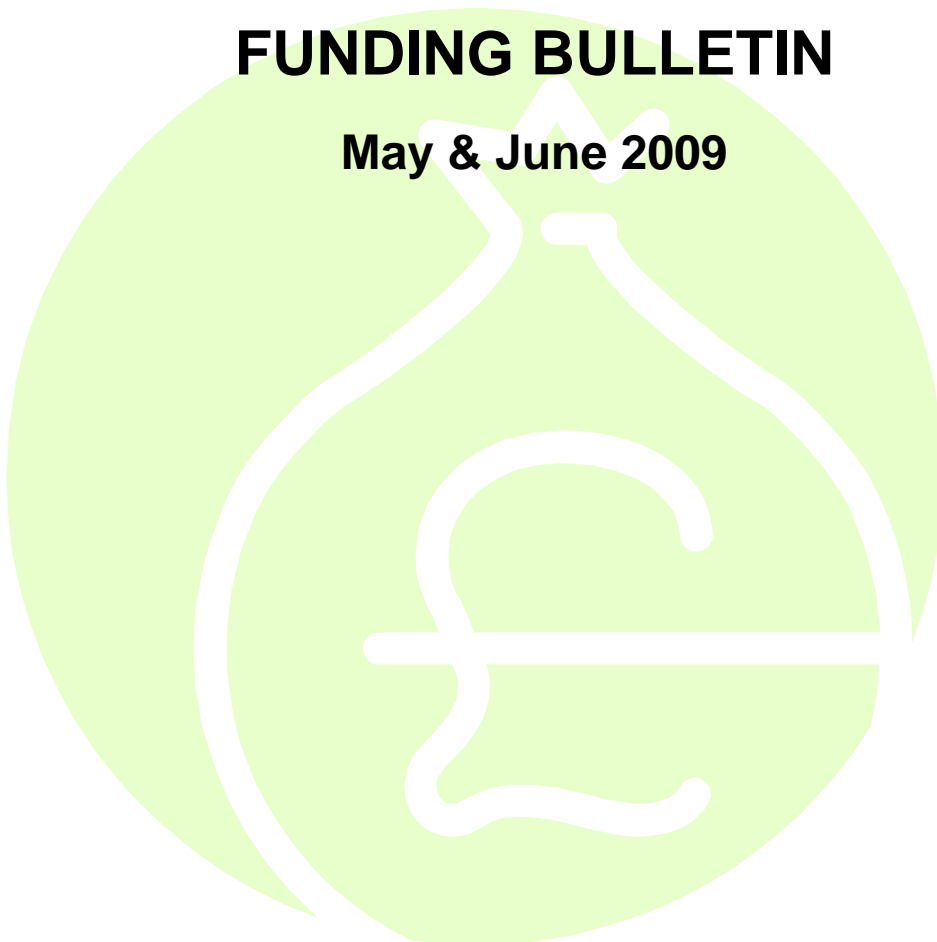




FUNDING BULLETIN

May & June 2009



Introduction

Welcome to AVOW's monthly Funding Bulletin for charities, social enterprises, and not-for-profit voluntary and community groups in Wrexham. Here you will find the latest news on Charitable Trusts, European Funding, Statutory Funding, General Charity and Company Matters, and Local News. If you do not wish to receive further monthly bulletins or if you know of other people who may be interested in receiving this bulletin in the future then please e-mail Heather Hicks, AVOW's Funding Advice Officer at heather.hicks@avow.org

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CHARITABLE TRUSTS

EQUALITY & HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION – STRATEGIC FUNDING PROGRAMME

The Equality & Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has announced a new £10.2 million Strategic Funding Programme, providing three-year project based funding for community and voluntary sector organisations. The new funding programme builds on the Commission's 2008-09 interim programme, and is at the core of a soon to be launched three year strategy which will set out the Commission's vision of a Britain built on principles of fairness, equality and respect.

A first priority area will fund organisations providing guidance, advice and advocacy services in areas including education, health and employment, as well building capacity where there are gaps in local provision, for example for women who have experienced violence. A second priority area will support increased co-operation between groups - including ethnic or religious communities - in areas where there are known tensions. A third priority area is support for legal advice and awareness of legal rights. This will operate as a separate Programme which is expected to launch in June.

