



Northern Ireland Improving Community Buildings



Improving Community Buildings

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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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About the Big Lottery Fund

The Big Lottery Fund is responsible for distributing half of the money that the National Lottery raises for good causes. We want to use Lottery money to make big changes for communities, through the fair and open funding of people, projects and programmes, with a particular emphasis on tackling need. For more information on this, please read our 'Missions and Values' booklet, or refer to our website.

Big Lottery Fund is committed to valuing diversity and promoting equality of opportunity and good relations, both as a

grant-maker and employer. It is the responsibility of all staff and Board members to uphold and implement our equality policy. These commitments are also underpinned by our six equality principles. We expect everyone we work with to follow these principles. More information can be found in the Improving Community Buildings Guidance Notes and on our website.

About Improving Community Buildings

This programme makes grants to voluntary or community organisations, charitable not-for-profit companies and social enterprises wishing to refurbish or modernise their community venue in order to increase the level of community use and enhance the quality of the services provided. We have approximately £5 million available for the Improving Community Buildings programme in Northern Ireland and we anticipate funding approximately 100 projects.

Improving Community Buildings outcomes

We want to fund projects that aim to achieve both of the following programme outcomes:

- ▶ People can actively participate in their communities to bring about positive change.
- ▶ Community ownership of better and safer rural and urban environments.

Projects must also meet either one, or both, of our underlying principles:

- ▶ Addressing disadvantage and promoting tolerance and social inclusion.

- ▶ Contributing to the reduction of poverty.

In addition, all projects must meet all of the following four priorities in the Big Lottery Fund Northern Ireland Framework:

- ▶ Build community capacity.
- ▶ Increase opportunity for volunteering and engagement within and between communities.
- ▶ Improve community facilities, access and services.
- ▶ Increase community involvement in protecting, restoring and sustaining the urban and rural environment.



How much will we fund?

We will make grants of between £25,000 and £50,000 (including VAT and contingency costs) for refurbishment or modernisation projects. If awarded, you must start your project within six months of accepting your grant offer and all building work must be completed no later than one year from that start date. We can fund all or some of your project costs, but we encourage you to get some of your funding from other sources if you can. Your total project costs, however, must not exceed £75,000 (including VAT and contingency costs).

If you apply for a grant

under the Improving Community Buildings programme, you must prove that you can refurbish or modernise the community venue outlined in your application by providing evidence of security of tenure.

You must also have received all the required statutory approvals, such as planning permission and building control, and enclosed them with your application.

If you do not provide this evidence, we will not be able to process your application and it will not be presented to the programme committee.

Improving Community Buildings has a limited amount of money and the programme will be very competitive. We anticipate funding approximately 100 projects under this programme and want to make sure that a good range of projects, with a wide geographical coverage, are funded. This means that we will have to turn down many good projects.

Some project examples

Strabane and District Caring Services

Strabane and District Caring Services was awarded a grant under the Voluntary and Community Sector grants programme.

Funding was awarded to refurbish an old building to provide accommodation for the staff and services of the organisation. Work included re-roofing, window, kitchen and heating installation. The organisation provided social, recreational and educational activities including a luncheon club and meals on wheels for older people, day facilities for young disabled adults and a community transport scheme.

Outcome: The project enhanced the local environment and improved access to services, as well as building the capacity of the local community so that

they could become more involved in community activities. The project also increased people's opportunities to interact with each other, particularly for older and less able people in a rural area and gave people the skills to become more employable in an area of high unemployment.

Pomeroy Resource Limited

Pomeroy Resource Limited was awarded a grant under the Voluntary and Community Sector grants programme.

Funding was awarded to enable the group to

refurbish its premises, including the removal of some internal walls to expand existing room space, increase disabled access and provide a lift and fire escape. The group provides a range of community activities that encourage the local community to socialise and become more involved in running local activities.

Outcome: The project resulted in the creation of a neutral venue, which will promote social inclusion and provide increased opportunities for socialising within, and between, local communities and therefore help to improve community relations.

Larne Community Care Centre

Larne Community Care Centre was awarded a grant under the Building Quality Childcare programme.

The project refurbished a dilapidated community centre based in the Antiville estate in Larne. This project is a good example of a community based project transforming a building, that was earmarked for demolition, into a modern facility providing childcare and other professional and statutory services.

Outcome: The building has now become a focal point for the local community and has created a genuine community spirit.

Who can apply?

Under this grant programme we will only make grants to:

- voluntary or community organisations
- organisations recognised by HM Revenue and Customs (formerly Inland Revenue) as exempt for tax purposes
- charitable not-for-profit companies
- social enterprises – businesses that are chiefly run for social objectives, whose profits are reinvested in the business rather than going to shareholders and owners.

We will not give a grant to:

- statutory bodies
- individuals

- sole traders
- for profit organisations except social enterprises
- professional fundraisers
- organisations delivering projects outside Northern Ireland.

We will not normally make grants to organisations that:

- are applying on behalf of other organisations. The organisation applying for a grant must be the same organisation that will receive and be responsible for the funding
- have large amounts of unrestricted funds.

How to apply?

You can download Guidance notes and an application form from our website at www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

Where possible, groups are strongly encouraged to send applications as soon as they are ready.

However, your application must be received at the following address by **5pm on Thursday 24 May 2007**:

Improving Community
Buildings Programme
Applications
Big Lottery Fund
1 Cromac Quay
Cromac Wood
Ormeau Road
Belfast
BT7 2JD

Alternatively, you may email your application to: applications.ni@biglotteryfund.org.uk

For more information:

Contact our Information Team on:

Email: enquiries.ni@biglotteryfund.org.uk

Phone: 028 9055 1455

Textphone: 028 9055 1431

Fax: 028 9055 1445

Technical Support

We have appointed Community Technical Aid as the support organisation to provide information, support and advice on building control and planning requirements and processes to potential applicants. They will also provide advice on issues including sustainable development and tendering requirements.

Their contact details are:

Community Technical Aid

445 - 449 Ormeau Road

Belfast

BT7 3GQ

Tel: 028 9064 2227

Other funding available includes:

Awards for All

Awards for All is a Lottery grants programme making simple and straightforward grants of between £500 and £10,000. These are aimed at extending access and participation, increasing skill and creativity and improving the life of local communities. For more information visit www.awardsforall.org.uk

Phone: 0845 600 2040 for an Awards for All application pack.

Textphone: 028 9055 1431