

Evaluation of Life Skills Ref 2243 C7: Opportunity Notice



Background to the Life Skills Project

The Big Lottery Fund (BIG) wishes to commission an evaluation of the Life Skills project, which is jointly funded by BIG and the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO).

The Life Skills project has approximately £14 million available to deliver services throughout Wales. It will support targeted groups of economically inactive people to engage or re-engage with education, training/learning, volunteering and to move into employment. The targeted groups are:

- Care Leavers
- Carers and Former Carers returning to work
- Economically Inactive Families

It is anticipated that individuals from within these groups will have complex life styles and may face multiple barriers that prevent them from re-engaging with employment. In the majority of instances the participants will require support to enable them to gain life skills and to adopt a stable life pattern that will help them progress through learning, education, volunteering and move into employment.

The Life Skills project will award contracts to a number of service providers to deliver services to over 5000 people across Wales. Contracts will be for durations of up to four years, with all contracts completed by June 2015.

More background to the Life Skills project can be found on the Big Lottery Fund website, at:

http://www2.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_life_skills_project

Evaluation of the Life Skills project

The Big Lottery Fund wishes to invite suitable contractors to be considered for inclusion on a tender list to carry out the Evaluation of the Life Skills Project.

The Evaluation will cover the whole Life Skills project: across all three target groups and across both the Convergence and Regional Competitiveness and Employment areas of Wales.

The overarching aims of the evaluation will be

1. To assess the overall impact of the Life Skills project, including whether it has been successful in meeting its outcomes; and if yes, how has this been achieved, and if not, why not?
2. To share learning from the Life Skills project. This should take place with service providers and BIG/WEFO policy makers during the programme. It should also happen at the conclusion of the project, to inform a wider audience about what works when seeking to engage specific hard to reach groups in education, learning, volunteering and employment.
3. The contract value for this project is expected to be within £55,000 to £70,000 inclusive of VAT.

Instructions for interested parties

If you are interested in this opportunity, please submit a proposal using questions 1 to 7 specified below as a guideline for your responses. Answer the questions as fully as possible. Responses must be cross-referenced to the relevant question number. Please keep your overall proposal under 3500 words.

	Question
1	Company Information Please provide the following details within your proposal: Name of lead contact: Organisation: E-mail: Phone:
2	Evaluation experience Please outline your experience of undertaking evaluations, including your experience and any track record of engaging with a wide range of people and organisations. Please include examples of your work.
3	Target group experience Please outline your experience of working with carers/former carers, care leavers and economically inactive families. If you have not worked with these specific groups, please explain how your wider experience of working with “hard-to-reach” groups will stand you in good stead.
4	Delivering a bilingual service Please explain how you are able to carry out the evaluation in line with the requirements of BIG’s Welsh Language Scheme (this is available on the Big Lottery Fund website).
5	Capacity to deliver Based on previous experience, please demonstrate your capacity to carry out this work, in terms of the geographical coverage (both Convergence and Regional Competitiveness areas of Wales) and the numbers of service providers.
6	Dissemination experience Please outline your experience in successfully disseminating research and evaluation findings to practitioners and policy makers.
7	Quality assurance Please explain how your work is quality assured.

* Though the questions are numbered, this does not relate to any order of importance

Please send two hard copies of your proposal to the address listed below no later than 12pm Noon on Friday 5th February 2010 -

TITLE: LIFE SKILLS PROJECT EVALUATION: REF 2243 (C7):
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