

Community Engagement Small Grants Scheme 2011-2012 Funding Guidance

Background to the Community Engagement Small Grants Scheme

Money has been allocated by ELCPP as part of their commitment to supporting community groups to engage more effectively with local people.

The criteria for applications made to the Community Engagement Small Grants Scheme are outlined below. Applications to the fund will be considered by the Community Engagement Group who will process the awards.

What is Community Engagement?

Community engagement is the process of involving communities in decisions that affect them. It may be about tackling the problems of a neighbourhood or of a particular group of people, such as crime, lack of culturally appropriate services or lack of play facilities for children and young people.

Community engagement takes many shapes and forms. Basically this is about getting out to the local people in your community and finding out what their priorities are or what they want and ideas on how it could happen.

The types of projects this fund could support include:

The purpose of the fund is to help groups become more innovative and ambitious in the way they consult and engage with their communities. Types of projects that could be supported include:

- Hiring a community hall and providing refreshments for a public meeting about the need for allotment.
- A neighbourhood survey about the need for a new play park
- A community mapping project looking at accessible local transport
- Setting up an interactive display in a shopping centre to seek people's opinions about availability to healthy food
- Making a video about community safety issues

The types of projects this fund does NOT support include:

- Play or sports equipment for a local community
- Community events unless the purpose of the event is to consult with people

Resources Available

£3,000 is available. It is anticipated that the grants would not be any larger than £500.

Who is eligible to apply

This money is aimed at supporting small community groups or those working directly with local communities: e.g. community councils, parent councils, local voluntary sector groups, village hall committees or representative networks and forums.

Principles

There are three key principles that are essential to the Community Engagement Small Grants Scheme as outlined below:

- The project must relate to current community planning priorities
Applicants are asked to demonstrate how their project / initiative contributes to at least one of the outcomes in 'Our Plan for the Future of East Lothian: Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) 2011.

Link to East Lothian's plans at:

www.eastlothiancommunityplanning.org.uk/newseventitem.aspx?itemid=331&type=N

- The project must meet the National Standards for Community Engagement (Link to national standards is at: <http://www.scdc.org.uk/what/national-standards/>)
- The project must reach out into the relevant communities and aim to be as inclusive as possible. East Lothian Community Planning Partnership is strongly committed to equal opportunities. Applicants must demonstrate that they have considered how their project impacts on equalities groups. See online links below to relevant information about equality groups:

Good Practice Guideline for consultation with Equalities Groups is at

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/46729/0025644.pdf>

Guidelines on East Lothian single Equality Scheme is available at:

http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/Summary_Single_Equality_Scheme.doc

Monitoring and Evaluation

Successful applicants will be expected to monitor the impact of their funded project and provide a written report back to the Community Engagement Group at the conclusion of their project.

Submitting an Application

Although paper copies of the application form are available, applicants are encouraged to complete their form electronically, before printing it off and sending it to the address overleaf.

The closing dates for application to this fund are 1st October 2011 and 1st February 2012. Please return a hard copy of your form to:

Meriel Deans
Policy Development
East Lothian Council
John Muir House
Haddington
East Lothian
EH41 4ER

Please look at the assessment criteria to ensure your project meets the funding criteria before submitting an application. If you would like to discuss your application or the application process, please contact Meriel Deans on 0131 536 8025 or e-mail meriel.deans@nhs.net