The Commission is particularly keen to fund activity that directly serves and involves individuals and local communities, that meets an unmet need, and that has the potential to inspire and inform longer-term activity that helps promote the Commission's objectives. The programme includes a simplified two stage application process to reduce paperwork and bureaucracy and ensure that applications that don't meet the Commission's criteria are identified at an early stage. Improved monitoring will ensure value for money throughout the lifetime of each funded project.

The deadline for applications for the funding is **5pm, June 12, 2009**. Results from the first tranche of applications will be announced towards the end of July 2009. Full details, as well as guidance notes and the outline proposal form are also available in a full range of accessible formats at www.equalityhumanrights.com/funding

THE SECRET MILLIONAIRE FUND

The Big Lottery Fund and The Channel 4 programme Secret Millionaire are working together to give viewers of the programme a chance to nominate organisations, worthy for financial support. Lottery funding worth £1 million has been lined up for people to apply for, or nominate projects to apply for grants of between £300 and £10,000 from the Secret Millionaire Fund. The fund has the same criteria as the Big Lottery Fund's Awards for All Scheme, namely to:

- Support community activity
- Extend access and participation
- Increase skills and creativity
- Improve quality of life

Visitors to the new Secret Millionaire website will be able to either nominate a community project or apply themselves. The website will be live to receive applications and nominations until **21st December 2009**.

For more information visit: http://secretmillionaire.channel4.com/fund_info.shtml

NOMINET TRUST

Applications are being invited to support UK-based and international Internet-related initiatives in the sectors of education, research and development, safety and social inclusion. Projects should meet the needs of the Trust's target groups, which are:

- Young people,
- Older people,
- People with disabilities,
- People with illnesses,
- Those that are disadvantaged or vulnerable.

As you might expect, applications are taken online. There is an initial eligibility questionnaire, available. The Trust's Web site is at: www.nominettrust.org.uk . You can also e-mail: enquiries@nominettrust.org.uk or call 01865 334000 with specific questions. First-stage applications are accepted as received.

(Source: fundinginformation.org, 1 May 09)

COMMUNITIES FIRST TRUST FUND IN WALES

Communities First areas across Wales are set to receive over £3m from the Communities First Trust Fund for 2009/2010. The Communities First Trust Fund (CFTF) aims to support any type of activity that involves local people, through small community organisations, that benefits their community. Applications are welcome from a range of community projects including music and the arts. The activities must provide some measure of economic, environmental, social or cultural benefit for people living in a Communities First area. There is no minimum amount but £5,000 is the maximum you can apply for. Applications can be submitted to the CFTF throughout the year from April 2009 and are processed on a first come first served basis. Therefore, as there is a fixed amount of money allocated to each Communities First area, it is to your advantage to submit applications as early as possible to avoid the risk of disappointment because the ward allocation has been over-subscribed. Eligible wards within Wrexham area are: Plas Madoc, Queensway, Caia Park and Gwenfro.

For further information contact Communities First Helpline on 0800 587 8898, email help@wcva.org.uk.

(Source: WCVA e-briefing)

NESTA - AGE UNLIMITED

This grant programme aims to facilitate older people to age well, with a focus on age management (work extension) and age readiness (transition skills to move into retirement). Up to £50,000 is available for each individual project. Projects should look at ways to extend working lives, create more flexible work in accordance with the needs and aspirations of older workers, and find better ways to support individuals to move out of paid work into rewarding alternative roles and interests. The deadline is **19th June 2009**.

More information from: www.nestalab.org.uk/age-unlimited-call-for-ideas/ or Chris Sherwood, Senior Lab Development Manager, 0207 438 2673, mob: 07967 475195

(Source: PAVO e-briefing)

THE TUDOR TRUST

The Tudor Trust has published new guidelines covering the period April 2009 to March 2011. The Trust aims to support work that addresses 'the social, emotional and financial needs of people at the margins of society'. It is interested in how organisations tackle the needs and the root causes. The Trust funds work across the UK dealing with a range of issues:

- young people;
- older people;
- community needs;
- relationships;
- housing;
- mental health;
- substance misuse;
- learning;
- financial security;
- Criminal justice.

