

The voice of the Voluntary Arts

The Big Lottery Fund 2006-2009

The Big Lottery Fund, (BIG), launched in 2004, has now set its new programmes for 2006-2009 and will be giving out more than £2.3 billion during the three year period.

Most of the programmes have already been launched, though a handful will launch later in 2006. This briefing gives a summary of the funding schemes nation by nation, and offers details and useful information to help you along the way.

This is a great funding opportunity for many voluntary arts organisations. Even though some of these schemes do not appear to fit voluntary arts activities, creative thinking can sometimes open up opportunities – so don't be afraid to think out of the box! You may also want to look at VAN Briefing no. 91: 'How to write a successful funding application' before commencing the application process, and keep an eye on your national VAN website for updates on the schemes. (see *Further information & resources*).

The BIG Mission

The BIG mission across the UK is: 'to improve communities and the lives of people most in need'. It hopes to achieve this through the schemes themselves, each of which has the following three key themes:

- supporting community learning and creating opportunity;
- promoting community safety and cohesion;
- promoting well-being.

Sir Clive Booth, Chairman of the Big Lottery Fund, said he hoped that the new programmes will now deliver what the voluntary sector wants, i.e. grants that include smaller pots of money spread over a wider range of themes.

A. UK Wide

Awards for All

Grants of between £500 and £10,000 are available to support small voluntary and community organisations. Priority is given to organisations with a turnover of under £15,000. Projects which involve people in their local community, bringing them together in a range of heritage, charitable, health, educational, environmental and other community activities will be eligible for funding.

International Grants Programme

Up to £60 million will support projects across the UK that tackle the causes of poverty and deprivation, and bring about long-term positive change to the lives of the world's most disadvantaged people. This programme will be launched Spring/Summer 2006.

People's Millions

BIG and ITV have teamed up to run this TV tie-in programme where members of the public vote for the local projects which they want to see funded. After a successful funding round last year, this programme will be re-launched in Spring 2006 with a budget of £16.5. It will fund projects that improve the lives of the local community through:

- making the local environment safer, cleaner and greener;
- improving the local natural environment;
- improving the design, appearance and accessibility of local amenities.

B. England

Advice services

Launching in June 2006, £50 million is available for the improvement of advice services, strategic service delivery and local partnerships.

Children's Play

80 percent of this programme's £155 million budget will be used to develop free, open-access play provision in the areas of greatest need. The remaining 20 percent will be divided between:

- an innovation fund to develop innovative practice, design and delivery;
- a regional support and development network.

The programme will support activities and projects that are self-directed, creative and fun.

Community Buildings

Mainly funding capital support for community buildings, this programme will have a budget of up to £50 million.



Community Learning

There are two different programmes under the community learning scheme: **Community Libraries** and **Family Learning**.

- **Community Libraries** has £80 million of funding and will support the development of a number of flagship community libraries within disadvantaged areas.
- **Family Learning** has £40 million of funding and will focus on wider family issues and relationships. It will fund activities that will improve numeracy, language and literacy skills or accreditation.

Environmental Programme

There are two programmes under the environmental scheme: the **Parks Programme** and **Changing Spaces**.

- **Parks Programme** was launched in January 2006 and has £90 million of funding in conjunction with the Heritage Lottery Fund. The programme comes under the wider Environmental remit (budget of £324 million total). Its main aims are to provide better parks, increase community involvement, improve safety and increase the number of skilled conservation officers and volunteers.
- **Changing Spaces** has £234 million to spend on community spaces, community enterprise and access to the natural environment.

Healthy Lifestyles Initiative

With £165 million (£45 million for healthy eating projects), the Healthy Lifestyles Initiative aims to increase participation in physical activity, educate communities about healthy eating and develop early intervention to common mental health problems.

Reaching Communities

This programme, which launched in early December 2005, will be giving out £100 million in 2006.

Reaching Communities has two aims:

- bringing real improvements to communities and to the lives of people most in need (hard to reach);
- supporting the projects that respond to the needs of the communities and actively involving them.

Research

Up to £25 million of funding will support research on issues identified by the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS). The programme will increase the VCS' ability to do research into areas of interest, and to help with disseminating this research.

Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure

With a budget of up to £155 million, this programme will have three bidding time frames starting from February 2006 to Spring 2008. The programme funds projects from infrastructure organisations that will:

- increase the resources available to voluntary and community organisations;
- increase voluntary and community organisation skills;

- improve the sustainability of the infrastructure. This will include capital funding, for example, for a resource centre.

