

## Funding Guidance and Tips for Writing Bids:

According to the Association of Charitable Foundations, there are **more than 10,000 trusts and foundations** nationwide, distributing more than £2 billion in grants every year. They range from very large funders giving out millions of pounds each year to tiny trusts giving out a thousand pounds each year. You need to start by identifying who and how you are going to approach for funding - There is no such thing as a 'typical grant funder', so it is always important to find out as much information as possible about the specific funder you want to apply to.

### Local Funding, advice & Support:

1. Community Foundations – find your nearest community Foundation [here](#).
2. National Lottery Community Fund – Grants of up to £10,000 to support people and communities. Most village halls can have their acoustic treatment supplied and installed well within this limit. You can start your [application here](#) and search for previous grants that have been awarded [here](#).
3. Local Support, Development or Infrastructure Organisations. There are three ways to find your local infrastructure organisation.
  - [Use this map](#). It will help you find all the organisations that are members of NAVCA, the umbrella body for local infrastructure organisations.
  - Focused on rural services? Then use [ACRE's map](#) (ACRE is Action for Communities in Rural England – 38 organisations are listed [here](#)).
  - Can't find anyone near you on the maps? Some organisations may not be listed. Put 'name of your area' into an internet search. Add the search term 'supporting the community sector' or 'supporting the voluntary sector' to find them.
4. Your Local Council – You can find which councils are in your area using the Postcode Search [here](#).
5. [360 GrantNav](#) is a fantastic resource to search for historic funders, project types, grants and locations to see how, where and why money has been awarded previously.

### General notes on Funders:

- Most funders want to create change and improve the quality of life for disadvantaged people, find solutions to local problems and respond to new, local needs.

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- Applications can take up to 6 weeks to process.
- Funders tend to have their own very specific and direct guidelines. Speak to them to make sure you understand their criteria. This will help to you to approach them correctly and will also open a personal dialogue with their staff / volunteers.
- Always request feedback on unsuccessful applications. This information can prove invaluable when submitting your next application to ensure improvements are made.
- Remember that most funders have many more applications than they can approve – do not feel too disheartened if your first attempt fails – persevere and find out where you can improve your application next time.

### **What makes a good funding application?**

- A clearly defined problem or need backed up with evidence.
- A clearly defined solution to the problem.
- A clearly defined project proposal on how to implement the changes / improvements.
- Evidence of your organisations effectiveness in tackling previous issues.
- A way of standing out from the crowd – a powerful quote, Image, fact or statistic relating to your project can often help to grab attention from the outset.

### **Before submitting your application ask yourself these questions:**

- Have you spoken directly to the funder or any other successful applicants to gain further insight into what might be required?
- Does your project / work fit the criteria for the funding well?
- Is the grant large enough to meet your needs?
- Is the grant for a long enough time period to meet your needs?
- Have you submitted a fully detailed funding application within the parameters of what has been requested? Is there anything missing or anything else you could add?
- Is your application likely to stand out in quality and detail from the hundreds or thousands of other likely to be received?

### **Finally:**

- Have your submission read by someone experienced in applying for funding, or who has been successful previously. Get their thoughts / comments.
- Ask the funder if they would 'proof' your application prior to final submission.
- Do this in plenty of time before the submission deadline to allow time for re-writing / editing.
- If at first you don't succeed.....