



Welcome

There is clearly one big news item this month. But seeing as most of you probably want a short break from round the clock BREAKING ELECTION NEWS, I'll try not to mention it again.

Comic Relief - #will Youth Social Action Fund

Last year 42% of 10-20 year olds took part in meaningful youth social action like campaigning, fundraising and volunteering, in communities across the UK. Taking part in youth social action creates opportunities to learn, be recognised for their contributions, and improve networks between peers and communities. Evidence shows that it may help with employability of young people. Yet there is still a gap in the level of youth social action undertaken by young people from less affluent backgrounds.

Comic Relief has partnered with the #iwill campaign, to create a £2.4 million fund to target young people from less affluent backgrounds. #iwill is a UK-wide campaign aiming to get six out of 10 young people involved in social action by 2020. Big Lottery Fund and the Department of Culture, Media and Sport have each invested £20 million to support young people access high quality social action opportunities.

Co-produced with young people, and championing peer to peer engagement and the importance of trust building, this initiative will fund projects to seek out young people, and encourage those from disadvantaged backgrounds to participate in and lead youth social action.

The criteria for the grants will be:

- Ability to demonstrate effective ways to build relationships with 'reluctant' young people in their own community
- Ability to demonstrate how they will engage those young people in creative, innovative and meaningful social action

Activity funded under this programme will need to reflect the Step Up To Serve Six Shared Principles of quality social action:

- challenging
- youth-led
- socially impactful
- progressive
- embedded
- reflective

Youth social action can include any activities around campaigning, fundraising and volunteering, all of which can create a double benefit for communities and the young person themselves.

We are keen to fund projects that will work with young people in areas of high need and deprivation, and where there are minimal services or activities available for young people. We would expect applicants to demonstrate the need of the young people they will work with, based on indices of deprivation, unemployment and other measures as they see fit. For further details on the initiative visit the Comic Relief website [here](#).

SHIRE Community Grant 2017-18

The SHIRE Community Grant programme for 2017-18 is now OPEN.

To help deliver the priorities of Leicestershire County Council's Communities Strategy, the SHIRE Community Grant programme will enable voluntary and community sector organisations (including social enterprises and Town/Parish Councils) to deliver community-based projects, services and activities which directly benefit the most vulnerable people in Leicestershire.

Eligible organisations will be able to access grants of up to £10,000 and/or smaller grants of up to £3,000 for community based projects and activities that are focused on supporting vulnerable/disadvantaged people and communities.

We are particularly interested in funding new and innovative projects that will:

- support the most vulnerable individuals and communities in Leicestershire
- provide early intervention and prevention based solutions
- complement existing services already being delivered

Organisations interested in applying for a grant are asked to contact the Grant Officers to discuss their project proposal before completing an online application form.

Application Process & Guidance Notes

Before completing the online Application Form, please read the Guidance Notes carefully. The Guidance Notes contain important details about the criteria for funding, along with the Council's process for awarding funds. Please ensure you have contacted the Grant Officers before submitting your application to confirm that, in principle, your project is eligible.

If you have any queries about the grant fund criteria or process, or if you would like to request an electronic or paper copy of the Guidance Notes, please call the Grants Officers on (0116) 305 7269 / 305 7020, or email: shiregrants@leics.gov.uk

More details on the programme can be found at the Leicestershire Communities website [here](#)

Digital Growth Programme Grant Scheme

Are you looking to invest in technology solutions for your business? Grant funding could be for you!

As part of the Digital Growth Programme, this grant funding scheme aims to support businesses in exploiting their existing technology solutions or with the introduction of new systems and software to assist with the implementation of new digital resources, in order to improve business performance and productivity.

Funded through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Scheme operates over two stages – an online Expression of Interest followed by a Full Application process. Projects will be invited to the Full Application stage if they pass compliance and basic eligibility checks.

Grants are available between £2,000 (minimum) and £16,000 (maximum) or 40% of the total project cost (excluding VAT) – whichever is lesser.

For more details upon the programme and eligibility click [here](#).

MyCommunity Locality – Bright Ideas 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 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.

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.

To find out more about the programme head to the My Community website [here](#).

Comic Relief - HIV in the UK: Think Digital

More than 30 years on from the start of the AIDS epidemic in the UK, the landscape is unrecognisable from that of the 1980s. The availability of effective HIV treatment means people with HIV can lead a long and healthy life. However, there are now more people living with HIV in the UK than ever before. In 2015 an estimated 101,200 people were living with HIV in the UK, and of these, around 13,500 were unaware of their HIV infection. Many people receive a late diagnosis, meaning they start treatment later which affects life expectancy and increases complications. And stigma and discrimination continue to be a major challenge in the UK.

This initiative funded through a partnership between The M·A·C AIDS Fund and Comic Relief, will support organisations who are using technology in innovative and inspiring ways to respond to the ever-changing HIV landscape in the UK.

Proposals which aim to address the following priorities are particularly welcome:

- Improve the quality of life for people living with HIV, particularly those who are 50+
- Increase access to services which enable prompt diagnosis of HIV and contribute to HIV prevention
- Address misinformation and the stigma surrounding HIV

The technological responses can include digital solutions for sector practitioners and those which make services work more effectively behind the scenes, as well as those for people living with HIV or those at highest risk of contracting HIV. We'll support simple and low tech solutions such as videos, SMS messaging and social media as long they make the best use of people's current digital behaviour and not primarily face to face working.

