



AWARDS FOR ALL



England



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1. What is the aim of the programme?

Awards for All England is a Big Lottery Fund grant scheme for local communities. There are different schemes in each of the four countries.

2. What is the scheme in England?

Awards for All England makes grants of between £300 and £10,000 to organisations wanting to run projects that aim to help improve local communities and the lives of people most in need. We want to fund projects that meet one or more of the following outcomes:

- ▶ **People have better chances in life with better access to training and development to improve their life skills.**
- ▶ **Stronger communities with more active citizens working together to tackle their problems.**
- ▶ **Improved rural and urban environments which communities are better able to access and enjoy.**
- ▶ **Healthier and more active people and communities.**

Our outcomes are the differences we want our funding to make. We will consider how well your project meets our outcomes during our assessment. You must show how your project meets at least one of them to be considered for a grant.

3. Who can apply?

You can apply if:

- you are a not-for-profit group or you are a parish or town council, school or health body
- you have a bank account that requires at least two people to sign each cheque or withdrawal
- you can use the grant within one year
- you will be able to provide proof of how you spent your grant.

4. When can you apply?

Applications can be made at any time; decision-making is continuous. There are no funding rounds, application windows or closing dates.

5. How do you apply?

You can apply online, using a writeable PDF document that can be emailed to us. This is available from www.awardsforall.org.uk

We aim to let you know within six weeks if you have been successful.

6. How much money is available?

Between £300 and £10,000 in any 12 month period to help fund a specific project or activity.

7. Is there anyone we can't award grants to?

Yes, companies which aim to distribute a profit, statutory bodies not mentioned above, and individuals.

If you are not sure whether your project is something we can fund, please look at our website www.biglotteryfund.org.uk for more information or call our advice line on 0345 4 10 20 30

We welcome applications for projects combining a range of community activities.

8. What won't Awards for All fund?

- projects or activities that do not meet any of the four Awards for All outcomes above
- any costs you incur when putting together an application
- activities that happen or start before we confirm our grant
- any expenditure incurred or committed before we confirm our grant (including deposits)
- day-to-day running costs (for example, utility bills, council tax, rent and insurance)
- contingency costs
- endowments (to provide an income)
- existing activities and repeat or regular events, including those we have funded before unless your annual income for last year was less than £30,000
- feasibility studies for building projects that will cost more than £25,000 (including VAT)
- fundraising activities for your organisation
- items that mainly benefit individuals (for example, equipment that is not shared)
- Items that are purchased on behalf of another organisation
- land, building, refurbishment, landscaping or property projects (including playgrounds and temporary buildings) costing more than £25,000 (including VAT)
- land or building projects where the ownership or lease is not yet in place (including any planning permissions)
- costs of electricity generating equipment (and/or the cost of installation) where the aim is to generate Feed in Tariff payments (see Q.16 below)
- loans or interest payments
- ongoing staff costs (including salaries of permanent or fixed term staff)
- political or religious activities
- projects or activities that the state or a statutory body has a legal obligation to provide
- projects that you cannot maintain because of high ongoing costs or the need for specialist skills
- projects that cannot be completed within 12 months of the date of the letter confirming the grant
- routine repairs and maintenance
- used vehicles
- VAT that you can recover
- the purchase of alcohol
- projects where the main purpose is to increase participation in sport, arts or heritage.

9. How are decisions made?

Our senior managers approve the final decisions.

Sometimes we do not have enough funds to support all the applications we would like to. When this happens we need to make some difficult decisions.

We have a scoring system that helps us do this fairly. We give more points to applications that:

- meet more of our outcomes
- show strong evidence of need
- seek to involve as wide a range of people as possible
- are value for money
- are from organisations with a smaller annual income
- are from organisations that Awards for All has not funded before.

10. How do organisations decide which Lottery distributor to apply to?

You need to think about the main purpose of your project:

- ▶ If it's to make a difference to local communities and the lives of people most in need, the project may be eligible for an Awards for All grant. For more information please visit: www.awardsforall.org.uk or ring our BIG advice line on 0345 4 10 20 30
- ▶ If it's to contribute to a growing and sustaining participation in community sport, or help improve performance in sport, the project may be eligible for Sport England's small grants programme. For more information on Sport England funding please visit www.sportengland.org or ring the Sport England Funding Line on: 0345 850 8508
- ▶ If it's to involve 13-25 year-olds in finding out about their heritage, developing skills, building confidence and promoting community involvement, the project may be eligible for the Heritage Lottery Fund's, Young Roots programme.
- ▶ If it's to help people to learn about their local, regional or national heritage and take part in related activities, the project may be eligible for the Heritage Lottery Fund's Your Heritage programme. For more information on the funding available from the Heritage Lottery Fund please ring 020 7591 6000 or visit www.hlf.org.uk
- ▶ If it's to engage people in England in art activities or help art organisations in England carry out their work, the project may be eligible for the Arts Council England's Grants for the Arts programme. For more information on Arts Council funding please visit www.artscouncil.org.uk or ring 0845 300 6200

More information on lottery funding is available at www.lotteryfunding.org.uk

If you are in any doubt please contact the funder before applying.