Young People's Fund

The Young People's Fund will get an increase of £100 million this year. Its aim is to support projects which will improve local communities by offering more opportunities to young people. Grants are made to:

- individual young people, or group of young people – to help make a difference in the community;
- voluntary and community organisations – to run local projects with and for young people;
- voluntary organisations – to fund national projects.

C. Northern Ireland

Active Lifestyles

With a budget of £2.1 million, this programme aims to increase people's participation in physical activities and therefore supports projects that do the same. The deadline for large and medium grants have now passed. The small grants programme (up to £1,000) closes on 30 June 2006.

Open Grant Programme

This programme will support Voluntary and Community Sector led projects based around local needs for up to five years. Projects will have to show how they will make a difference by meeting at least one of the following:

- people achieving their full potential;
- people actively participating in their communities to bring about positive change;
- increased community ownership of better and safer urban and rural environments;
- improved physical and mental health for all people.

Strategic Programmes

Community Learning and Well-being – this programme will extend the opportunities that individuals have to access learning.

Healthier and Safer Communities – this programme will build on existing strategies and initiatives to promote healthier and safer communities.

Refurbishment Programme – this one-off programme will enhance the usage and quality of community venues across Northern Ireland.

Infrastructure and Capacity Support – work with partner(s), BIG will develop a longer-term investment to support the infrastructure and capacity requirements of the voluntary and community sector.

Strategic Fund – this will be developed to allow BIG to support specific projects in Northern Ireland between now and 2009.

Young People's Fund – Award Partner

BIG, working with an award partner, will deliver a small grants programme and develop a strategic programme, which will support young individuals and groups of young people as decision makers. The total budget for these is £4 million.



Young People's Fund – Change UR Future

The larger of the two parts of the Young People's Fund for Northern Ireland, Change UR Future, has £10.8 million to support projects that:

- focus on young people between the ages of 0-25;
- will last up to five years;
- target young people at greatest risk of offending or exclusion;
- include young people in the design, delivery and evaluation of the project.

There are two grant scales –

- a) for grants of £250,000-£500,000 over three to five years organisations must work in partnership.
- b) for grants of £40,000-£150,000 over two to five years organisations may (but are not required) to work in partnership.

D. Scotland

21st Century Life

This scheme has a budget of £35 million to fund projects that provide support to people and communities in order to help them deal with the pace of change today. This could, for example, be through projects that help people facilitate opportunities to look ahead and plan for the future, as well as for projects that bring together different generations in order to help them build the skills and confidence needed to deal with the changes and stresses of 21st century life.

Building Communities

This strategic programme will fund projects that improve the capacity and infrastructure of national, intermediary or second tier organisations in order to help Scotland's Voluntary and Community Sector be proactive and champion change. £20 million will fund projects and support communities to build stronger and more inclusive local communities.

Growing Community Assets

£50 million will be available for communities to acquire assets that will make them stronger and more sustainable. Examples of community assets that the programme will fund are: communal gardens, parks, community farms, wind farms, community buildings or vehicles, and may consider non-tangible assets such as skills and knowledge.

Investing in Ideas

This easily accessible programme, which has a budget of £4.6 million over three years, will help organisations develop their plans, test out their ideas and increase their capacity to deliver. The funding will be available in small sums for things such as:

- feasibility studies;
- market research;
- options appraisals;
- community consultation;
- professional advice;
- training for voluntary sector directors, trustees and staff.

Life Transitions

This programme will fund projects which support people through transitions in life. The £35 million budget will fund projects which address problems directly, provide support services or assist people in getting the skills they need to cope. The Programme is divided into four areas:

- young people (non-specified);
- people over 50;
- employment and learning;
- challenging times (e.g. getting out of debt, leaving prison, moving on from addiction, etc.)

Rewarding Excellence

Up to £5 million will reward excellent projects and good grant management. In particular, BIG will reward projects that have achieved positive social change.

Young People's Fund

This £20 million programme aims to help young people aged 11-25 learn new things and take part in healthy and positive activities that make them feel good about themselves. BIG want to ensure young people are actively involved in the scheme and its processes, so funding decisions will be made by a committee comprised largely of young people from all over Scotland.