Grants can cover core funding, development funding, projects, capital grants or mix of them. There is a two-stage application process. First-stage applications are dealt with as received. It should take less than a month for an initial decision to be made, and if you are successful you will be given a named contact to help you develop the next stage of your bid. It will take another three months or so to make a decision from this point. The full guidelines are available from the website: www.tudortrust.org.uk/

(Source: fundinginformation.org, 1 April 09)

AWARDS FOR ALL

The Big Lottery Fund has re-launched their Awards for All programme in Wales, with a total budget of £2.4 million, and a quicker and easier application process. Grants of between £500 and £5,000 are available for both capital items and revenue costs for projects, which:

- support community activity,
- extend access and participation,
- increase skill and creativity, and
- Improve quality of life.

Applications can be submitted on-line, or by post. Successful applicants should receive a conditional offer of a grant within 4 weeks, subject to the provision of any requested supporting documentation. Eligible applicants can include community groups, social enterprises, and community or town councils, schools and health bodies throughout Wales.

Visit the website for more details or to download an application form: <http://www.awardsforall.org.uk/>. For a hard copy of the application pack, telephone: 0845 600 20 40. For enquiries or information, telephone 01686 611740

CONTRACTS & TENDERS

LIFE SKILLS PROJECT - BIG LOTTERY FUND/ESF

The National Lottery Act 2006 gave the Big Lottery Fund (BIG) the authority to handle non-lottery, as well as lottery funds. BIG has recently acquired European Structural Funds to

distribute, in the form of the Life Skills Project. Normally, European funds require a certain % of match funding, however, BIG are providing Lottery funding to match the European funding at source. Therefore, successful Life Skills projects will receive 100% funding, and will not be required to source additional match funding.

Life Skills is not a grant making programme. The project will follow a strict competitive tender process (the Restricted Procedure Process) in accordance with EU Directives and UK Regulations.

The Life Skills project has approximately £14 million available to deliver services throughout Wales that will support targeted groups of economically inactive people to engage or re-engage with education, learning, volunteering and employment. It is a focussed project targeting the following specific participant groups:

- care leavers;
- carers and former carers returning to work;
- Economically inactive families.

Six contract notices in total will be issued between June 2009 and 2010, with Wales-wide coverage. A contract will be issued for each of the target groups both the EU Convergence, and Regional Competitiveness areas. All contracts will need to be completed by 2015.

If you are interested in the project please visit www.sell2wales.co.uk/notices/display.html?Noticeld=16655 to view the Pre-Information Notice and Bidder Information Pack. Contact: kate.richards@biglotteryfund.org.uk

GENERAL INFORMATION RE CONTRACTS & TENDERS

All European Funds must follow a strict tendering process, so funding is distributed in the form of contracts, not grants. The process is:

1. A Contract Notice is issued to OJEU & www.sell2wales.co.uk
2. Interested parties (potential applicants) complete a Pre-Qualification Questionnaire by the published deadline.
3. The PQQ's are evaluated against criteria, and a tendering shortlist (of preferred bidders) is drawn up.
4. Invitations To Tender (ITT) will be issued to potential applicants on the tender shortlist.
 - *Note that at this stage, only those who have submitted PQQ's are able to apply for the funds via an invitation to bid for a contract*
5. ITT's submitted by the closing date are evaluated, and invited for interview, if required,
6. Successful tenders are notified, and after a 10 day mandatory 'cooling off period', contracts are concluded,

Please note, it is essential for interested parties to complete a PQQ at the outset, as only those who have done so will get the opportunity to compete for available funds.

As contract opportunities are advertised on the website <https://www.sell2wales.co.uk/>, it is advisable to register with them, especially to receive their e-mail alerts detailing new opportunities within your field of interest.

