

## Grassroots Grants Criteria sheet

Grassroots Grants is a grant scheme funded by the Government Office for the Third Sector and run locally by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation with several partner organisations, in particular Community Action Hampshire, Isle of Wight Rural Community Council, Community First for Portsmouth and Southampton Voluntary Services.

The scheme is intended to give small organisations improved access to funding and more capacity to respond to local issues and needs. There is a total of over £2 Million to award through to the scheme end in March 2011 and we hope to award grants to a very wide range of groups working with all sections of our local communities.

### ***Funding notes and eligibility criteria***

- Eligible groups will be small, volunteer-led and not-for-profit
- Groups must have an **annual income of under £30,000**, averaged over the last three years or for however many years the group has been operating if this is less than three years. This figure includes all income except for Grassroots Grants already received
- Applications must be to benefit people living in **only one** of the following areas: Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth, Southampton
- Applications must be for activities, projects or equipment aimed at **meeting a local need** of some sort. The application form asks for details of the local need
- Groups can apply for a grant of **between £250 and £5,000** and there is a shorter, 'express' application form for applications up to £900. Funding can cover more than one financial year (up to March 2011) and there is space on the application form to request this
- A group can receive a **maximum of £5,000** from Grassroots over the scheme lifetime

## ***What cannot be supported by Grassroots Grants***

- Applications from **individuals**
- **Public bodies** like local authorities or schools
- **Regional or local offices** of a national organisation – applicant groups must be local and independent, with control over their decisions and finances
- Organisations that are for the **sole benefit or relief of animals or plants** – but note that Grassroots funding can be given for work with animals and / or plants in order to benefit people, for example city farms or community garden projects
- Organisations that are **very new** – the applicant group must have been actively working (perhaps informally) in their local community for at least one year before applying.
- **Larger organisations** – see the above note about annual income
- Any **party political** activity
- **Commercial** ventures
- **Proselytising** activities, i.e. active promotion of a specific religion or belief system
- For applications from groups working with asylum seekers, the work to be funded must be **consistent with immigration laws and Government Home Office policy**

## ***Further information and advice***

If you are eligible to apply for a Grassroots Grant then you can call HIWCF for an application pack or download the pack from our website. Please read the guidelines carefully before completing the application form and remember to include all the required supporting documents when you send in your completed application. See the back of the guidance notes for details of who to contact if you need any help and how to submit your application. Thank you for your interest in Grassroots Grants and good luck should you decide to apply for a grant.

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# Grassroots Grants

## Further Criteria and Priorities

Applications should be for activities, projects or equipment aimed at :

### 1) Strengthening your organisation

#### A) Organisational development

We want to assist organisations build themselves to be as self-sufficient and resilient as possible. Organisations need to develop their trustees and volunteers to ensure they have the appropriate skills to run their organisations and its activities and services. Grassroots can support this organisational training as well as the specialised training that may be needed for a particular type of organisation. Organisations should be developing their volunteers in understanding the policies that may impact their group or clientele such as safeguarding child or vulnerable adults, health and safety, risk assessments, financial management, volunteer recruitment, selection and development., etc.

Examples:

Funding to support an organisation to achieve a quality or other standard relevant to their activities

Cost of attending a conference or event

Training for volunteers and staff

Since the current funding for the Grassroots programme will end in March 2011, it is hoped that organisations can build their infrastructure, resources and reserves so that they can be in a better position to continue their work after this current programme finishes.

#### B) On going operational costs

Grassroots is able to support eligible organisations who are providing activities and services that are of a benefit to their local community with their regular on-going costs including facility

rental costs, rates, telephone, broadband, insurance, volunteer expenses, photocopying, stationery, printing of flyers, publicity, etc.

Other examples:

Purchase of equipment, computer, oven, furniture

Staff costs to enable employment of individuals

Contribution to rent costs – related to activity or service delivery

## **2) Meeting a need that will benefit your local community**

Groups should be able to indicate how many people are to benefit from the project and how the project will benefit them. Projects should be able to show a defined need or interest from the local community, based on previous experience, or in some cases, written evidence or research.

If there are costs involved to individuals such as membership fees or admission fees these should be listed along with any concessionary rates for youth, seniors, people with disabilities, etc.

### **Examples of possible projects and activities include:**

Cost of putting on a local event or workshop for the benefit of the group or community

Additional activities to expand an existing funded project

Activities that support community activity

Activities that meet an identified need in the local community

**Projects do not need to be new but can be for on-going work.**