



The National Lottery Community Fund



Religious Organisations & Activity

- We can fund religious organisations but we can't fund religious activity.
- Any project needs to;
 - Make it clear that it is open to all.
 - Benefit the wider community.
 - Not include religious content.
 - Focus on community cohesion and cultural understanding rather than promoting one particular religion.

Our funding in England

Priorities

- Bring people together and build strong relationships in and across communities
- Improve the places and spaces that matter to communities
- Enable more people to fulfil their potential by working to address issues at the earliest possible stage

We want to fund groups who have 'People in the Lead'

People Led

People they work with are meaningfully involved in the design, delivery and development of the project.

Strengths based

Support people and communities to build on the knowledge, skills and experience they already have to make the changes they want.

Connected

Demonstrate a good understanding of other activities and services in the community and can show how the project will complement these.

National Lottery Awards for All

For ideas costing from £300 to £10,000,
achievable in one year.

- Short application form
- No closing dates
- Constituted groups can apply - don't have to be registered
- Decisions usually take around 12 weeks but this can vary
- Can include capital costs
- Online application and telephone support available



Reaching Communities

For projects costing more than £10k

- Up to 5 years funding
- Can include capital costs
- Two stages
- No closing date - rolling process
- Conversational application process with flexible submission formats

And **Partnerships**: Organisations and communities with an aspiration to work together on big challenges.



Midlands Investment – 2020/2021

Funding facts

- ✓ Awarded £38.3m through Coronavirus Community Support Fund (CCSF) made up of DCMS funding (£33.4m) and TNLCF funding (£4.9m) to 1,756 projects with an average award of £21,810.
- ✓ Awarded £7.5m through A4A to 854 projects (average award of £8,782).
- ✓ Awarded £29.2m through RC and Partnerships to 213 projects (average award of £137,089).
- ✓ 2021/2022 Midlands budget for RC and Partnerships is around £45m.

Reaching Communities and Partnerships

- ✓ We are working more locally and closer to communities.
- ✓ There are more opportunities to meet a funding officer to talk through your project idea. Each officer is based in the patch they cover.
- ✓ We are working to give quicker feedback at all stages of the application.
- ✓ We have an increased understanding of the local funding context.
- ✓ We have been more flexible in how and what we review following the award of a grant.



Strengths

- Experience and dedication of staff working in the voluntary and community sector
- The passion that people have shown in wanting to improve their local area
- The partnership working that already happens
- COVID has seen a real strength of community spirit emerge
- Broader and more diverse range of volunteers

Challenges

- Ongoing challenges to meet core costs of organisations and sustain services
- Continued austerity and deprivation within communities
- Don't run before you can walk
- More demand than ever before, both in terms of numbers of applications but also for levels of funding

Applications

The top areas where applicants have had gaps in their applications:

- Articulating people in the lead
- Articulating their local role
- Future planning

Questions?