

National LAF Conferences 2013 – 14

Presentation and Workshop: Lottery Funding

Bristol Conference:
Olivia Gore, Big Lottery Fund

Durham Conference:
Ellen Creighton, Heritage Lottery Fund
Julie Coxon, Big Lottery Fund

Speaker's Summary

For me the benefit of this was an opportunity to talk about our open programmes – Awards for All and Reaching Communities, and also co present with Heritage Lottery, so the groups could understand both funders different missions and therefore help them focus which funding strands are most appropriate to them. I also ran through a few top tips for success, general rules of thumb which are appropriate to most funders, so hopefully that would be of help in thinking about funding applications in general.

Julie Coxon

Top Tips

1. Read Guidance (40% failure rate)
2. Don't chase funding streams, or force a project to fit, 'We can tell a mile off'
3. Get your finances sorted, know your budget, be realistic not thrifty
4. Sort governances – insurances, safeguarding
5. Evidence the need – it's not just about what you think, need evidence of local consultation
6. Find a critical friend – they can be more honest when they read your bid
7. Timescales – consider the time you need
8. Involve beneficiarries – fundamental to the design, trends can be built in, involve in the management of the project
9. Outcomes – are these clear about the difference the project will make
10. Plan your projects - links to the organisation and aims

Question and Answers

Q: Can you describe the crossover in your programmes?

A: If we use the example of Durham Cathedral, the Big Lottery would be interested in the what happens within the building, and the Heritage Lottery would be concerned about the building as a heritage feature, and each will have different outcomes. EC – if you apply for funds, you could attempt match funding from both organisations.

Q: Lack of transport is one of the threats to rural communities and there are examples of villages getting together to replace / enhance the bus service. Can BLF provide funding to support this?

A: BLF have already funded local transport schemes. Main point is that they cannot fund any activity or programme that is already a statutory responsibility.

National LAF Conferences 2013 – 14

Q: Do applicants need bank a/c and constitution?

A: Yes; it is possible for another organisation – with bank a/c and constitution – to apply on behalf of community, however this can become complicated.

Q: Our A4A application is delayed, why?

A: Big Lottery Fund is changing to a new funding mgt/IT system and this is causing delays. Should be sorted soon which should result in a quicker, better service.

Q: A local group applied for Community Spaces Grant. Local disabled LAF members helped with application to ensure all ability path was included in new community space; however, now it is complete there is a combination lock on the gate and disabled people – unless they are part of the local community – cannot get in. What can they do?

A: Projects funded through Community Spaces should be open to wider community. Send details to Olivia.

Q: Which would you apply to for a new path around a village? It has heritage links, ecological value, joins existing paths?

A: JC – We could improve disabled access, green space, a solid outcome for the local community but we wouldn't undertake a statutory responsibility function.'

Observation: Local authorities can apply to improve on the statutory requirements, the physical access to it underpins all the bids.