



Funding Guides



FUNDING GUIDE 12b : The Big Lottery Fund

The Big Lottery Fund is responsible for giving out half the money for good causes raised by the National Lottery. It is the largest of the National Lottery good cause distributors and has been rolling out grants to health, education, environment and charitable causes across the UK since its inception in June 2004. Overall the context for its numerous funding programmes is to improve communities and the lives of people most in need. The programmes are driven by three key themes.

- Community learning and creating opportunity
- Promoting community safety and cohesion
- Promoting well being.

Programmes tend to have a specific theme and your project will need to fit this theme if it is to apply for funding. It is advisable to regularly check the Big Lottery Fund website as new programmes are introduced all the time. For detailed information on all current programmes you can go to www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/England/ or telephone 0845 10 20 30.

Two current programmes:

1. Reaching Communities Programme

For areas: England

Open for applications: Since December 2005

Application closing date: Ongoing

Minimum grant: £10,000

Maximum grant: £500,000

Total available: £60 million 2008/9

This programme aims to:

- Help people have better chances in life, including being able to get better access to training and development to improve their life skills
- Build strong communities, with more active citizens, working together to tackle their problems
- Improve rural and urban environments, which communities are better able to access and enjoy
- Develop Healthier and more active people and communities

2. Changing Spaces: Community Spaces programme (run by Groundwork UK)

For areas: England

Open for applications: March 2008

Application closing date: Three years

Grant Size: Small and Medium grants £10,000 - £49,000

Total available: £50m

This programme will fund community groups who want to improve local green spaces such as play areas, community gardens, parks, wildlife areas, village greens and churchyards. For more information visit www.community-spaces.org.uk.

To Note: New grants programme

The Awards for All Grants Scheme is coming to an end on 31st March 2009 (see under FG 12)

From 1 April 2009, the **Big Lottery Fund** will launch a new small grants programme on 1 April 2009 awarding grants of £300 to £10,000 to local communities in 2009-2010.