profit for shareholders and owners
- parish councils.

We will not award a grant to:

- individuals
- local authorities other than parish or town councils
- schools or colleges
- NHS trusts
- learning and skills councils
- local enterprise companies
- commercial companies.

Some of the organisations that cannot apply to this programme might decide to work in partnership with organisations that can. The organisation applying for the grant must hold the lease or freehold of the building and control how the premises will be managed and run.

What can the grant pay for?

We will pay for buying land, buildings and equipment and for building works. We will also offer small grants of up to £5,000 for applicants to get training and advice about managing the building.

Case studies

These are the kinds of projects we may fund under the Community Buildings programme.

Bacton Village Hall, Norwich

A Lottery grant of £259,750 was awarded to extend and refurbish this village hall in addition to a donation of £90,000. The money was used to update the facilities including improvements to insulation, new kitchen fittings, heating, a roof and improved access for disabled users. The whole community can now enjoy a broad range of activities in the hall.

Greenstead Community Centre, Colchester

The community centre serves two large housing estates on the outskirts of Colchester. The project was to fund a new community building. The capital costs were £1.07 million and these were met through funding from the Lottery, Colchester Borough Council, Single Regeneration Budget and Sure Start.

The money was used to build meeting rooms, a crèche with an outdoor play area, a foyer café, and a new kitchen. Many local groups regularly use the building. Now in its second year, the project receives regular income from rental to Sure Start, income from the community café, and hiring rooms and the hall. The centre is now financially self-supporting.

Our other programmes

You can find out about our other programmes by visiting www.biglotteryfund.org.uk or you can phone the BIG advice line on 0845 10 20 30 (textphone 0845 602 1659).

If you have an idea for a project, but you are not sure whether it fits in with our Community Buildings programme or any other BIG programmes, please ring the BIG advice line on 0845 4 10 20 30.

Community Buildings

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Phone 0845 4 10 20 30

Textphone 0845 6 02 16 59

Our website www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

Accessibility

Also available upon request in other formats including large print.

Our equality principles, mission and values

We are committed to bringing real improvements to communities and the lives of people most in need. To find out more about our equality principles, mission and values, visit our website.

We care about the environment

The Big Lottery Fund seeks to minimise its negative environmental impact and only uses proper sustainable resources.

Big Lottery Fund is the joint operating name of the New Opportunities Fund and the National Lottery Charities Board (which made grants under the name of Community Fund).

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