Big Lottery Fund
Overview
What is the Big Lottery Fund?

BIG is one of the four major Lottery distributors – the others are Arts Council England, Heritage Lottery Fund and Sport England

BIG is responsible for distributing 40% of the money that the National Lottery raises for good causes
What is the Big Lottery Fund?

Our mission is to bring real improvements to communities and the lives of people most in need

We are an ‘outcomes’ funder

What does this mean?
BIG wants to fund projects whose main aim will help to achieve at least one or more of BIG’s strategic outcomes:

- **people having better chances in life** with better access to training and development to improve their life skills
- **stronger communities** with more active citizens working together to tackle their problems
- **improved rural and urban environments** which communities are better able to access and enjoy
- **healthier and more active people and communities**
Two open responsive programmes:

Awards for All (small grants)

Reaching Communities (large grants)

Both programmes require applicant organisations to have at least three people on their board of governance and a UK bank account with at least two signatories.

Projects must deliver services that are additional to statutory duties.
Awards for All

- Open to voluntary organisations, schools, parish/town councils, health bodies and social enterprises
- Rolling programme: can apply at any time
- Awards of between £300 and £10,000
- Projects must enable organisations to offer new activities and events or extend facilities (except for orgs with annual income < £30k)
- Projects must be completed within 12 months of award
Awards for All

- Single stage application process: decision within 4 months
- Cannot be used for salaries but can meet sessional fees
- Building projects should have total costs < £25k inc. VAT
- No more than £10,000 worth of grants in any one year
- No match funding required within award maximum
- Simple end-of-grant report
Reaching Communities

- Open to voluntary and statutory organisations and social enterprises

- Grants of more than £10,000 for revenue costs and £10,000 to £100,000 for capital costs

- Funding period between 1 and 5 years

- Applications seeking > £500k must be exceptional

- Average grant: £350,000 over 3 years

- Can fund new and existing work

- Rolling programme: can apply at any time
Reaching Communities

- 2 stage application process

- Average decision time: 6 months overall

- No match funding required but welcome

- Funding for organisational overheads connected with project

- Funding for village halls and community centres available in some areas of England based on deprivation and rurality – postcode checker on BIG website

- Reporting at end of each project year and at end of grant
Essentials of an application to the Big Lottery Fund
The most essential!

Read our guidance!
Remember BIG’s mission is:

to bring **real improvements** to communities and the lives of people **most in need**

We need **you** to explain to **us**:

- **what problems are faced by the people and communities you want to help and how you know this (the need)**

- **how your project will change people’s lives for the better (the outcome)**

- **what you will do to achieve those changes (the activity)**

- **what you need to deliver the project (the resources) and how much it will cost (the budget)**
What this means in practice

**NEED**
Older people in our community feel lonely and isolated through living on their own and a lack of opportunities for social contact

**OUTCOME**
Older people in our community feel less lonely and isolated through having increased social contact

**ACTIVITIES**
- Deliver a befriending service through home visits
- Deliver a social and lunch club in the local community centre

**RESOURCES**
- Revenue: P/T paid co-ordinator, Volunteers
- Capital: Upgrade kitchen in community centre

**Budget**
Tell us about the problems faced by the people who will use your project

Tell us why those problems exist

Explain why those problems are not currently being addressed by other voluntary and statutory agencies i.e. where does your project fit into the bigger picture of service provision

Don’t assume that we will automatically see that there is a need. It is up to you to convince us.
Evidencing the need

Consultation with your intended service users is **key**
- recent, representative and inclusive

Consultation with your service users should establish:
- what problems they face
- why they face those problems
- what solutions they want to those problems
- how they feel about your intended service

Back up your consultation findings with:
- information from talking to other agencies
- local statistics and external research
- local authority and other strategies
- your own experience e.g. evaluation of previous work, waiting lists
Outcomes

Think about what difference will the project make for the beneficiaries?

Don’t just tell us what you are going to do, tell us how what you are going to do will change peoples lives

Use ‘change’ words like: increased, improved, reduced...

Ask yourself what changes in the lives of your clients would make you think:

‘We’ve been successful and made a difference’?

Think about your clients ‘before’ and ‘after’
**Outcomes**

**Examples**

- Older people will report **improved** psychological and physical wellbeing through taking part in exercise classes.

- Young people with learning disabilities will have **increased** self-confidence through working in the community café.

- Carers will report **reduced** levels of stress through the provision of 7 hours respite care a week.

When deciding on your outcomes, think about how you are going to measure the changes you hope to achieve.
Activities

Activities are the tasks, actions or services that take place in your project to achieve its outcomes.

Activities should specify:
- **what** will be done
- **how** it will be done
- **who** will do it
- **when** it will be done

This will determine the **resources** (paid and volunteer staff, accommodation, running costs and equipment) and the **budget** that you need to run your project.

Make sure it is clear how your activities will deliver your intended outcomes.
A note on beneficiaries

Think about who your project is open to.

How will they know about the project
- how will you promote and publicise the project to them?

What barriers might there be to them finding out about the project or using it e.g. disability
- what will you do to overcome those barriers?

Can you involve beneficiaries in planning the project through consultation and co-option into planning?

Can you involve beneficiaries in the delivery of the project through management, volunteering, peer mentoring?
Further information and advice

Websites:  www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

Phone:  BIG Advice Line 0345 4 10 20 30

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