

Welcome

Well it's a biggie! Lots of news and articles this month, and plenty of links for you to follow and read up more detailed reports and analysis. Dig in.

Sport England – Families Fund

We're investing up to £40 million into projects which offer new opportunities for families with children to get active and play sport together. Up to £10 million has been allocated for the first round of our Families Fund, which will open 19 May 2017. Future rounds will follow over the next three years and more information on submission dates will be available in due course.

Families and projects we're focusing on - We're focusing on families with children aged 5-15, with a particular emphasis on low income families and families living in areas of high deprivation. We're also looking to target families where their children are not active for at least 60 minutes each day.

We will look to invest in and work with organisations, both sporting and non-sporting, who understand children and families and have a proven track record of working with them. Potential examples include housing associations, family-focused charities, parent support organisations and outdoor activity providers.

The anticipated size of funding for projects from our Families Fund will be from £50,000 up to £500,000 for the right project.

Workshops - Due to unprecedented demand, all of our workshops are now full. We will be filming the final workshop on Friday 28 April, which will be available to watch on our website the following week. We will also be developing a series of FAQs and further guidance which will give eligible applicants everything they need to submit an application.

Please remember that this funding is for four years and for the first round, we are looking to work with organisations who have a proven track record of working with families.

Submission of an expression of interest form will open 19 May 2017 and close 14 July 2017 at 3pm. We'll provide further information about future rounds in due course. For further details please visit the Sport England website [here](#)

Community Business Bright Idea Fund

The Community Business Bright Ideas Fund aims to give your community group the support and tools to start setting up your community business. It will also give your group the early stage finance that you need need to carry out consultation with local

people and feasibility studies to develop a community business idea the community wants and needs.

What is a community business? A community business is set up and led by local people to look after what matters to them. Any profits flow back into the business to deliver positive local impact. Watch some case studies to hear some [community business ideas](#).

What the Bright Ideas Fund offers

- Online induction and ongoing support, either online, by phone or where possible through visits
- Community Business development plans, to help successful groups shape and develop strategies and plans for their community business
- Mentoring and visits, to inspire applicants and give them the opportunity to learn from peers
- Regional networking and events, to learn from social finance experts, successful community business leaders, funders and technical specialists.

Register for the Bright Ideas Fund webinar On 11 April, Power to Change and Locality will be hosting a webinar for those who are keen to find out more about the fund criteria, application process and FAQs. You can [register here](#).

For more details with the My Community website [here](#).

Comic Relief – Communities and Sport for Change

Sport (and physical activity) continues to play an important role in improving the lives of millions of people across the world. It brings people together to play, learn, improve health and benefit from shared experiences. It is also a powerful tool for helping bring about social change. That's why we're launching a second round of the Communities and Sport for Change initiative.

Our Sport for Change strategy runs across our UK and International funding, while focusing on our four key themes. Within this initiative, we are seeking proposals which use sport (physical activity) as a catalyst for change, helping people do two key things:

- take ownership - feel part of increasingly inclusive and cohesive communities
- feel empowered - to identify and solve the social issues affecting their communities

Funding available - We expect to make between 10 and 20 grants across the UK in this phase of the initiative. We'll want groups to think about what is not working in their community and how sport can be used as part of a solution to address the issues. Typical problems might be anti-social behaviour and older people feeling isolated or a lack of community cohesion.

We'll be looking for projects which:

- come from organisations that have developed within the community to meet local needs
- involve ideas that are generated within the community

- can provide evidence of need that has been gathered locally within the past 12 months
- address a specific problem or social need
- involve the community throughout
- use sport and physical activity as an agent to make the change - not just increase participation

The work can target any age group, as long as there is a clear issue that needs addressing. It does not have to focus on young people.

Eligibility - Proposals are welcome for grants between £40,000 and £75,000 for up to two years of activity. All proposals must take place in one of the areas given below. We will not consider proposals from organisations that have an annual turnover of more than £1.5 million or from national organisations with no local presence in the communities where the work will be delivered.

We are inviting proposals for work in several of the UK's most deprived areas:

- England – Kingston Upon Hull, Birmingham, **Nottingham**, Plymouth, Great Yarmouth
- Scotland – Glasgow, North Lanarkshire
- Northern Ireland – Derry
- Wales – Blaenau Gwent and Denbighshire

Please also check our grant making policies, which explain our eligibility criteria for all organisations applying to Comic Relief for funding. In relation to costs the grant may cover, we will consider funding part of the refurbishment of facilities, if this work is core to the project activities and does not exceed 25% of total budget. Where refurbishment is taking place, we will need a clear plan for how the facility will be maintained once grant funding is finished.

