



Reaching Communities Northern Ireland



Reaching Communities Northern Ireland programme

Reaching Communities Northern Ireland will provide funding to help improve local communities and the lives of people most in need. The programme, launched on 27 April 2006, will make around £18 million available between 2006-09, over five rounds of funding. The programme was reviewed in September 2007; this leaflet and application materials have been updated.

Meeting communities' needs

This programme will make a difference to people and communities most in need throughout Northern Ireland. We will support projects that respond to the needs identified by communities and where the people who will benefit are involved in making the project happen. We want communities to be involved at the heart of the projects we fund and we want to bring about the following changes through our funding.

We want to fund projects that aim to achieve:

- one or more of the programme outcomes

AND

- all of the priorities under each of the outcomes the project meets

AND

- at least one of the underlying principles.

Outcomes			
Outcome A People have the opportunity to achieve their full potential	Outcome B People can actively participate in their communities to bring about positive change	Outcome C Community ownership of better and safer rural and urban environments	Outcome D Improved physical and mental health for all people
↓	↓ Related priorities ↓	↓	↓
Improve essential skills to meet social and economic needs Increase opportunity for community based learning Build community capacity	Increase opportunity for volunteering and engagement within and between communities Build community and voluntary/ statutory partnerships	Improve community facilities, access and services Increase community involvement in protecting, restoring and sustaining the urban and rural environment	Help individuals and communities to develop skills to make healthier lifestyle choices Promote mental health and emotional well-being at individual and community level
Underlying principles			
Addressing disadvantage and promoting tolerance and social inclusion Contributing to the reduction of poverty			

We aim to fund a range of projects, taking account of, for example, different project types, beneficiary types and project locations in Northern Ireland.

We also take into account how projects meet the programme outcomes over the lifetime of the programme. The Northern Ireland Committee has set indicative allocations against each programme outcome.

More information on how we make our decisions is available in the programme guidance notes.

For an example of the type of project we might fund under this programme please see page 9.

Our funding

Reaching Communities Northern Ireland will give grants from £100,000 up to £500,000. Capital funding is limited to 10 per cent of the total grant requested up to a maximum of £50,000, which must be directly related to your project.

We will be able to fund projects for up to five years and we will not fund projects that last less than three years.

We do not require any additional source of cash income for your project, but contributions from other sources (financially or in kind), might be seen as evidence of your commitment to the project and its sustainability.

We have awarded a contract to Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action to support and build the capacity of successful applicants to ensure the effective delivery of their projects over the lifetime of the programme.

If you want to apply for funding from this programme, you will need to show us that there is a need for your project, how your project provides a solution to that need, and how your community will be involved.

Where relevant, we will want to know how your project complements local plans, strategies or initiatives.

We will support those projects we think best meet communities' needs.

Reaching Communities Northern Ireland has a limited amount of money and we want to ensure that we fund a good range of projects with a wide geographical coverage. There is a lot of competition for the money we have available for this programme. We will not be able to fund every good application we receive.

So, as well as coming to us, you may want to explore other ways of raising money for your project.



Who can apply?

You can apply to Reaching Communities Northern Ireland whether you are a small local group, or a larger organisation working locally. The following organisations can apply:

- organisations recognised by HMRC as charitable for tax purposes
- voluntary and community groups
- charitable or 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 particularly welcome applications from partnerships, where the lead partner is one of the four types of organisation listed above. Partnerships can include statutory bodies, but they cannot be the lead partner.

We will not award a grant to:

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

Normally we do not award grants to organisations that are applying on behalf of other organisations, organisations that have large amounts of unrestricted funds, organisations with a poor grant management history with the Big Lottery Fund or organisations that are in poor financial health.

Organisations can apply for and hold only one grant from this programme.

How can you apply?

We know that it can be expensive and time-consuming filling in long application forms, so we have developed a straightforward process for Reaching Communities Northern Ireland.

We want to let you know quickly if we might consider funding your project.

So first of all, you will need to complete an outline proposal (OPF), which you can get by calling 028 9055 1455 or downloading it from our website at www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

On the outline proposal, you will need to tell us about your project, the community it will help, how the community is involved, the need it will address and the difference you hope it will make.

Within 20 working days of receiving this form, we will let you know whether we might be able to consider supporting your project. If so, we will then send you a full application form.

If you decide to send us a full application form, once we have reviewed your outline proposal, you can send us your application either by the nearest full application form deadline (set out in the table below) or any of the full application form deadlines after that one. For example, if you submit an outline proposal after the 7 November deadline you can send us your full application form by either the May or September 2008 full application form deadline dates.

Outline proposal deadline	Full application form deadline	Decisions taken by
5pm – Wednesday, 7 November 2007	5pm – Wednesday, 23 January 2008	End of June 2008
5pm – Wednesday, 5 March 2008	5 pm - Wednesday, 7 May 2008	End of November 2008
5pm – Wednesday, 4 June 2008	5 pm - Wednesday, 3 September 2008	End of March 2009

Before you apply

We review the Reaching Communities Northern Ireland programme regularly to make sure that we are reaching the people and communities who are most in need. The information in the programme materials will change over time.

This leaflet was published in September 2007. For the most up-to-date information check our website at www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

Our other programmes

You can find out about our other programmes by visiting www.biglotteryfund.org.uk or phoning 028 9055 1455 (textphone 028 9055 1431).



Example

The following is an example of the type of project we may fund under this programme.

Community Grow

This project will enable older people and those with serious heart conditions and long-term illness to grow vegetables and make artworks in a community garden.

The project aims to increase physical activity, develop confidence and self esteem, reduce isolation and develop community relationships by providing a safe, accessible environment for vulnerable, isolated people who are socially excluded. The project combines a range of creative activities including art, gardening, healthy eating and exercise. Two key factors help the project succeed: they consult extensively with local groups and they involve volunteers.

Project outcomes

- ▶ 25 older people will have improved social well-being and psychological health by July 2009
- ▶ 50 older people will have improved awareness of healthy lifestyles by the end of the project
- ▶ 50 older people will have increased awareness of environmental issues by the end of the project
- ▶ 30 older people will take part in more physical activity by July 2009
- ▶ 150 members of the community will experience improved public places and facilities by the end of the project.

How we 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, available on our website.



Information for readers

When was it published?	September 2007
Need more information?	The easiest way to apply is online at www.biglotteryfund.org.uk or call 028 9055 1455
Reference	BIG-RCNIA507
Photographers	Martin McKeown and Brian Morrison
Further copies available from:	enquiries.ni@biglotteryfund.org.uk Phone: 028 9055 1455 Textphone: 028 9055 1431
We provide publications in several formats	Also available on request in other formats.
We care about the environment	The Big Lottery Fund seeks to minimise its negative environmental impact and uses only proper sustainable resources.
Our equality principles	The Big Lottery Fund is committed to valuing diversity and promoting equality of opportunity, both as a grant maker and employer. The Big Lottery Fund will aim to adopt an inclusive approach to ensure grant applicants and recipients, stakeholders, job applicants and employees are treated fairly. It is the responsibility of all staff and Board members to uphold and implement our equality policy.
Copyright	© Big Lottery Fund, 2007