

Government Announces £1 Million Social Entrepreneurs Fund (Scotland)

The Scottish Government has announced that it will be launching its new £1 million Social Entrepreneurs Fund in March 2009. The aim of the fund will be to support the development of new social enterprises and to help build capacity, capability and financial sustainability in the Third Sector. The fund will be open to individuals located in Scotland if they have:

- A business idea with clear social benefit; a viable business plan; evidence of need and sustainability for the business
- The drive and vision to take their idea forward.

The fund will open in March 2009 and run until the end of March 2011. A total of £500,000 will be invested each year. It is anticipated that around 200 awards will be made. Awards will vary between £500 and £20,000.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/11/18105231>

HBOS Foundation - Community Action Programme (UK)

Through its Community Action programme, the HBOS Foundation makes grants of up to £10,000 to support a diverse range of local activities. The programme which is available in those communities where the HBOS bank operates is open to registered charities and has two key themes; Money advice and financial literacy and developing and improving local communities. Previous projects funded include a grant of £2,500 to Ravenscliffe Special School in Halifax to purchase an adapted tricycle providing pupils with the opportunity to engage in fun filled exercise sessions whilst providing much needed sensory stimulation and a grant of £2,100 to purchase sensory play equipment, arts and crafts materials and a number of musical instruments for a family support centre based in Perth for children, young people and adults with autistic spectrum disorder. Applications can be made at any time.

<http://www.hbosfoundation.org/index-community.html>

Bank of Scotland £6 Million Social Entrepreneur Awards (UK)

In order to highlight its commitment to the UK not for profit sector, the Bank of Scotland has announced a new £6 Million Award scheme to support two social enterprises. The award scheme is open to any not for profit organisation within the UK whose primary purpose is to support an issue or matter of public interest or public concern or to further social and/or environmental goals for non-commercial purposes and social or community benefit and which has been operating for at least two years. Applicants can apply for one of two awards.

Up to £5 million of funding in the form of a interest free loan or a donation of up to £500,000; and up to £1 million of funding in the form of a interest free loan or a donation of up to £100,000. The actual amount of funding offered to each winner will be dependent on their needs and situation. If, for example, the balance sheet of a winning organisation is unable to sustain the level of debt requested then the Bank will act responsibly and a correspondingly lower amount of interest free funding will be offered. This will be agreed on a case by case basis between the Bank and the entrant. On the other hand, should a winning organisation have a legitimate requirement for higher funding, then debt over and above the interest-free prize could be offered as part of an attractive funding package. Entries should be submitted online - the closing date for entries is 23rd February 2009.

<http://entrepreneurs.bankofscotland.co.uk/social/index.html>

Healthy Heart Grants (UK)

Community groups, voluntary organisations and researchers involved in preventing heart disease can apply for 'Healthy Heart' grants of up to £10,000 through Heart Research UK. Over the last 40 years, Heart Research UK has funded many of the ground breaking medical breakthroughs, including the first ever successful UK heart transplants and the development of heart valves. The type of projects funded through this scheme in the past have included; the Foresight Project in Grimsby which encourages visually impaired people to take regular exercise using tandem bicycles, a project in Bradford to encourage local residents to participate in fun physical activities such as belly dancing, line dancing and exercise classes; the Ross-shire Bravehearts project in Inverness educates adults with learning difficulties about heart health so they can take part in physical activities. Applications will be accepted from the 1st January 2009 until the 28th February 2009 for the May funding round.

http://www.heartresearch.org.uk/healthy_heart_grants.htm

Funding to Support Independent Media Production Companies (UK)

Independent European production companies that are seeking funding for the development of production projects are being invited to submit applications to the Media 2007 "I2I Audiovisual" programme. Under this programme assistance is available to independent European production companies to access finance from banks and other financial institutions by providing; funding to cover part of the costs associated with the insurance for audiovisual productions; completion guarantees for the production of an audiovisual work; and the financial costs involved in a production budget. The total budget available under this call is €3 million and the financial contribution may not exceed 50 % of the eligible costs.

The amount of the support available is between €5 000 and €50 000. There are two application deadlines for 2009. These are the 2nd February and the 7th July 2009.

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/media/producer/i2i/detail/index_en.htm

Heritage Lottery Fund Announces Re-Launch of the Parks for People Programme (UK)

Following a period of consultation, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has announced the re-launch of the Parks for People Programme. Between 2009 and 2013, £20 million a year will be available for projects involving urban or rural green spaces designed for informal recreation and enjoyment. This can include:

- Parks
- Public gardens as well as squares
- Walks and promenades, etc.

