



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Together in Service

Competition for grant funding

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Introduction

Together in Service is a new programme supported by the Department for Communities and Local Government. Its objectives are:

- to celebrate the practical contribution that faith communities make to society through social action, and
- to support faith groups in undertaking new multi-faith volunteering projects at local level.

We have a fund of £50,000 and we are looking for bids from organisations to:

- Deliver an on-going monthly calendar of activities – the Together in Service Calendar – during which individual faith communities will, in turn, highlight all the social action work that they undertake year-in year-out, and launch innovative new social action projects at the local level with people from other faiths.
- Run a Together in Service Fellowship, providing free organisational support and training to individuals from new and existing groups engaged in faith-based social action, and forming a ready supply of willing partners for multi-faith and single faith projects around the country.

Additionally we are offering:

- A match-funding grant pot of £100,000, available to any organisation that can deliver small grants to new multi-faith social action projects at the local level – the Together in Service Fund.

The programme is designed to promote new approaches and technology and encourage collaboration. We are looking for innovative, exciting proposals that will attract widespread involvement by faith groups all across England whilst also attaining a high profile with the mainstream media and the general public.

Background

Together in Service builds on the success of the 'A Year of Service' programme held during 2012 to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. A Year of Service featured a series of special social action days, one each month of the year, hosted by different faith communities in turn and featuring single- or multi-faith volunteering projects on chosen themes relating to festivals or celebrations. A special event for Inter Faith Week in November celebrated all the activities that had taken place during the year. A report on the initiative is at www.fbrn.org.uk/sites/default/files/a_year_of_service_-_report.pdf.

What you will be required to deliver

The work will entail the development, administration, promotion and project-management of two distinct packages of work, which should run in tandem:

Package 1

Development, administration, promotion and project-management of the Together in Service Calendar and the Together in Service Fellowship

The on-going, monthly Together in Service Calendar will provide a focus for individual faith communities, in turn, to highlight all the social action work that they undertake year-in year-out; and to launch innovative new social action projects at the local level with people from other faiths. The lead organisation will help them to do so.

The Together in Service Fellowship will harness the enthusiasm and energy of existing volunteers, including those involved in the A Year of Service and Near Neighbours (www.cuf.org.uk/near-neighbours) programmes, and link them up to form a ready supply of willing partners for multi-faith and single faith projects around the country. The lead organisation will set the Fellowship up and provide its members with organisational support and training opportunities.

The successful organisation or partnership will be able to deliver both the Calendar and the Fellowship. They should also be willing to retain the knowledge and best practice accumulated during A Year of Service, specifically by referring to the contents of the A Year of Service final report.

An annual grant of up to £50,000 is available in 2013-14 and in 2014-15 to the organisation or partnership undertaking this package of work, with a possibility that this might be extended to 2015-16. We would expect the bulk of this grant to be spent on the Calendar part of the package.

Package 2

Development, administration, promotion and project-management of the Together in Service Fund

We also have an annual grant pot of £100,000 in 2013-14 and 2014-15, again with the possibility of extension to 2015-16. This is available as 1:1 match-funding for small grants of up to £2,000 – the Together in Service Fund – to facilitate new multi-faith social action projects at the local level, where there is often a lack of confidence in undertaking volunteering work in a multi faith way. Grants will be given to incorporated bodies, not to individuals.

We are looking for an organisation to administer the Fund and to secure contributions to it from faith communities and other sources. The successful organisation or partnership will be able to offer at least £30,000 in match funding or demonstrate that it is able to secure this.

You will need to give an explanation of your proposed grant eligibility criteria and application procedure, and of how you will monitor the use of the small grants to demonstrate value for money.

Applications are now invited from organisations and partnerships to lead on one or both of these packages.

If your organisation or partnership wishes only to lead on one package you will be required to work in close and effective cooperation with the body or partnership leading on the other package. The partnership approach is very important to Together in Service, and includes engaging effectively with national and local faith communities, both bilaterally and through any relevant inter faith forums.

The application process

The competition is open to any organisation working at a national level in England with an interest in promoting and supporting faith-based social action in local communities. Applying organisations should be either registered charities or incorporated bodies whose Articles of Association demonstrate that their purposes are primarily charitable, philanthropic or benevolent; and should be in good financial health.

Your bid may be in any format but should not be longer than four A4 sides in length. It should include the following information:

- Details of your organisation or partnership – names, addresses, contact details, legal status, website etc
- What your proposal is and how it will help achieve Together in Service's overall objectives
- An outline implementation plan, including details of how you will work alongside a range of faith communities and other organisations
- Evidence that your organisation or partnership possesses excellent project management and publicity skills
- Evidence of good existing relationships with faith communities, as well as good practical knowledge of what works in faith-based social action
- An explanation of how your organisation or partnership's experience and expertise qualify it to develop and run the work package(s) you are applying to lead on
- The amount you are seeking, how the money will be spent and a cost breakdown by year
- How you will proactively promote the scheme nationally and locally, and in the media
- An indication of how you will measure success
- Sustainability – how Together in Service might be enabled to continue after funding ends
- Copies of your accounts (or, if you are a charity, a link to your accounts on the Charity Commission website)
- If you are not a charity, a copy of your Articles of Association

In assessing bids we will also take into consideration how innovative proposals are, and whether they represent value for money. Being able to demonstrate some experience of organising a national-level initiative will be an advantage.

Competition timetable

Bids are invited to be submitted by **10 May 2013**. They should be emailed to Melisha McKenzie in the DCLG Faith team (melisha.mckenzie@communities.gsi.gov.uk). Questions may be emailed to Warwick Hawkins at warwick.hawkins@communities.gsi.gov.uk.

DCLG will assess bids with a view to identifying shortlisted organisations or partnerships. They will then separately be invited to discuss their proposals with DCLG officials prior to an announcement of the successful proposal on **31 May 2013**. Bids will be assessed using a matrix approach, whereby they are scored and ranked against the objectives of the Together in Service programme and the requirements outlined in this prospectus. A copy of the matrix is attached for your information.

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Criteria	Mark out of 5 (1 being weak, and 5 being strong)
1. To what extent does the proposal help meet the overall objectives of Together in Service?	
2. How strong is the proposal's implementation and project-management plan, including working with faith communities?	
3. Strength of existing relationship with faith communities and faith-based social action practitioners	
4. Strength of publicity elements	
5. Does the proposal represent value for money?	
6. Does the plan for measuring success look feasible?	
7. How sustainable is the proposal?	
8. Is the proposal innovative?	
Score out of 40	

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