



**Comic relief spends money raised by its fundraising campaigns,
Red Nose Day and Sport Relief
Registered charity 326568 (England and Wales), SCO39730 (Scotland)**

2009-2011 Criteria

A grant making programme managed by Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation

The Smithy, The Village, Old Warden, Beds., SG18 9HQ
Phone – 01767-626459

E-mail – administrator@blcf.org.uk
Registered charity number 1086516



Explanatory notes and criteria for awards

Please read the following notes carefully before completing the application form.

Criteria

Grants are available to be used to support work where there is clear evidence of a sustained beneficial impact on people's lives who are excluded or disadvantaged through low income, rural or social isolation, age, disabilities, race, sexuality or gender. Priority is to be given to small, locally based groups or organisations in areas of disadvantage that have a clear understanding of the needs of their community and are undertaking actions as a means of addressing these needs. There are still many communities in the UK that suffer from economic and social deprivation and the current economic climate may make this situation worse. This programme aims to empower local people enabling them to create lasting change in their communities.

What kind of projects can you apply for?

Projects should be run by people directly affected by the issues they are dealing with and priority will be given to small, locally based groups or organisations in areas of disadvantage that have a clear understanding of the needs of their community. This can also include "Communities of Interest" which cover a wider geographical area.

While groups will be using a range of activities 50% of the available funds will go to sports projects that

- increase access to sport and exercise for people who face social exclusion and isolation
- help people who are experiencing difficulties in their lives.

The remaining funding will support community groups running projects that

- increase local services,
- builds skills of local people,
- increase community cohesion
- respond to local economic needs.

This work can cover a small geographical area such as a housing estate or village, but we will also consider work covering a slightly larger area such as a town or borough where there is evidence of community involvement.

Who can apply?

- Community Groups
- Resident Associations
- Community Centres
- Social Enterprises/Community Interest Companies
- Credit Unions

Examples of the type of activities we will fund

- Community sport activities
- Furniture Projects
- Projects providing access to benefits advice
- Projects combating fuel poverty
- Community consultation exercises
- Community employment projects
- Food Co-ops
- Running costs; including salaries, core costs and project costs
- Committee and volunteer/staff training

We cannot support:

- Individuals;
- Statutory organisations, including schools;
- Trips abroad;
- Buses, mini buses or other community transport schemes (not including transport costs forming part of a project);
- Building costs, including access adaptations to buildings
- Applications that support the furtherance of any one religion or political party
- Applications where those benefiting do not live in Luton or Bedfordshire
- Organisations that have not fully completed all sections of the Grant application form, provided all other requested information and documents or who have not answered any subsequent questions put to them.
- Organisations that do not have a building society or bank account. Cheques will not be made payable to individuals.
- Projects that have already been completed (retrospective funding).

How much can you apply for?

Grants can be made up to £10,000 (there is a minimum of £1,000). However, the countywide budget for each year is £18,000, so larger grants will need to demonstrate exceptional benefits to be considered.

How do you apply for a grant?

Contact the Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation who will provide an application form and offer advice on any projects to confirm whether or not they are likely to be considered.

The grant panel meets six times a year, usually every two months from January. A deadline for submitting bids will always be advised to applicants.

Help

If you have any difficulties in completing the application form, you can call the Community Foundation office for assistance or clarification on any issue at the address shown.

The following agencies can also offer help in completing forms and offer advice on other possible sources of funding:

- Community & Voluntary Service, Mid & North Beds. – 01234-354366
- Voluntary Action Luton – 01582-733418
- Voluntary and Community Action (South Beds) – 01525-850559
- Luton Department of Regeneration – 01582-546000

The Completed Form

Send your completed application form and any other relevant documents to the address below.

Please make sure you have weighed your envelope and paid enough postage.

Please make sure the documents are sent in plenty of time to arrive before the deadline given, otherwise the application will not be considered until the next panel meeting.

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