Key dates and process - We will be open for proposals from the 13th March until the 24th April 2017 at midday. Once we receive your proposal, we'll initially check whether your organisation and proposal is eligible for funding under this initiative and then shortlist the strongest proposals to go through for a full assessment.

For more details upon the programme please visit the Comic Relief website [here](#)

The People's Project

The People's Projects gives you the chance to decide how National Lottery funding can make a difference in the East Midlands. Five good causes, all hoping to improve their local area, are competing for your vote. All of the projects can be viewed via the ITV website [here](#)

The People's Projects is a joint venture between ITV and the Big Lottery Fund. The three organisations which receive the highest number of votes will receive up to £50,000 each. The remaining two organisations from each region may receive up to £5,000 each.

The process is independently adjudicated by Electoral Reform Services. To vote go to www.itv.com/thepeoplesprojects You can only vote once per region and you'll need an email address to vote. Voting closes on **Monday 3rd April at midday**. Votes received after this time will not count. For an alternative way to vote call freephone 0800 197 8610.

The Coalfields Regeneration Trust - Coalfield Community Investment Programme

Introduction to the Coalfields Community Investment Programme – Funding & Practical Support

27th April 2017 at Doe Lea Centre, Doe Lea, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S44 5PD

The Coalfields Regeneration Trust reopens access to its funding programme in April and will be giving 2 presentations to introduce the Coalfields Community Investment Programme.

9.30am – 10.30am – An introduction to the Coalfields Community Investment Programme: Funding Support - comprehensive information on our eligibility criteria and how to apply for up to £10,000 of funding for projects that will improve the Health, Employment Opportunities or Skills of people living in former coalfield areas. The Trust's funding is only available to organisations operating in former coalfield areas. Please see the CRT website for more information about our geographical eligibility criteria by clicking in the list of eligible wards for your region <http://www.coalfields-regen.org.uk/what-we-do/division-missing/coalfields-community-investment-programme-ccip-funding-support>

10.45am – 11.45am - An introduction to the Coalfields Community Investment Programme: Practical Support Offer – comprehensive information about an additional range of resources and services available for free to registered/incorporated organisations such as registered charities, companies limited by guarantee, community interest companies and charitable incorporated organisations.

There will be an opportunity to meet CRT staff following each session.

Please note the number of places available is limited so please book to secure your attendance. We are restricting the maximum number of attendees per organisation/group to 2 to ensure as many people as possible can attend. To book a place at one or both of the sessions please complete the form at the following link: [CCIP Event: Doe Lea Centre](#)

If you require any information please do not hesitate to contact the Community Investment Team: Phone 01226 272811; Web: <http://www.coalfields-regen.org.uk>

Facing Forward – How Small and Medium-Sized Charities Can Adapt to Survive - by the Lloyds Bank Foundation

Government, funders and large charities must take urgent action if small charities are to survive turbulent times ahead according to new analysis published by Lloyds Bank Foundation for England & Wales.

Facing Forward presents a candid analysis of the ten-upcoming political, economic, social and technological changes which will dramatically affect the operating landscape for the 65,000 small and medium charities working at the heart of communities across England and Wales.

With the impact of Brexit, economic uncertainty and growing pressures on local government adding unprecedented uncertainty for their futures, the analysis offers small charities a robust framework of how they can take action and adapt by diversifying their income, developing collaborations and sustaining their staff, before it's too late.

The report also calls for clear and decisive action from other stakeholders whose actions influence the survival of small charities:

- National and local government must use appropriate commissioning processes when securing public services
- Funders must fund charities to build their capacity and effectiveness rather than constantly seeking innovation and
- Larger charities must seek to collaborate with small charities rather than compete against them for public service contracts

Aimed at the pressured, time poor CEO or Trustee of any small to medium sized charity, Facing Forward makes for essential reading for those charities battling on the frontline of public service delivery. It paints an alarming picture of a future with small charities closing and communities losing vital support at a time of growing need, if charities themselves and other stakeholders do not take action.

The message is clear – change is happening and the survival of small charities depends on their ability to prepare for the future and the support they need from others.



To read the report follow the link [here](#)

In response to the analysis, Lloyds Bank Foundation sets out a clear plan of action of how it can better support small charities through the turbulent times ahead:

1. Providing greater financial stability for small charities – In recognition of the growing struggle charities face raising income, the Foundation is offering some charities it funds, a further three years funding with no new grant application processes, enabling charities to focus their efforts on supporting people in need.
2. Influencing the policy and operating environment for small charities – A new £100,000 investment in the Small Charities Coalition, to fund its policy and engagement work so the concerns and views of small charities can be better advocated for and represented in policy discussions with Government.