E. Wales

Children's Play, Healthy Eating and Exercise

This programme will promote healthier eating and exercise for children and families. It will also support children's play. £20 million will go to projects that:

- develop new and stimulating play opportunities for children;
- promote the long-term strategic development of play provision across Wales;
- develop joined-up approaches to promoting healthy eating and exercise among children and families.

Developing Life Skills

Launching in the Summer 2006, this programme will fund:

- community based learning that helps people deal with life challenges and contribute to their community;
- learning and training projects for people with learning disabilities.

Promoting Mental Health and Well-being

With a later launch of Autumn 2006, this programme will fund community based projects that work with people with mental health issues and promote mental well-being. The £15 million budget will also fund those projects that:

- provide practical support and advocacy;
- help people gain access to services;
- promote tolerance;
- provide opportunities for those with mental health issues to gain employment and participate in community life.



People and Places

With a budget of £66 million, People and Places aims to revitalise communities, improve community relations and enhance local environments and community amenities. The programme is open to local, regional and Wales-wide projects, as well as the community, voluntary and public sector. Money will be available for capital and revenue projects.

Young People's Fund

Focussing on 10-19 year olds, the fund aims to include young people in their community in a positive way. There are two schemes currently open for applications:

- **Make it Happen** gives grants of £500-£5000 to help young people take a lead role in developing projects.
- **Reaching Out** offers grants of up to £300,000 to fill gaps in services for disaffected or disengaged young people.

Further Information & Resources

We advise you to read the **Big Lottery Fund programme guide** or **manifesto** for your nation before considering your application. For further information on all the funding programmes listed in this briefing, visit the Big Lottery Fund website at www.biglotteryfund.org.uk or telephone the BIG advice line on 0845 410 20 30.

England

- **North East** – Tel: 0191 255 1100
Email: enquiries.ne@biglotteryfund.org.uk
- **North West** – Tel: 01925 626 800 (no email address)
- **Yorkshire and the Humber** – Tel: 0113 224 5301
Email: enquiries.yh@biglotteryfund.org.uk
- **East Midlands** – Tel: 0115 934 9300
Email: enquiries.em@biglotteryfund.org.uk
- **West Midlands** – Tel: 0121 200 3500,
Email: enquiries.wm@biglotteryfund.org.uk
- **Eastern** – Tel: 01223 449 000,
Email: enquiries.ea@biglotteryfund.org.uk
- **London** – Tel: 020 7842 4010,
Email: enquiries.lon@biglotteryfund.org.uk
- **South East** – Tel: 01483 462 900,
Email: enquiries.se@biglotteryfund.org.uk
- **South West** – Tel: 01392 849 700,
Email: enquiries.sw@biglotteryfund.org.uk

BIG in England are launching a 'single front door' website this year which will be like the good causes portal – so instead of looking through all the programmes you just type in what amount you need/what for, and it brings up the most relevant programmes. They will also be having help sheets on the site (similar to VAN briefings) and links to helper agencies.

Northern Ireland

The Big Message, Northern Ireland's lottery consultation findings –
www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/about/offices/northern_ireland.htm
Tel: 028 905 51455
Email: enquiries.ni@biglotteryfund.org.uk

Scotland

Investing in Communities, Scotland's lottery manifesto –
www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/about/offices/scotland.htm
Enquiries and information line: 0870 240 2391
Tel: 0141 242 1400
Email: enquiries.scotland@biglotteryfund.org.uk

Wales

Full details on the new programmes –
www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/about/offices/wales.htm
Tel: 01686 611700
Email: enquiries.wales@biglotteryfund.org.uk

Other resources

Awards for All – www.awardsforall.org.uk
The Directory of Social Change is offering training about the new Lottery programmes in England through May 2006 – but book now, as they are filling up quickly –
www.dsc.org.uk/charityevents.html#lottery
The Good Causes Portal connects you to any lottery fund –
www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk

VAN briefings

No. 91: **'How to write a successful funding application'**
No. 32: **'So what's so great about the Voluntary Arts? 50 points to make to funders'**

Websites

For national information and updates:
Voluntary Arts England – www.vaengland.org.uk
Voluntary Arts Ireland – www.vaireland.org
Voluntary Arts Scotland – www.vascotland.org.uk
Voluntary Arts Wales – www.vaw.org.uk

Disclaimer: We have taken reasonable precautions to ensure that the information contained in this Briefing is accurate. However, the document is not intended to be legally comprehensive. We recommend you take legal advice before taking action on any of the matters covered herein.

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