



Comic Relief, registered charity 326568 (England and Wales),
SC039730 (Scotland).

Local Communities programme.

2011 to 2013 Criteria

A grant making programme managed

by

Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation

The Smithy, The Village, Old Warden, Beds., SG18 9HQ

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Registered charity number 1086516



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.

For this reason, Comic Relief has decided that £4.5 million should be available to fund projects across the UK which are addressing these issues through a second phase of the 'Local Communities' programme

Comic Relief is pleased to be working with the Community Foundation Network (CFN) and Community Foundations across the UK, to deliver this Local Communities programme. Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation is one of the delivery partners.

The Local Communities programme will run for two years and during this time, awards of between £1,000 and £10,000 will be available (although our total budget for Bedfordshire is £20,000 p.a., so larger awards will only be made in exceptional circumstances).

The programme aims to empower local people, enabling them to create lasting change in their communities. 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.

Under the programme, organisations can apply for funding to:

- increase local services,
- build skills of local people,
- increase community cohesion
- respond to local economic needs
- increase access to sport and exercise for people who face social exclusion and isolation.

Organisations which have received a Community Cash grant or any other grant from a Community Foundation **can** apply for a Local Communities grant. However organisations which hold a grant directly from Comic Relief, **can not** apply for a Local Communities Grant.

A Local Communities grant must be at least 50% of the total cost of the project.

Who can apply?

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

Types of activities that might be funded

- 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
- Community sport activities

Exclusions

Awards will not be made to:

- individuals;
- statutory organisations, including schools;
- fund trips abroad;
- fund buses, mini buses or other community transport schemes (not including transport costs forming part of a project);
- fund building costs, including access adaptations to buildings;
- organisations which are in receipt of an award directly from Comic Relief.
- 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).

When can you apply?

The Foundation's awards panel will consider bids to this fund at its September and March panel meetings. Application forms need to be with us at least a month before the middle of these two months.

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

An application form can be downloaded from our website at www.blcf.org.uk/grants or can be e-mailed or posted to you on request.

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

Please make sure the documents are sent in plenty of time to arrive before the meeting dates as shown above, otherwise the application will not be considered until the following panel meeting.

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