3. Evidencing the social and economic value of small charities: A new independent study by respected researchers from Sheffield Hallam University, IVAR and Open University will seek to uncover robust evidence about the distinctive value small charities offer to individuals, communities and the taxpayer to help make a stronger case for support.

Heritage Lottery Fund - £10.1m to help widen heritage talent pool

The National Lottery is investing £10.1million in 18 projects across the UK to help train a new and more diverse generation of heritage craftspeople, digital specialists and entrepreneurs.

A strong focus will be placed on people who may never have considered a career in heritage. There will be opportunities for ex-servicemen training as dry stone wallers, young novices working on historic ships, women training as steam boiler engineers and people from areas of high unemployment working in museums and visitor attractions.

“It’s simple yet highly effective: trainees paired with experts gain access to knowledge plus practical, paid, on-the-job experience.”

Sir Peter Luff, Chair of HLF

Sir Peter Luff, Chair of the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), said: “There is no quick fix to this problem. The heritage sector has been slow in widening the profile of its workforce and as a consequence is on a long-term learning curve.

“We wanted to build on the legacy of our existing targeted skills funding – £47m to date – and make a further financial commitment of just over £10m. Why? Because we know the Skills for the Future programme can drive successful and lasting change. It’s simple yet highly effective: trainees paired with experts gain access to knowledge plus practical, paid, on-the-job experience.”

This funding is part of a wider commitment made by HLF in the Government’s Culture White Paper. It will address specific skills shortages to ensure our buildings, landscapes, species, industrial heritage and museum and archive collections are sustained for the future, as well as developing important public engagement skills.

For more details upon the grants made visit the Heritage Lottery Fund website [here](#).

Comic Relief – Core Strength programme review

Gilly Green, Comic Relief’s Head of UK Grants, writes about the Core Strength funding initiative.

In June 2016, as part of our new strategy, we launched a core funding programme to organisations embedded within local communities with a turnover of less than £500K. We already knew that core funding is critical for organisational stability, provides a buffer against unexpected hardship, strengthens independence and provides help with running costs. However, the ethos behind this fund was to let organisations decide what they needed funding for and to tell us why they needed it.

To this end, a key question on the application form essentially asked ‘what keeps you awake at night and how can this funding help you sleep better?’ Answers ranged from paying the rent, heat and light to developing a strategic plan and diversifying income. They provided a unique and compelling insight in to the current state of the UK voluntary sector. Unsurprisingly we had a big response with 1,542 applications and were overwhelmed by the wealth of information they gave us. If demand is at least partially indicative of need, this was clearly telling us something!

Thanks to a review of the application data by NCVO Charities Evaluation Services we now have some useful and compelling insights about the current situation of the UK voluntary sector to share and learn from.

Firstly, REACH. A staggering 95% of applicants had never applied to us before and came from areas as diverse as South Uist in the Outer Hebrides and Dungannon in Northern Ireland, to towns and cities across the UK. Of the total applications, 83% came from outside London. In other words, our funding call reached areas we’ve previously described as ‘cold spots’ for applications.

Second was GROWTH. Despite our assumption that organisations of this size were on the whole losing funding, we were surprised to see that over 50% had actually grown over the last two years. Without further analysis, the significance of this may not be fully understood, but it could suggest that, whilst the funding context remains deeply challenging, the ability to diversify, innovate and seek out new funding remains alive and kicking.

And thirdly, STRATEGIC. Almost three quarters of organisations chose to do something more strategic with the funding than purely meeting running costs, in the hope of bringing much needed stability.

In addition to the funding, we have offered ‘funder plus’ activities. For our part, we’re sharing the things we’re good at as an organisation - digital storytelling, communications, social media and tech. But a key premise of the approach is that the funded organisations are also rich in skills and assets which can be built on, and regional networking and sharing is already underway. We plan to learn a lot from those we support, ensuring fairly light touch monitoring (plans which were unsurprisingly well received!) We will have an in-depth conversation twice a year with grantees to understand their development and explore how useful the funding and support is proving to be. We will use the information from these conversations to learn about the value of this approach, and we plan to share the evidence we build along the way.

What we now know is that given a chance of core funding, organisations will often choose to use that funding to improve their sustainability – to buy time and space for thinking and planning, often to think quite differently or come up with new solutions. So when as funders we look to innovate through programme design, perhaps it’s worth reflecting that there’s already lot of innovation right under our noses. Certainly, our experience of inviting organisations to use funding in any way they choose makes their knowledge about what they need clear and reveals a sector that’s up for thinking differently.

