



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Call for applications for fund to empower
women to tackle abuse

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Department for Communities and Local Government
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF
Telephone: 030 3444 0000

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Call for applications for Women's Empowerment Fund

Overview

1. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) is launching a call for applications for a Women's Empowerment Fund. The Fund is £250k in total and voluntary and community groups whose primary objective is to work with women in the community are invited to apply for funding for local community engagement projects that empower women. We will allocate a maximum of £20k per project.

Objectives

2. The objective of the Women's Empowerment Fund is to:
 - a. Deliver activities that empower women so they can fully participate in and shape the communities in which they live, challenge practices that are harmful to them and take a full part in society;
 - b. Provide case studies backed up by evidence on what works on women's empowerment projects. This will be used for sharing across government, with other VCS and public sector groups as exemplars.
3. The Fund is directed particularly at organisations who demonstrate they can work with women who find it difficult to get their voices heard. This is one of the key criteria. By women who find it difficult to get their voices heard we mean women who fall into any one of the following categories:
 - a. are or can be marginalised
 - b. women from black, Asian minority and ethnic groups;
 - c. are disadvantaged or deprived: with no or little educational attainment or restricted opportunities,
 - d. who may have been victims of domestic or sexual abuse;
 - e. suffer from barriers that inhibit the accessing of day-to-day services. These might include language barriers, societal issues and lack of confidence about inter-acting with people from outside their community or with public services.

Payment and Reporting Arrangements

4. We have allocated £250k for this fund for the financial year 2015 – 2016. We expect to allocate between £2,000 - £20,000 to individual projects and to make between 10-20 grants. In general grant will be paid quarterly in advance. Applicants will be required to provide written reports one week before payments are due.

Funding Criteria – Essential

5. Organisations must make clear in their applications how the proposed activity will achieve **all** of the following:
 - a. empower women;
 - b. engage with women who may find it difficult to get their voices heard;

- c. is community based and works with local neighbourhoods;
- d. demonstrate impact. We expect applicant organisations to identify the impact and outcomes they expect to see from their project. This might include the number of women involved, and impact on them and their communities. Organisations will be expected to show how they will measure that impact and include evidence for their claims, for example evidence from their existing service provision .
- e. will capture the learning from their projects to be shared with Government, other VCS groups and public sector in their locality;
- f. communicate and share their learning with other VCS groups.

Funding Criteria - Desirable

- 6. Organisations must meet the essential criteria above. While it is not essential to meet the following criteria the ability to demonstrate that your project will do so could increase the chance of being granted funding:
 - a. organisations that demonstrate they are providing activities that have been designed with women from the local community to reflect their needs;
 - b. organisations that have a track record in identifying or supporting female leaders active in empowering their local communities;
 - c. organisations that demonstrate they will leverage wider impact from the funding for example by extending current work and finding efficiency savings or by matching resources by other means;
 - d. organisations that demonstrate they are sustainable and they have credible plans to continue the work once the funding is finished;
 - e. organisations that are working jointly or in partnership with another organisation to deliver a more substantive service whether that covers a wider geographic area or range of activities.

Activities within Scope

- 7. As we are looking for projects that are locally relevant to women we do not specify what activities are within scope. Government is keen to fund local communities to undertake activity that they know will empower women. We are therefore looking to support a range of organisations with different approaches. However there are restrictions – see below

Restrictions

- 8. Please note funding cannot be spent on the following:
 - a. Activities promoting a religious faith or belief; acquisition of religious objects; the cost of supporting religiously-employed personnel;
 - b. Any party political activity;
 - c. Projects that are specifically designed solely for children i.e. children under the age of 16.
- 9. This is not an exhaustive list. Public money will not be provided to organisations that do not support British values including democracy, human rights, equality before the law, and participation in society. This includes extremist groups.

Who is eligible?

10. Any Voluntary Sector Organisation, under section 70 of the Charities Act 2006 including faith groups, are invited to apply. Organisations applying for funding should be able to demonstrate that they have the necessary skills, credibility and experience to work with women who find it difficult to get their voices heard and potentially tackle sensitive issues. Organisations with no previous experience must be able to demonstrate that they have sufficient knowledge, credibility and skills to deliver in this area and gain the trust of women. Organisations must also demonstrate that they have their own safeguarding guidance to protect women at risk.

Applying for the Fund and Deadlines

11. An application form to bid for the fund is attached. **ALL** sections must be completed for the bid to be considered eligible. Fill out the below application form. Completed application forms should be sent to integration@communities.gsi.gov.uk with the subject line "WEF Application". Applications will be acknowledged by email within two working days of receipt. **The closing date for applications is 12 noon on 31 March 2015.**

Funding decisions

12. Applicants will be assessed on their ability to demonstrate they meet the eligibility criteria. Assessment will be made by a panel of officials from DCLG and Office for Civil Society. This panel will make recommendations to DCLG Ministers whose decisions will be final. We will endeavour to offer feedback to unsuccessful bidders who pass the eligibility criteria but whose proposal is not accepted by the panel but we cannot guarantee this.

Data Protection

13. The Department for Communities and Local Government will use the information you give us during the assessment of your application and the life of your award (if successful) to administer and analyse the bids, and for our own learning purposes. We may give some or all of this information to representatives in the Office for Civil Society in the Cabinet Office when assessing applications, administering the process, monitoring awards and evaluating funding processes and impacts. We may share information with organisations and individuals with a legitimate interest in this initiative. We have a duty to protect public funds and for that reason we may also share information (in line with the Freedom of Information Act) with government departments.

Expectations of Successful Projects

14. We will write to you offering you a grant agreement for the activity you have outlined, setting out the detailed terms and conditions and reporting expectations. We may ask you to alter some of the elements of your bid to avoid duplication between projects, if so we will discuss this with you. We will also request copies of any further documentation required.
15. Successful applicants will be asked to provide quarterly monitoring forms and an end of year project report. By applying, projects are also agreeing to use DCLG evaluation forms and other measures. This includes a set of questions to be asked of all participants at the beginning and end of projects. You are also agreeing to cooperate with reasonable requests for publicity e.g. meeting with Ministers, quotes for media publications etc., which will recognise the sensitivity for some individuals.

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