

Somerset

grassroots
grants

Managed by the Community Development Foundation
Funded by the Office of the Third Sector


Somerset
Community Foundation

Programme Criteria

This programme is funded by the Government's Office of the Third Sector and its purpose is to support small informal voluntary and community groups and organisations, many of whom are dependent on volunteers. The programme will be running from summer 2008 to March 2011.

Who can apply?

We welcome applications to the Grassroots Grants Programme from **not-for-profit voluntary or community groups based in Somerset** who have been active in their community for not less than 12 months. However, there could be a shorter 'age limit' period when a group can clearly demonstrate they are meeting an identified community need not currently supported by existing local groups. Groups must have an evidenced income of **less than £30,000 per annum**, taken as an average over three financial years (or over the life of the group if it is less than three years old).

To apply for a grant you do not have to be a registered charity but you must have, or be working towards, a **governing document** (ie set of rules or constitution) a **management committee** and a **bank account**. Your organisation should be volunteer led and be connected with and/or meeting the needs of the local community.

How much do we give?

Groups can apply for a minimum of £250 up to £5000; however we particularly welcome applications for projects where a small grant of less than £1000 will make a real difference. This can be a one-off payment or a grant spread over the lifetime of the programme. Alternatively you can apply for a number of grants (multiple applications over time) that total no more than £5000 in the life of the grant scheme. You cannot, however, hold more than one grassroots grant at any one time.

What we can fund

- Equipment such as a computer, oven, furniture
- Local events and workshops
- General running costs, for example staff costs, contribution to rent costs where they are related to activities/service delivery
- Training for volunteers
- The cost of attending a conference or event
- Funding to support an organisation achieve a quality or other standard relevant to their activities.

These are just examples and we would expect applications to reflect the needs of local groups and local people and address issues of disadvantage.

We cannot fund:

- Individuals
- Statutory organisations or an organisation set up by a local authority or other public body to run a service on its behalf
- Regional or local offices of a national organisation
- Organisations that are for the sole benefit or relief of animals and plants
- Projects taking place outside the administrative county of Somerset
- General appeals
- Any party political activity
- Activities promoting religious beliefs
- Medical research and equipment
- Commercial ventures
- Activities that start before a grant has been awarded

How to apply

You will need to complete a Grassroots Grants application form which is available on our website (www.somersetcf.org.uk), together with help notes for each question. These can be downloaded to your computer, completed on screen, printed off, signed and posted to us. Alternatively you can telephone the office and we will send a paper copy to you.

You should also send us (by post or e-mail) copies of your governing document (if you have one), latest annual accounts or other financial information, a list of names and addresses of the management committee and a copy of any relevant policy documents (depending on your project.) .

Where to get help

We hope our form is easy to complete and there are explanatory notes available for each question. If you would like some help with the form or with formalising your group, you can contact your local support agency.

<u>Mendip</u> Mendip Community Support, 62 High Street Shepton Mallet BA4 5AS Telephone: 01749 346830 E-mail: mcsupport@mbzonline.net	<u>Taunton Deane</u> Taunton CVS, 57 East Reach Taunton TA1 3EZ Telephone: 01823 284470 E-mail: enquiries@tauntoncvcs.org.uk
<u>West Somerset</u> Engage West Somerset, 7 Quirke Street Minehead TA24 5TZ Tel: 01643 707484 E-mail: information@engagenews.org.uk	<u>South Somerset</u> SSAVCA Unit 5, Yeovil Small Business Centre Houndstone Business Park, Memorial Road Yeovil BA22 8WA Telephone: 01935 475914 E-mail: info@ydcvcs.org.uk
<u>Sedgemoor</u> Community Council for Somerset, Victoria House, Victoria Street, Taunton TA1 3JZ Tel: 01823 331222 E-mail: info@somersetccc.org.uk	