As we celebrate Communities Week 2017 we hope that sharing these insights will be of use to those leading positive change in their communities, as well as to other funders. To view and download the NCVO report click [here](#).

Expansion of Community Organisers Programme

Community Organisers Ltd (COLtd) has secured a major £4.2m contract from the Office of Civil Society, part of the Department of Culture Media and Sport, to expand the movement of Community Organisers from 6,500 to 10,000 by 2020.

COLtd is the independent body that grew out of the original 2011 - 2015 Community Organisers Programme, which mobilised communities to take action on issues they care about.

The ambitious expansion programme will increase the number of community organisers across England and enable residents to take greater control of their lives and create strong and resilient communities that work for everyone. Community organising is the work of building relationships and networks in communities to activate people and create social and political change through collective action.

Community Organisers listen individually to residents, identify and inspire local leaders and bring people together to take action on the issues they all care about. In areas where community organisers work, people have a stronger sense of belonging to their neighbourhood, feel more valued and are motivated to work together to improve lives and transform where they live.

COLtd will launch a £1.3 million grant fund to embed community organising at a neighbourhood level, empowering Community Organisers and local leaders across England to work with local and national partners to strengthen networks and drive social action.

The programme will embed community organising as part of the fabric of our neighbourhoods and equip local people with the skills to transform their communities for good. It will expand the community organising movement to include young people from the National Citizen Service (NCS) and ambassadors for the #iwill social action campaign for 10 to 20-year-olds. The programme will also establish the National Academy for Community Organising to sustain the ongoing training of Community Organisers.

To find out more visit the Community organisers website [here](#).

Lloyds Bank and Bank of Scotland Social Entrepreneurs Programme

Are you planning to grow an organisation that helps people in need? Are you running or starting up a project to create social or environmental impact?

We could support you through the Lloyds Bank and Bank of Scotland Social Entrepreneurs Programme, run in partnership with School for Social Entrepreneurs, jointly funded by Big Lottery Fund.

We'll help you to grow your organisation for a year, by providing:

- A learning programme
- A grant of up to £10,000
- Mentoring
- A community of people who run social and environmental projects

We can help you at all stages: whether you have just an idea, you're already up-and-running, or you're ready to scale. We welcome people from all backgrounds, including ex-offenders. You don't need any educational qualifications.

There is no cost to you at any point.

Lloyds Bank, Bank of Scotland and Big Lottery Fund have funded every place and grant on this programme, because they are committed to supporting social entrepreneurs.

We've been running this programme together since 2012, and 95% of our students say we positively meet their training needs. School for Social Entrepreneurs has supported social entrepreneurs for 20 years.

For more details upon the programme visit the School for Social Entrepreneurs website [here](#)

Funders Fair – East Northamptonshire

Are you a local group needing money for a community project – running activities for a club; restoring a village pond or play area; improving facilities at your village hall, for example?

East Northamptonshire Council is holding a free information day about the sorts of funding streams available to community groups on Thursday 27 April. The day, held at East Northamptonshire House in Thrapston, will be run in two halves. Entrance to both is entirely free:

- 10am – noon: presentations from funders, giving 'hints and tips' as to how best to apply for their grants. This is a sit down event, so places are limited and will need to be booked. Please try to send only one or two representatives, to make space for all.
- 1pm – 3pm: a Funders' Fair, where community groups can drop in any time to talk to funders and find out who could help with their projects. No booking needed.

Both sessions will run entirely independently, so come for as much, or as little, as you like.

Su Davies, External Funding Manager at East Northamptonshire Council, will be present on the day to give funding advice to groups and signpost them to funders who can help their projects. Su said: "The event will give community groups the chance to speak directly to funders, outline their projects and find out immediately whether they'd be eligible for funding support. This can save a lot of time when preparing a bid."

A wide range of funders will be attending the event, including The Northamptonshire Community Foundation; The Mick George Community Fund; Northamptonshire Sport;

Tesco's Bags of Help; Charity Bank; Peterborough Diocese Historic Support and of course, the Council's own grant programmes. Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire and Northamptonshire ACRE will also be present to give advice.

To find out more about the day and/or to book a place for the morning session please contact Su Davies on 01832 742191 or sdavies@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk

BBC Children in Need – Assessor Recruitment

BBC Children in Need provides grants to make a positive difference to the lives of disadvantaged children across the UK. Our vision is a society where all children and young people who face disadvantage in their lives have a safe, happy and secure childhood and are supported to realise their potential.