11. Will BIG continue to fund sports, arts and heritage projects?

This depends on the project itself; it can still have an element of sport, art or heritage, but it must also meet at least one of the outcomes listed below:

- ▶ **People have better chances in life with better access to training and development to improve their life skills.**
- ▶ **Stronger communities with more active citizens working together to tackle their problems.**
- ▶ **Improved rural and urban environments which communities are better able to access and enjoy.**
- ▶ **Healthier and more active people and communities.**

12. What sort of projects would be accepted under each of the outcomes?

It is difficult to second-guess projects but generally speaking we would expect to see the following type of projects and activities under the following outcomes:

- ▶ **People have better chances in life, with better access to training and development to improve their life skills**
 1. A writing skills course for young adults to enable them to improve their CVs and job search skills.
 2. A series of IT workshops to improve the IT skills of older people.
 3. A support group for women from ethnic minority communities to develop their confidence and language skills.

- ▶ **Stronger communities, with more active citizens, working together to tackle their problems**
 1. A telephone helpline offering advice and support for people with cancer and their carers.
 2. A series of storytelling and drama workshops to increase people's understanding of other cultures to further community cohesion.
 3. A citizenship project to provide cultural awareness information and advice to recent immigrants to enable integration into the local community.
- ▶ **Improved rural and urban environments, which communities are better able to enjoy**
 1. The development of a daytime crèche for a rural community.
 2. Publicising and promoting a group that recycles computers for the community to use.
 3. Improving a village hall to provide better facilities for all members of the community.
 4. Small scale feasibility studies.
- ▶ **Healthier and more active people and communities**
 1. A training and exercise programme to enable disabled people to become more physically active.
 2. A series of cooking and nutritional workshops and demonstrations to promote healthy eating.
 3. A food growing project by a local allotment group aimed at providing information and advice to unemployed people who want to grow more of their own food.

13. Why do you prioritise smaller organisations and smaller projects?

We are keen to ensure we can reach organisations that have a smaller annual income. We do this to ensure the programme remains accessible to new and grassroots community organisations aiming to bring real improvements to local communities and the lives of those most in need.

We have also decided to ensure this programme prioritises its support to smaller projects to ensure this money is spent within twelve months on small and local community projects.

It should be noted that these points form part of an application's overall score. There is no benchmark score for you to aim for, as getting a grant will also depend on the quality and number of other applications we receive at any one time.

14. Why do you require applicants to have an open membership?

Our stance on open membership is formed from our overall commitment to a set of equalities principles, which include promoting accessibility, valuing cultural diversity, promoting participation, promoting equality of opportunity, promoting inclusive communities and reducing disadvantage and exclusion.

If your organisation has a membership we expect this to be open to all and that anyone can join, unless you can provide a good reason why not. We will usually consider proposing and seconding to be unacceptable and we expect there to be the right of appeal for anyone who is refused membership.

In our application form we ask you if there are any restrictions on who can join your organisation. Please take time to consider this carefully and check your governing document.

15. Why can't you fund the costs of electricity generating equipment where the aim is to generate Feed in Tariff payments?

If your organisation is thinking of applying for an Awards for All (A4A) grant towards the costs of purchasing or installing electricity generating equipment, such as solar panels or water wheels, you must be aware of the Office of the Gas and Electricity Market's (OFGEM) policy on Feed in Tariff (FIT) payments.

As a result of changes to the FIT Order on the 1 July 2011 by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), installations that have received grants since then are not eligible to receive both a grant from public funds (e.g. a grant from Awards for All) towards the costs of the installation **and** FITs payments.

These changes do not apply universally across the devolved administrations of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, but they do apply to grants awarded under the Awards for All England programme.

Before we can make an award to your organisation for electricity generating equipment we will need to receive confirmation from you in writing that you understand that you cannot receive a grant from Awards for All **and** a benefit from FIT payments.