



Funding Guides



FUNDING GUIDE 9 : Funding Sources

See also **FG1 Funding Overview** and **FG4: Preparing a Funding Strategy**, **FG10 Making Funding Applications** as well as guides on specific sources.

The aim of this fact sheet is to describe the types of funding available to groups, and how to go about finding the right funders for you.

1: Researching Funders:

Firstly, think about going back to any past or existing funders. Did you spend the grant properly? Was the money used well? Did you get positive feedback from the funder about your achievements? If so, **they may be happy to fund you again.**

Next, **use contacts.** Ask committee members, staff, volunteers or members of congregation if they have contact with funders, or know of similar groups or projects that have been funded.

Contact organisations who may be able to signpost you to other sources of funding, such as your local CVS office, Community Foundations, Rural Community Council, Faithworks, Regeneration networks etc.

2: Targeting Funders:

Your funding search will give you a list of funders that **might** be suitable. Carefully read all the information you have about each funder, to see that you are eligible, and meet the funding criteria. Some funders will match your organisation or project quite closely others won't. Target those whose criteria you most closely meet first. List potential funders in order of priority. Think how much time and effort you can put into applications, and limit your list to the number of funders you can deal with.

Note: Quality not Quantity. It is better to work hard on a small number of bids, to find the right funders and to show each funder how well you meet their aims.

3: Types of Funders:

As well as individual donations (see FG17), there are many different types of funding available to church-based organisations:

- 1: Diocesan / Church Based Funds
- 2: Local Authorities
- 3: Charitable Trusts
- 4: Philanthropic Organisations
- 5: The Lottery
- 6: Company Giving
- 7: Statutory Grants (including possible European Funding in some cases)

Which of these sources you go for depends on your project and what you want the money for. The following descriptions outline each type of funding and will help you decide which kind is right for you.

1. Diocesan / Church Based Funds:

The Diocesan funds available for projects will, of course, vary greatly, depending on how each has responded to the funds made available to them for mission development from Archbishops' Council nationally. Many have added to this from their own resources and set up

an application process best suited to their requirements and goals. Other national sources of funding include Church Urban Fund www.cuf.org.uk and Church and Community Fund www.ccf.org.uk

2. Local Authorities: (See also FG 14)

Many projects undertaken by parishes contain elements of community work and also seek to meet the requirements of providing a building adequate to serve all, whether able bodied or not. Contact with your local council may provide information on funding available to help you.

3. Charitable Trusts: (See also FG 11)

Trusts (sometimes called Foundations) are set up by companies or individuals as a way of giving money to certain causes. Some target very specific causes, others give more generally, to all kinds of groups that deal with community or disadvantage. There are local trusts, preferring to give in their own locality only, others are national. Amounts can range from a few hundred pounds to tens of thousands, if you match their aims closely and can show a big impact. Applications to Trusts are often as simple as a 2 page letter or basic application form. More details might be requested for larger requests.

4. The Lottery: (see also FG 12, 12a, 12b, 12c)

The Lottery gives money to good causes through a number of different funds/distributors, each of which has its own pot of money and application procedure. The most relevant ones for churches are:

- Heritage Lottery Fund (FG12a)
- The Big Lottery Fund (FG12b)
- Arts Council (FG12c)
- Awards for All (FG12)

You apply to the body that is most appropriate to your organisation or project.

5. Company Donations:

An alternative to grants is approaching a local company to ask for money or resources. The advantage of this approach is that you may get a very quick answer, as there may be no official application process. Additionally, you could develop a long-term relationship with the company. However, you should be aware that many larger businesses have their own charitable trusts or give to the local Community Foundation and so may not be able to give directly to your project.

Businesses may be willing to enter into a **sponsorship** deal. This involves you offering a service, usually publicity for the company in your publications or at events, in return for money. To find out more contact companies directly and ask for the Community Affairs or Marketing department, or a person who can deal with donations.

6. Statutory Grants: (See also FG 13, 14 and 15?)

Statutory means that the grant comes from the Government or a local body such as the Council, Health Authority or Education Authority. Money is given to voluntary groups for work that the Government or local agencies have identified as necessary.

European funds are generally for projects involving regeneration, training and employment. Groups usually access them through a regional regeneration office. European grants can be large, but require time and effort due to the large amount of paperwork involved in applying for, monitoring and reporting on your project. The money can take a long time to arrive, and you often need to find matched funding from elsewhere.