A wide range of digital innovations will be considered and our aim is to fund projects that:

- Are focused on specific user needs, and current digital behaviours in their design, delivery and development
- Make best use of web, mobile or internet based technologies, whether this is hardware or software development
- Have potential to scale and be adopted by others
- Disrupt and challenge existing ways of delivering services
- Involve collaborations between those delivering vital support services and digital agencies to ensure reach, user involvement and technical rigour

Applicants must be able to demonstrate they follow best practice in digital design and development – see www.gov.uk/design-principles For more details on the initiative please visit the Comic Relief website [here](#).

Civil Society Futures – The independent inquiry

Civil Society Futures is a national conversation about how English civil society can flourish in a fast changing world.

Through community events, academic research and online debate, Civil Society Futures will create a space for a much needed conversation among those involved in all forms of civic action – from informal networks to vast charities, Facebook groups to faith groups. Considering how both the nature of civil society and the context it exists in are changing fast, we will investigate how to maximise the positive effects of civic action and provide a guide to how to release its potential to drive positive change.

To find out more and add to add your voice to the conversation visit the website [here](#).

Funding Support and Enterprise Fair – Derby

Thursday 25 May, 10am to 12:30pm

Community Action and the University of Derby are working in partnership to give voluntary and community organisations the opportunity to find out about funding and get advice and support from local businesses at the annual Funding, Support and

Enterprise Fair. This year the fair will be held at the University of Derby in Kedleston Road on Thursday 25 May from 10am to 12:30pm.

There will be a great mix of funders, local businesses and statutory agencies on hand to offer advice, support and discounts on their services - organisations confirmed so far include Big Lottery, Lloyds Bank Foundation, Foundation Derbyshire, Children In Need, Derbyshire Sport, The Key Fund, Fifteen, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Chamber of Commerce, Derbyshire Technology Services, Derby Community Accountancy Services, Healthwatch Derby and Virgin Money Giving. The University of Derby will also be on hand to offer advice on careers and employability - why not come along and find out more?

Three funders - Heritage Lottery Fund, Awards for All and Foundation Derbyshire - will be holding information sessions throughout the morning to answer queries and give advice on applying for funding.

No need to book just come along - everyone welcome!

We have some stands available for funders and local businesses who would like to work more closely with voluntary and community organisations.

For more information email [Liz Gumbley](mailto:Liz.Gumbley@derby.ac.uk)

Funding Fair – Towcester Race Course

6th June, 9:30am-3pm

London Road, Towcester, Northamptonshire, NN12 6LB

A FREE event at Towcester Racecourse for Voluntary and Community Groups.

There will be:

- presentations by the most popular funders (Big Lottery Fund, BBC Children in Need, Heritage Lottery Fund, Grantscape, London Marathon Charitable Trust, Northamptonshire Groundwork, Historic Churches Support, Daventry District Council, South Northants Council, Northamptonshire Community Foundation, plus many more)
- Opportunities to network with successful community groups
- Free teas and Coffee- fruit and snacks available to buy
- Fully accessible venue with free car parking
- Further Information

We strongly advise registering for this event in advance. please contact Rob Burton on 01327 302257 or email rburton@daventrydc.gov.uk

Twitter @EMFundingForum

- We've committed £1.6m to help 17 specialist #charities use their expertise to Transform domestic&sexual abuse sector <http://bit.ly/Transformgrants> from Lloyds Bank Foundation @LBFEW
- Does your local sports/community centre need a spruce? Apply today for a @Tesco #BagsofHelp grant. <https://goo.gl/hz0waE> from @groundworkuk

- CAF UK Giving report has doubled in size, allowing more in depth and robust analysis. Find out more: <http://po.st/UKgiving2017> #charitytuesday from @cafonline
- We're recruiting a Policy Adviser for heritage skills and training across the UK. Sound like you? Apply here <http://bit.ly/JoinHLF> from @heritagelottery
- Don't take our word for it – thousands of you told @fitnessinminduk that getting active boosts their #mentalhealth & wellbeing. #sportminds from @Sport_England
- Top ten reasons funding applications fail [click here](#) from @LincolnshireCVS
- Find out what you need to know about planning your impact measurement with our FREE guidance: <http://ow.ly/cZSq30b98Z2> #socialimpact from @CESonline
- We're launching new large scale research into #membership for charities. Read more in our new blog: <http://ow.ly/T7Ga30bdspQ> #charity #volsec from @nfpSynergy
- IPPR North report presents groundbreaking new evidence on state of the third sector in the north of England in 2017: <http://bit.ly/2nYyy11>

And finally...

Well I've managed not to mention it again so far, but it can't be avoided any longer. We are having another vote ('Not another one' – Bristol Brenda [click here](#)). And with the snap election being announced it has probably stalled and held back a few announcements. And of course, with any election comes new manifesto's, and therefore new/revised budgets and funding programmes. Plenty to keep our eyes on over the next couple of months.



Email: emffundingforum@gmail.com

Twitter: [@EMFundingForum](https://twitter.com/EMFundingForum)

Blog: emff.tumblr.com