

“Opening Opportunities across Lancashire”

Lancashire Community Grants will support small Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector – (VCFS) organisations to deliver innovative and engaging projects that address the barriers faced by deprived communities and individuals in gaining access to employment, skills and learning.

The project will award grants to VCFS organisations that are well placed and creative in their approach to solving employment issues in their areas by “opening opportunities” for the hard to reach communities in Lancashire.

Projects must not duplicate provision that is already available through ESF (European Social Fund) Co-Financing or mainstream funding.

Priority will be given to projects that will provide support to:

- those with disabilities and health conditions including mental health
- people aged 50 years and over.
- Females
- people from minority ethnic groups
- lone parents – including young parents/teenage parents

Who can apply?

If you are a local community group, perhaps a local charity, voluntary organisation, not-for-profit organisation or social enterprise group, you may be eligible to apply.

How much are the Grants?

Grants are available up to £12,000 – applicants will need to provide a breakdown of how they will spend the grant. Organisations that are successful in obtaining a grant will have to provide all evidence of how they have spent the money.

The Community Grants Programme is funded by the Learning and Skills Council. Those organisations who receive a grant will be required to provide evidence of outputs and outcomes, as detailed in the application guidance, and produce evidence related to the grant spend. A Project Handbook has been designed to assist in the delivery of the project and to help record all information, expenditure and evidence.

How do I apply?

You can download an application pack from the website under Lancashire Community Grants “Open Opportunities” at: www.lancashire.gov.uk/community_grants

Or contact Colette Taylor at: colette.taylor@lancashire.gov.uk

If you require the forms in a different language or another format please contact Lancashire Community Grants Team on 01772 536600

Application Process

Grants Applications can be submitted at any time.

- Lancashire Community Grants will be awarded in:
April 2009 July 2009 October 2009 and December 2009; March 2010
- The deadline for these periods will be:
20 March 2009, 20 June 2009, 20 September 2009 20 November 2009; 20 January 2010
- A meeting will be held within 4 weeks of the deadline by an independent panel and projects will be either approved or rejected.

Approved

If a project is approved, then the applicants will be required to attend a workshop. At the workshop contracts and a Project Handbook will be issued.

Rejected/Deferred

If a project is rejected or deferred a feedback report will be issued. A revised application can be resubmitted for the next round of grants.

Following on from the Appraisal Panel all successful applicants will be required to supply essential documents. Projects will have to submit quarterly reports in line with reporting requirements of the LSC. All projects must be completed by 31st October 2010 and all information returned to Lancashire County Developments Ltd