AWARDS

AWARDS FOR BRIDGING CULTURE

The Awards for Bridging Culture (ABCs), launched by Institute of Community Cohesion and funded by the Baring Foundation, reward local schemes and projects run by grassroots community and voluntary organisations that help build bridges between communities and cultures. There are four different categories of Awards for Bridging Cultures:

- voluntary or community groups or organisations running projects/schemes to promote intercultural dialogue with gross annual financial income of over £500,000 (in the last two financial years);
- voluntary or community groups or organisations running projects/schemes to promote intercultural dialogue with gross annual financial income of under £500,00 (in the last two financial years);
- volunteers or founders who have made a significant contribution to initiating or running projects or schemes to promote intercultural dialogue;
- local authorities, public sector organisations and private companies who can demonstrate their support for voluntary sector projects or schemes which promote intercultural dialogue, either by helping to initiate projects/schemes or by providing ongoing financial and/or other support.

The deadline for receipt of all applications is Monday **14 September 2009**.

Visit the website: www.bridgingcultures.org.uk/

(Source: Funding News)

BT COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AWARDS

Are you a community or charitable organisation that is looking to extend your work with a laptop and a year's free broadband? If so, you could apply for a BT Community Connections award today.

- **Round 1 - Postal applications 9 June 2009; Online applications 11 June 2009** - Award delivery 17 August - 11 September 2009
- **Round 2 - Postal applications 5 January 2010; Online applications 7 January 2010** - Award delivery – 15 March – 9 April 2010

Contact: BT Community Connections, PO Box 6919. London W1A 8UX. Tel: 0845 257 6792.

Email: info@btcommunityconnections.com Website: www.btcommunityconnections.com/

(Source:PAVO e-briefing)

GENERAL CHARITY & COMPANY MATTERS

TIPS FOR WRITING A STRONG BUSINESS PLAN

Having a strong business plan can make a difference when it comes to attracting support and funding. Funders need to be convinced that your organisation is focused and well organised, and having a good business plan will provide evidence of this. The Charities Evaluation Service website has a page of tips and downloadable resources to help.

Follow this link to the website: <http://www.ces-vol.org.uk/index.cfm?pg=474>

UNLTDWORLD EXCHANGE

A new online application that will help the public to find out about and support social enterprises is being developed by the social entrepreneur networking site UnLtdWorld. An application called UnLtdWorld Exchange will allow users to locate projects and offer them time, skills or funding. The application is in the early stages of development.

Website: <http://unltdworld.com/>

(Source: *Third Sector*, 14 April 09)

SIX SECRETS OF BEING A SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISER

The Institute of Fundraising is launching a series of pod casts called 'The Six Secrets of Being a Successful Fundraiser' that provide insights into the behaviours and attitudes you need to succeed. They are useful regardless of whether you're new to fundraising or a seasoned professional. They are revealing one 'secret' a week, throughout May and June.

Visit the website for details: www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk/events/nationalconventionandconferences/nationalconvention/sixsecretsofbeingasuccessfulfundraiser.htm?dm_i=60Z,117D,KWE58,2EUG,1

(Source PAVO e-briefing)

GIFT AID OPT-OUT SURVEY

The Institute of Fundraising is conducting a survey with third sector organisations to explore the full potential of using an 'opt-out' system for gift aid. The findings will be used to persuade the Government of the merits of using a system for Gift Aid in which charities can claim back tax on donations unless the donor says no or is not a UK taxpayer. Responses to the survey are invited until the closing date of Friday 12th June 09. To participate, please follow this link to the website: www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk/influence/keypolicyissues/giftaid/gaindex.htm?dm_i=60Z,117D,KWE58,2EUG,1

www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk/influence/keypolicyissues/giftaid/gaindex.htm?dm_i=60Z,117D,KWE58,2EUG,1

(Source: PAVO e-briefing)

NEW RULES MAKE IT EASIER FOR CHARITIES TO CALCULATE VAT RECLAMATION

Charities that run business activities will find it easier to calculate the percentage of VAT they can reclaim under new rules made by HM Revenue & Customs. The new partial exemption rules, which came into effect from 1 April, allow charities to calculate VAT based on estimates from the previous year, then make an adjustment at the end, rather than having to make exact calculations in each VAT return. They also allow charities that are new to the rules to calculate their payments based on provisional calculations, rather than having to wait until the end of the year to reclaim any VAT.

