

‘Communities Together’ Community Cohesion Grants 2009/10

Guidance Notes for Applicants

Introduction

Leicestershire County Council is administering a Community Cohesion Grants Programme for projects demonstrating joint working, across different and diverse community groups in Leicestershire, on behalf of Leicestershire Together.

The ‘Communities Together’ Grant will make funds of up to £500 available to organisations/projects which:

- play an active role in building bridges between different communities and groups of individuals
- promote inter-cultural dialogue
- introduce and engage new audiences, organisations and community groups to each other

Areas served

Grants will be available to successful applicants for projects based in Leicestershire (including all Districts/Boroughs).

Leicester City-based projects which deliver to communities in the County will also be considered for a grant.

Value

A total of £10,000 is available through the ‘Communities Together’ grants programme, and a maximum £500 will be available to individual projects/organisations, who are successful in applying for funds.

Eligibility Criteria

- Applying organisations must be a third sector voluntary or community group
- It is not necessary to be a registered charity/formally constituted group in order to apply, but applying organisations will need to have a bank account, with at least two signatories required
- Parish Councils and/or Parish Meetings may also apply
- Organisations aims will be connected with meeting the needs of the local community
- Funding will only support *new* activities, or ways of providing old activities in a new or different way
- Evidence of need will be demonstrated via the application process

- Projects should demonstrate involvement and participation across at least two different communities/groups of individuals
- Projects should be able to demonstrate that they play an active role in building bridges between different communities and groups of individuals
- Projects should be able to evidence success in promoting inter-cultural dialogue and in introducing/engaging new audiences, organisations and community groups to each other
- Projects should be able to show evidence of the benefits of the scheme for local communities
- Projects should demonstrate the potential to become an example or model for other organisations to follow
- Projects/schemes will need to demonstrate that their aims and objectives are realistic and achievable
- Projects/schemes should support and promote active and empowered citizens and community groups, and/or provide and host valuable community services
- Projects should be able to demonstrate an effect on the level of engagement between one or more different groups
- Projects which show they empower, or plan to empower, their community through multi-purpose community development and stimulating community led action
- Applications from projects/schemes which work inclusively within their community, including with marginalised groups are encouraged.

Restrictions

The Grant can not be used for:

- staff salaries
- general running costs
- repair work or maintenance
- costs for activities which have already taken place
- projects/activities benefiting only one distinct community group
- funding an individual or an individual's activities

Examples of Projects likely to be considered for a grant

The Community Cohesion Grant Scheme is intended to support grassroots, community and voluntary organisations who are involved in local projects which promote dialogue, discussion and joint working between different community groups.

Projects which are eligible for funding will be able to demonstrate their success in enhancing the cohesion and understanding between individuals and communities from different:

- age groups
- abilities
- gender
- sexual orientation
- race/ethnicity
- faiths and beliefs

This will include:

- Promotion and/or development of local projects which bring together different community groups
- Workshops/training for different community groups to discuss issues together
- Consultation events for different community groups
- Activities which bring together groups of people from different communities, abilities, and ages together, to learn about each others differences
- Applications are welcome from Parish Councils, Community Groups, Voluntary Organisations and any other agencies that are able to meet the criteria and deliver the aims of the programme

Examples of the types of projects which may be eligible for funding are:

- an Inter-Faith Women's Group
- a Church holding an open day for people from other religions to attend
- Young People designing and putting together a display for an Older Persons Home
- an awareness raising activity led by groups of disabled people for groups of non-disabled people

Costs towards capital items will be considered, as long as these clearly support the aims of the project, and meet the criteria for funding.

Application Deadline

Applications will be considered by a small panel after the last Friday of each month (from November 2009) until all the funds have been committed.

Monitoring & Evaluation

Projects will be expected to provide feedback/evidence of spend (e.g. letter, short report, photograph, visit from funder) to confirm the project activities have taken place.

Further Information

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http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/community/community_grants.htm

http://leicestershiretogether/index/people/community_cohesion.htm