

Celebrate FAQs - England

Why are you doing this?

We are looking to support people to bring their local communities together. Building stronger neighbourhoods can help tackle social isolation and boost community spirit. Over 80% of people felt closer to their neighbours and better about their neighbourhood after taking part in the Big Lunch, an annual get-together for neighbours (which received funding from the Big Lottery Fund). We've found that 60% of people have not or can't remember the last time they came together to celebrate and want to change this. It could be to celebrate something in their local history or a local community hero, to mark something important to their community like Her Majesty The Queen's 90th Birthday, or simply to get to know their neighbours better.

How much money is available?

The Big Lottery Fund has recently allocated an additional £4.1 million to Celebrate, giving a total budget of £9.1 million for projects across the UK. This is broken down as follows:

- England has a total of £7.695 million for grants between £300 and £10,000
- Wales has a total of £325,000 for grants between £250 and £2,000
- Scotland has a total of £575,000 for grants between £500 and £5,000
- Northern Ireland has a total of £555,000 for grants between £500 and £5,000

Can anyone apply?

You can find out more information on www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/celebrate. Applications are welcome from voluntary or community organisations with a constitution and bank account, schools or statutory bodies. We are particularly keen to hear from groups that may never have applied to us for funding before.

What type of activities will be funded through Celebrate?

Celebrate gives people the chance to come together, whether that's to mark something important to their community like Her Majesty The Queen's 90th Birthday, commemorate a historic local event, or simply get to know their neighbours better. We want to celebrate what makes their local community great

What is the closing date for applications?

The deadline for applications is noon, Friday 21 October 2016.

Will applications still be assessed and awarded on a first come first served basis?

Due to the huge popularity of Celebrate we're adapting our approach in order to ensure a fair even spread of applications across the country. We will now give a higher priority to those applications which will bring different communities and generations together, are people led and from schools and academies.

Why have you changed the criteria?

Celebrate tested a new way of awarding funds on the basis of first come first served. We have been overwhelmed with the success of the programme so to enable even more local

communities to come together and celebrate we are investing an additional £4.1 million across the UK.

As we enter this final phase of funding, to build a spread of activity, we will prioritise applications which will bring together different communities and generations, are people led and from schools and academies.

Can I apply for funding again if I've already applied to Celebrate?

You can apply to Celebrate more than once however it is very unlikely you will be funded more than once due to the high number of applications we have received. Priority will be given to those organisations that haven't already received a grant through Celebrate.

If I've already applied when will I find out the decision on my application?

You should receive a decision within 10 weeks of us receiving a complete application form.

Are you looking for different types of activities now?

No, we still want to fund projects that give people a chance to come together and celebrate what makes their local community great. However, we will prioritise applications which will bring different communities and generations together, are people led and from schools and academies.

Does this mean it is now less likely my application will be successful?

We are now prioritising projects which will bring different communities and generations together, are people led and from schools and academies. However, you still have a chance of being funded even if you don't meet all of the priorities, providing you meet the eligibility criteria. Please complete the eligibility checker at www.surveygizmo.eu/s3/90013685/Celebrate-eligibility-checklist-England to ensure you are eligible to apply.

Have the grant amounts changed?

No, the grant amounts remain the same. You can apply for between £300 and £10,000 in England.

Will there be any more funding if demand remains high?

We do not expect to add additional budget to Celebrate. We will close to applications in England at noon, Friday 21 October 2016.

Can you help me promote my event?

Visit www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/celebrate for info on how to make the most of your event. On Twitter use the hashtag #BigCelebration to promote your activity.