

Sources of help on outcomes and project planning

BIG Lottery Fund

You can find out more about our programmes and the outcomes that we are looking for from our website, <http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/> or by calling 0845 4 10 20 30. The guidance notes will also tell you about any specific sources of help for the programme in question.

Some of our publications may also help you to consider how to use outcomes and to plan your project. These are available on our website, or you can ring the number above to ask for copies.

- “Engaging young people in evaluation and consultation” – This summary focuses on working with young people, but you can easily adapt many of the approaches for other groups.
- “Self-evaluation: a handy guide to sources” – As we have discussed in our main guide, the types of approaches that you will use to monitor your outcomes are one form of self-evaluation. The documents and websites listed in this publication will help you to think in further detail about how to do this. This guide also includes details of sources for particular areas of work.

Staff in our country or regional offices will also be able to advise you generally about local organisations that can help you, or about specific assistance that we offer. Contact details for all of our offices are available via our home page.

In **Wales**, specific sources of support appear in our application materials. If you have any further questions, please contact us on 02920 678200 or e-mail enquiries.wales@biglotteryfund.org.uk.

The investor approach that we have adopted in **Scotland** means that we are happy to work with you to develop your initial ideas into project plans and applications. To find out more, please see “Investing in Ideas” in the “Apply” section of our website, or phone us on 0870 240 2391.

Other organisations

Many agencies help groups to plan projects and to apply to funders. A good place to start is your local council. They will usually have staff who deal with community development, Lottery funding, or specific areas of work. They may be able to help you themselves or to direct you to others who can.

Public-sector organisations often have monitoring and research sections and they may be able to help other parts of their service.

For voluntary and community organisations, Charities Evaluation Services have a

very useful website with information about monitoring, evaluation and outcomes.

See:

www.ces-vol.org.uk

In Northern Ireland, [Community Evaluation Northern Ireland](http://www.ceni.org/) have a number of useful publications about using outcomes, available at <http://www.ceni.org/>.

Evaluation Support Scotland have published useful general guidance about using outcomes. It is available at:

www.evaluationsupportscotland.org.uk

Communities Scotland have produced “How to” guides on using outcomes, community engagement and partnership working, as well as other useful guidance, all of which are available at:

www.communitiesscotland.gov.uk

Your own support structure

Your organisation may be part of a wider formal or informal network of organisations. If yours is a local branch of a national organisation, for instance, your regional or national office may have staff or resources that can help you. Even if your organisation is entirely independent, it may be useful to consider any wider networks of organisations that work in your field.

For statutory agencies like health authorities or council departments, a central research or Lottery funding section may be able to advise you.

Many local authorities have Lottery funding officers who should be able to advise applicants from all sectors about approaches and other local sources of support.

There is also a wide range of organisations that support voluntary and community groups locally. As well as asking your local BIG office and your council, the following national organisations can help to direct you:

- In **England**, the National Association for Voluntary and Community Action. Visit <http://www.nicva.org/> or ring them on 0114 278 6636.
- In **Northern Ireland**, the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action. Visit <http://www.nicva.org/> or ring them on 028 9087 7777.
- In **Wales**, the Wales Council for Voluntary Action. Visit <http://www.wcva.org.uk> or ring them on 0800 2888 329.