A spokeswoman for umbrella body the Charity Finance Directors' Group said her organisation supported the changes HMRC had made, but it should make sure they did not increase the fear charities had of getting involved in tax recovery. "HMRC should recognise that the real difficulty of this area lies in gathering the data and in allocating income and expenditure between business and non-business," she said. HMRC is still considering whether to do away with any distinction between exempt and non-business activities for VAT purposes. (Source: *Third Sector*)

TRAINING

GRANTS FIT FOR FUNDING

23 June 2009 – Ty AVOW

Have you ever had an application for funding rejected or ever considered what makes a winning bid? Many funding applications fail due to the lack of sufficient preparation or simply do not fit with a funders' criteria. This course will examine all aspects of preparing a funding application and will provide a practical insight into identifying the most appropriate sources of funding for your organisation. The course will also provide an overview of the current funding climate in Wales and assist you in understanding what influences funders. The course is suitable for those new to fundraising or those wishing to gain a further insight into fundraising processes.

Thanks to funding from the Welsh Assembly Government, AVOW are able to offer the training to voluntary and community organisations operating in Wrexham County Borough. The training, which would usually cost £100, is being offered at a reduced cost of £20 per delegate (including lunch). To book a place, please contact Marion Kelsall on tel: 01978 312556, or e-mail: marion.kelsall@avow.org

HOW TO TENDER TRAINING

In the coming months, WCVA will be holding three training events for organisations wishing to learn more about tendering. The WCVA 'how to tender' courses have been developed in response to the increasing role of the third sector in public service delivery, and have been designed for people new to tendering or those wishing to improve their skill in preparing tenders. The two-day events will take place in **Rhyl (June 15 & 16)**, Aberystwyth (July 13 & 14) and Cardiff (September 14 and 15).

To request an expression of interest form, contact the WCVA Helpdesk on 0800 2888 329 or email training@wcva.org.uk. Click [here](#) for more information about the courses.

LOCAL NEWS

GWIRVOL YOUTH LED GRANTS

Wrexham Volunteer Centre has funding of up to £500 available through the GwirVol Youth Led Grants Scheme for young people aged 16 - 25, who are interested in organising a youth led volunteering project which will benefit their local community.

Applications can be made either by individuals or groups. Previously we have funded 7 youth led projects ranging from Christmas Parties for local elderly residents to recycled art workshops for children.

For further information, please contact Lynsey Edwards, AVOW Youth Volunteering Officer on 01978 312556 or email: lynsey.edwards@avow.org

NORTH EAST WALES PILOT GRANT SCHEME

The fund has been created to help community groups in North East Wales tackle local issues that are in line with the aims and objectives of the Community Foundation in Wales, namely:

“The promotion of any charitable purpose for the benefit of the community in Wales including the advancement of education, the protection of good health, both mental and physical, and the relief of poverty and sickness and other exclusively charitable purposes which are beneficial to the communities in Wales”

Community groups, voluntary organisations and charities in the local authority areas of Wrexham, Denbighshire and Flintshire may apply to this scheme. There are two types of grant available:

- Micro grants of up to £100 for small items
- Small grants of up to £2500 to fund capital and revenue costs

The closing date for applications is Friday **19th June 2009**.

For more information and an application form, please contact: The Community Foundation in Wales, 14-16 Merthyr Road Whitchurch Cardiff CF14 1DG.

Tel: 02920 520250. Email: mail@cfiw.org.uk

WELSH CHURCH ACTS FUND

Last September the Council awarded grants totalling £7,074.00 from The Welsh Church Acts Fund. These grants were awarded to 21 organisations seeking assistance for the cost of equipment or specific projects, such as renovation work. The fund is used to provide financial assistance for charitable purposes to organisations operating within the Wrexham County Borough area, with aims fitting the scheme's criteria.

Applications for awards will be considered in September 2009 and organisations wishing to have an application considered are requested to submit the completed application form by **31 July 2009**. Applicants who have received a grant in the previous two years are asked to note that a subsequent application is unlikely to succeed.

Priority for distribution will be given to Organisations supporting Social and Recreational Facilities, Places of Worship and Burial Grounds and Blind and Elderly Persons. The maximum amount of award available will be £500.

