

## **ESF COMMUNITY GRANTS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)**

### **Can partners' staff or volunteers be voting members of a panel?**

Trustees can be voting members but staff cannot. The partner's outreach worker will be present at all panels in a support role but cannot vote.

### **Can organisations in unitary authorities that are no longer part of Surrey but used to be, eg. Croydon, Sutton ("greater Surrey"), apply for a grant?**

Yes, provided the participants have a Surrey postcode, the activities are being delivered in an area within Surrey, and the organisation is not applying for a grant for the same project elsewhere.

### **What is total income?**

This is the organisation's total incoming resources, including unrestricted and restricted funds, as shown in the organisation's statement of financial activities (sofa) in their annual accounts. It includes grants, Service Level Agreements, donations, generated and trading income etc.

### **I represent an organisation with total income in excess of £300,000 over the last 3 years. Is it worth my applying?**

ESF Community Grants are targeted at smaller organisations who find it very hard to obtain funding from other sources and awarding panels will give priority to them. Larger organisations may apply and are eligible to receive a grant, however they should take this priority into account and are also advised to investigate other sources of funding before applying to ESF Community Grants.

### **Can a local branch of a national organisation apply for funding?**

If a local branch receives any funding support from the national organisation (such as administration costs, office costs etc), however small, then they are not eligible to apply for funding. If they do not receive any funding from the national organisation then they are eligible to apply for funding.

### **Would we be eligible for a grant for Counselling courses?**

Counselling can be a lengthy personal process which does not form part of a progression towards learning or employment opportunities.

### **Can we apply for Capital funding only (i.e. Computers)**

Capital items and equipment can only be funded if they are critical to the success of your project.

### **How much capital funding can we apply for?**

Only a maximum of 10% of the grant can be used for capital costs except in the case of very specialist equipment (eg for people with disabilities) although it should still not significantly exceed the 10%. Any equipment purchased must be under £1,000 per item.

Should we include copies of our constitution/rules, policies and accounts with the application form?

Yes, Constitution or Set of rules, your last 3 years accounts and bank details are required at the application stage. Successful groups will be required to provide further information at the contract stage.

Can we apply for funding to provide counselling?

No, counselling for personal issues is not eligible for funding. However you may apply for funding to provide coaching where this has a finite duration and is aimed at increasing peoples' capacity to achieve employment or further learning.

Can we send an emailed version of the application form with a signed hard copy following after the closing date?

No, signed hard copies of application forms must be received by noon on the specified closing date.

Are social enterprises that are not registered charities eligible to receive Community Grants Funding?

Social enterprises are regarded as community organisations, and as such, are eligible to receive ESF Community Grants funding.