

Community Engagement Small Grants Scheme - 2010 - 2011 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:

- A photography project about conserving the local environment
- 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
- Intergenerational drama project to explore issues between young people and older people
- 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.

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 will be asked to demonstrate how their project / initiative contributes to at least one of the SOA outcomes. (Link to the SOA is at: <http://www.eastlothiancommunityplanning.org.uk/default.aspx?dowhat=16>)
- The project must meet the National Standards for Community Engagement (Link to national standards is at: http://www.scdc.org.uk/national-standards-community-engagement/10-national-standards/?sess_scdc=a34e18bac65f8fef3532a1aa7f25189b)
- 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. Some useful information is available at the website links below:

Good Practice Guideline for consultation with Equalities Groups is at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2002/06/14850/5333>

Guidelines on East Lothian single Equality Scheme is available at: http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/Summary_Single_Equality_Scheme.doc

Guidelines to equalities legislation is available at: http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/A_Guide_to_Equalities_Legislation_.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 end 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 below.

Please return a hard copy of your form by 1st December 2010 or 1st March 2011 to:

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

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