Priority will be given to projects that:

- The community value as part of their heritage
- Meets local social, economic and environmental needs
- Actively involves local people.

Local Authorities as well as other not for profit organisations that own public parks and gardens can apply for grants of between £250,000 and £5 million. An example of a previously funded project is Taunton Deane Borough Council, which received a grant of £296,500 for the restoration of Wellington Park, in Wellington, and to promote the park for music and arts events. There is a two stage (round) application process. There will be two closing dates for both first-round and second-round applications in 2009. These are; the 28th February; and the 31st August.

<http://www.hlf.org.uk/English/HowToApply/OurGrantGivingProgrammes/Parks+for+People/>

European Award for Languages 2009 (UK)

Applications to the European Awards for Languages are invited from UK schools, colleges, universities, businesses and other institutions engaged in foreign language initiatives. The European Award for Languages recognises creative ways to improve the quality of language

teaching, motivate students and that make the best of available resources. Eligible projects can be based around any language other than English and are expected to have an international dimension. In addition to the European Label, which can be used on corporate stationery, winners receive prizes books, teaching resources or vouchers from a range of sponsors, including embassies, publishers, public bodies and private companies. Special awards are also made for the best projects involving community languages (£1,000 cash prize), French, German, and Spanish as well as primary and adult learners, languages for business and initial teacher education. The awards for the best project initiated by initial teacher trainees and for business languages this year each have a prize of £1,000. Each year one of the winning projects is selected by the Mary Glasgow Language Trust to receive its annual award (£2,000). The application deadline is the 30th January 2009.

<http://www.cilt.org.uk/eal/>

EU-US ATLANTIS Programme (UK)

The European Commission has announced that the next call for proposals under the EU-US ATLANTIS Programme is planned to be launched in December 2008 or January 2009. The aim of the Atlantis programme is to promote cooperation in Higher Education and Vocational Training between the EU and the US. The types of actions that can be funded include:

- Support for groups of EU and US higher education institutions to implement dual/double or joint degree programs
- Travel grants for students and members of the academic and administrative staff
- International curriculum development projects
- Activities designed to enhance collaboration in the higher education and vocational training field between the EU and the US.

Eligible applicants will include higher education institutions and vocational education and training institutions, as well other bodies active in higher education and vocational training. Previously funded projects include a consortium of Universities lead by the University of the West of England, Bristol which received a grant of € 408,000 for the development of a transatlantic undergraduate planning degree course.

http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/eu-usa/call_en.html

Funding for Individual and Small Groups to Improve their Local Communities (UK)

Groups of individuals as well as small community and voluntary groups within the UK that want to improve their communities can apply for funding through the Wakeham Trust. The Trust are particularly interested in supporting neighbourhood projects, community arts projects, projects involving community service by young people, or projects set up by those who are socially excluded. The Trust also support innovative projects to promote excellence in teaching (at any level, from primary schools to universities), though we never support individuals. The Trust normally give grants to projects where an initial £75 to £750 can make a real difference to getting the project up and running. To be eligible, applicants need to be registered charities or have access to a registered charity that will be willing to accept funds on their behalf. The type of activities supported in the past include; a grant of £250 to three young people in Leamington Spa who were trying to set up a youth club. The Trust gave them £250 to help set up the club in an old Scout hut; and a grant of £50 to an unemployed ex-professional footballer in Yorkshire to buy footballs and equipment for a group of 100 or so tough kids to play football. Applications can be made at any time.

<http://www.wakehamtrust.org/>

Triodos Opportunities Fund (UK)

The Triodos Opportunities Fund is a venture capital fund for social enterprises. Triodos is seeking to invest between £200,000 and £750,000 in social enterprises with a proven business model that are looking to grow and scale up their operations. Triodos will work closely with the companies to help build on their success and focus on their long-term development rather than short-term profits. Triodos will provide more than just money and use its extensive network of social economy partners to open doors, make connections and help investees succeed. The value of the fund currently stands at £3 million. Social enterprises that want to find out more about how the Triodos Opportunities Fund can support their growth should contact Whitney Thomas on 020 7138 3209 or e-mail whitni.thomas@triodos.co.uk. Investors interested in participating in the Fund, should contact Alex Connor on 020 7138 3219 or email alex.connor@triodos.co.uk

http://www.triodos.co.uk/uk/235298/235330/triodos_opportunities_fund/