We wish to recruit a number of freelance Assessors with varied experience and knowledge of the voluntary sector, to assess grant applications across the North and Central region (assessors will be recruited for either the north or the central region).

The North Region consists of the following counties and unitary authorities – Humberside, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, East Yorkshire, North Yorkshire, Durham, Tyne and Wear, Northumberland, Tees Valley, Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Lancashire, Cumbria and the Isle of Man.

The Central Region consists of the following counties – Bedfordshire, Birmingham & Solihull, The Black Country, Cambridgeshire, Coventry & Warwickshire, Derbyshire, Herefordshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Rutland, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Suffolk, Worcestershire.

Role Responsibility - You will work from home on a freelance basis and will be assessing main grant applications for which a flat fee of £90 or £110 per assessment will be paid, dependent upon complexity. You'll need to be available for this work on a flexible and occasionally out of hours' basis across the year. The workload would typically be up to 10 assessments three times a year with set deadlines.

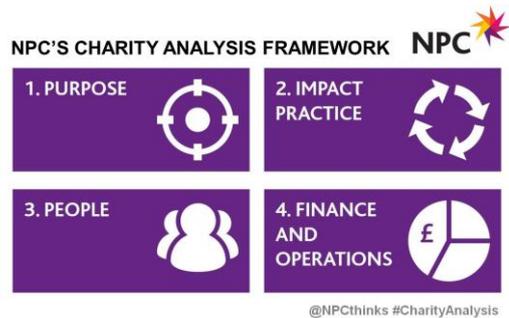
The role will involve liaising with applicants by telephone and occasionally by visit. You'll be responsible for collating and analysing the information you've gathered, and then writing up thorough, objective assessment reports.

Please follow the link [here](#) for more details upon the role.

Twitter @EMFundingForum

- Our new report reveals that 82% of charities saw an increase in demand for their services over the past 12 months: <http://po.st/NLGbhN> from @cafonline
- Up to £2bn of new funding could transform the charity sector: <https://www.civilsociety.co.uk/news/up-to-2bn-of-new-funding-could-transform-the-charity-sector.html> from @CivilSocietyUK
- Involved in/thinking about producing a Neighbourhood Plan? Go-to guide for #neighbourhoodplanning <http://bit.ly/2ml0n8z> #communitiesweek17
- Digitally mature #charities are 28% more likely to report an increase in #funding. Find out more in our latest blog: <http://ow.ly/nydH309t5qm> from @nfpSynergy

- 50% of UK donations expected to be made online by 2020. Our blog looks at #digital basics for #charities: <http://ow.ly/nydH309t5qm> #volsec from @nfpSynergy
- From gift aid to #crowdfunding – there are various sources of self-generated #funding out there for your project <http://sportengland.org/otherfunding> from @Sport_England
- Working on your project budget? The East Midlands team share their top five tips! <http://bit.ly/1Km3Bxn> #HLFOC from @HLEastMids
- Our guide to #CharityAnalysis walks you through 4 principles of good #charity > <http://ow.ly/ekRp304DW91> from @NPCthinks
- Want to find out how we're making a difference in #Northamptonshire? Watch our latest Impact Review.. <https://goo.gl/VRT894> #GiveNorthants
- Thanks to your amazing generosity and support we can confirm that, so far, #rednoseday 2017 has raised an amazing £73,026,234
- Important House of Lords report on charities out today - @karlwilding has what you need to know: <http://blogs.ncvo.org.uk/2017/03/26/the-house-of-lords-report-on-charities-what-you-need-to-know/> ... #strongercharities
- The potential of digital technology in charities outlined in new report <http://www.charitydigitalnews.co.uk/2017/03/26/the-potential-of-digital-technology-in-charities-outlined-in-new-report/> from @thinkfunding
- @localitynews calls for £1bn to save our treasured local places & spaces. Read the #FutureofAssets paper <http://buff.ly/2hYiMJm>
- 16-24s are the least likely to have #donated in the last 3 months. Find out more in our new report: <http://ow.ly/kv2v30aosoR> from @nfpSynergy
- The most comprehensive survey of #voluntarysector in the North EVER @IPPRNorth #civilsocietynorth <http://www.ippr.org/publications/third-sector-trends-in-the-north-of-england-a-summary-of-key-findings>



And finally...

Seeing as we have made it to double figure page numbers this month I'll keep the And finally short. Within the raft of articles and links to reports the theme of sector capacity comes out, this not only being about survival but also development and growth, which is fantastic to hear about at these times.



Email: emffundingforum@gmail.com
 Twitter: [@EMFundingForum](https://twitter.com/EMFundingForum)
 Blog: emff.tumblr.com