

Volunteering Support Grant 2016-17

Grants of up to £10,000 are now available to small to medium-sized not-for-profit organisations working in Scotland.

About the Volunteering Support Grant

The purpose of the grant is to create new or enhanced volunteering projects, increase the diversity of volunteers (especially those from disadvantaged groups); and improve opportunities, skills and personal development through volunteering.

The grant will also support third sector organisations to enhance their services and improve their capacity to deploy, support and train volunteers.

The grant could be used to increase the hours of an existing staff member or buy in support to help develop volunteering opportunities, management and practices.

It could pay for the resources needed to recruit, support and deploy volunteers. It could also help with volunteer expenses and training for staff, management committee and volunteers.

Aims of the fund

Successful applicants will be expected to achieve the following during the 11 month funding period:

- Create a new volunteering project or extend an existing one with additional volunteers that will increase the diversity of volunteers, especially those who experience disadvantage
- Provide improved opportunities for skills and personal development through volunteering
- Improve capacity to deploy, support and train volunteers from disadvantaged communities
- Involve disadvantaged volunteers in enhancing services, so the organisation can better meet the needs of the community within which it operates

Funded projects will also be expected to recruit a minimum of 15 additional volunteers, including at least 10 from disadvantaged backgrounds (see application guidance notes for a list).



Who can apply?

Voluntary and community organisations with an annual income of less than £250,000 can apply (although priority will be given to organisations with an annual income of less than £100,000 if the fund is oversubscribed).

Organisations do not need to be registered charities, although their constitution or set of rules should make clear that funds will only be spent on purposes established in the constitution, and not distributed amongst members.

How to apply

The application form and guidance notes, including full details of eligibility and how to apply for the grant, can be downloaded from the Voluntary Action Fund website at www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk

The deadline for applications is 31st March 2016 and the period of the grant will be from 1st May 2016 to 31st March 2017.

If you have any queries about the fund, would like clarification on how to complete the application form, or wish to discuss your project proposal with one of our Development Officers, please contact Voluntary Action Fund using the details below.

Voluntary Action Fund
Suite 3 - Forth House
Burnside Business Court
North Road
Inverkeithing, Fife KY11 1 NZ
Telephone: 01383 620780
Email: VSFenquiries@vaf.org.uk



About Voluntary Action Fund

Voluntary Action Fund (www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk) is a long-established, independent grant maker in Scotland. Since 1982 VAF has distributed over £95 million to a wide range of organisations in Scotland: from grassroots community groups with limited income to national organisations with income in excess of £5 million per annum. Voluntary Action Fund manages the Volunteering Support Grant programme on behalf of the Scottish Government, which funds it.

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