Application forms and a list of grant criteria can be obtained from the Council's internet site at www.wrexham.gov.uk/english/leisure_tourism/grants/index.htm, by post from the Chief Finance and Performance Officer, Wrexham County Borough Council, Lambpit Street Wrexham LL11 1AR or by telephone from Mrs H Francis (01978) 292716.

VILLAGE HALLS FUND

Wrexham County Borough Council is inviting grant applications from village halls within the County, through which your hall could receive up to £2,500. In 2009/10, the Fund has £17,500 to distribute, with the minimum award being £250 and the maximum £2,500, which can be granted to voluntary organisations and used for equipment, building repairs and items of lasting benefit. The awards cannot be made to cover staffing costs or general appeals/sponsorship.

Applications must be submitted by properly constituted management committees/trustees administering village halls within Wrexham County Borough. Town or Village Halls operated by Community Councils are eligible to apply. Church Halls and other meeting places will be considered, providing that there is no other village hall or community centre within that community. In all cases, the appropriate application form should be completed. Current applications should be submitted by **5 June 2009**. Only one award will be made to each organisation.

For an application form, please contact 01978 297442 during office hours or download it from the website: www.wrexham.gov.uk/english/leisure_tourism/grants/index.htm

WREXHAM RURAL KEY FUND

AVOW has recently been awarded £275,000 to deliver an exciting new Key Fund grants scheme which has been developed to help smaller voluntary community organisations, based in, or operating in rural wards of Wrexham County Borough, to obtain funds for their projects. Grants are available for up to 75% of the total eligible costs of projects; the remaining 25% must be met by the applicant organisation, through cash and/or by a volunteer time contribution. A maximum grant of £10,000 will be awarded.

AVOW staff will work with the applicants in order to help them secure their own match funding contributions towards their projects, submit their applications to the Key Fund, set up their operation and run their projects. The project will run until February 2011.

Voluntary and community organisations that wish to make an application to the Key Fund should contact Lynda Ellison at AVOW, 21 Egerton Street, Wrexham LL11 1ND. Tel no: 01978 312556. E-mail: lynda.ellison@avow.org

WREXHAM COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME

AVOW, is administering a grant scheme for the provision of funding to voluntary and community organisations operating in, and for the benefit of the communities and people of Wrexham County Borough. Funding is available for capital only schemes such as: creating new facilities, refurbishment of existing facilities, providing toilets for the disabled, providing access for the disabled, improvements to built or natural environment, equipment provided for community/social economy businesses.

The main grants scheme will provide grants up to a maximum of £10,000 per application, although the panel prefer to support smaller requests. There is also a Small Grants Scheme for organisations looking for funding up to £250. Applications are assessed on a quarterly basis, by an independent local panel. Application forms are available from AVOW by phoning the Grants Officer on 01978 312556 or e-mailing lynda.ellison@avow.org

TIP OF THE MONTH

There are a number of tips and techniques to help your application stand out and hopefully, improve your overall chances of success. This month's tip is:

TEST THE WATER

Some funders welcome dialogue before applications are submitted. A telephone call to a funder can help you:

- a) Assess your chances of success – saving you the bother of applying if you are unlikely to succeed.
- b) Glean extra bits of information about funder's preferences, which may be very useful when filling out your form.

Please note that it is very important to check the funder's guidelines and website first, to find out if a funder will welcome telephone calls in advance of an application – as not all do. Those that don't welcome prior contact normally say so in their guidelines.

FINALLY, we would like to hear your success stories. If you have successfully obtained grant funding following advice received from AVOW, or from information in these Funding Bulletins please let us know. We will not feature individual cases unless organisations particularly wish to share their successes.

NOTE: AVOW fully supports the distribution of the information within this newsletter to charities, voluntary organisations, community groups and social enterprises, but requests that any organisation using this information please acknowledge AVOW as the source of the information.

The information within this bulletin is gathered from a number of sources and is intended for guidance only. The information has been researched as far as possible, and is believed to be correct at time of publication. Products and services featured are not endorsed by AVOW.

AVOW is the Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham