

The information below is an overview of requirements and for further more detailed information, support and guidance etc please contact the BVA Group Development team via telephone 01256 423816 or email admin@bvaction.org.uk (please quote "BVA Group Assistance" on title).

Funding for voluntary and community groups mainly comes from several particular sources.

Public money - also called statutory funding

This money comes from the taxpayer through a variety of routes, such as local authorities, central government departments, the Health Authority, and includes all the European money.

The main advantages of getting funding from public bodies are that:

- large sums are available;
- they may fund ongoing running costs (revenue);
- they will often fund unglamorous work; and
- grants can be lobbied for

The main disadvantages are:

- the procedures for applying can be very bureaucratic;
- there can be lots of strings attached;
- that grants can be vulnerable to sudden cuts;
- the amounts available are often reducing and competition is very high;
- the jargon can be hard to understand;
- the level of accounting and monitoring needed can be very daunting; and
- grants to groups are being replaced by commissioning contracts through a tendering process to provide particular services.

Charitable trusts and foundations

There are both national and local charitable trusts. The amount of money each of them has to distribute varies.

The main advantages of charitable trust funding are that:

- some give away large lump sums;
- their only reason for existing is to give money to good causes;
- some will take risks and will fund unpopular causes;
- they are flexible; and
- groups can develop long-term relationships with particular trusts.

The main disadvantages are that:

- most only give away small sums of money;

- it can take a long time to get a decision from them;
- it is a very competitive source of funding; and
- there may be some strings attached.

The National Lottery (BIG)

This is a major source of funding for voluntary and community groups. It has different 'good causes' which between them share 28p from every £1 spent on lottery tickets. Each has its own rules about who can apply and how to apply.

Generally the advantage of BIG Lottery funding is that:

- they can give relatively large amounts of money.

The disadvantages are that:

- some of their funds require that you match their grant with money from another source;
- They require and scrutinize Monitoring and Evaluation Reports both during and at the end of each project; and
- Their guidelines are very precise on what they will and will not fund, and often that includes staff salaries.

Companies

Companies give in a variety of ways. They may donate materials or equipment or offer their services for free or lend their staff out to help with a particular piece of work. Or they may give money either in the form of donations or sponsorship. Donations are like any cash gift. With sponsorship the company expects to get something back in return for its money - usually advertising and positive publicity.

The main advantage of company support is that you can develop long-term relationships.

The main disadvantages are:

- it is hard to get;
- it can take a long time and a lot of effort for very small returns; and
- the ethical considerations of being associated with a particular company.

Individual giving

This is money given by members of the public directly to your organisation or group. It can be payroll-giving, covenants which are tax exempt or leaving money to a charity in a will.

The main advantages of receiving money in this way are that:

- there are no strings attached;
- it can gain your group publicity;

- it can provide a regular income; and
- large amounts of money may be raised.

The main disadvantages are that:

- it can take a lot of work to get it started;
- it needs a long-term approach; and
- small, local groups cannot compete with the big national household name charities like Oxfam and the RSPCA who are the main beneficiaries of this type of giving.

Earned income or trading

This is money you earn directly from selling your goods and services.

The advantage of earned income is that there are no strings attached at all - you can use the money as you wish or bank it as savings.

The disadvantage is that some groups are not in a position to charge for their services.

Localgiving.com

A not for profit website designed to provide local charities and voluntary groups with the technology to raise money, awareness and support online.

The advantages are automated gift aid donations, space to promote and advertise your needs including volunteer vacancies.

The disadvantages are, it can be off putting to those not very computer literate, and there is an annual admin fee. To register with localgiving.com you will need to be invited by your local Community Foundation – details can be supplied by Basingstoke Voluntary Services.

Commissioning of Services

There is an increasing move within government, district and county councils towards offering out procurement opportunities to the charity and voluntary sector, to provide services in line with their Strategic Needs. The charity and voluntary sector will be invited to 'tender' for services rather than rely on grants, and may even be in competition with private sector organisations bidding for a service they have previously delivered. It is important that charities and voluntary groups stay in touch with these changes, and can do so through BVS Voluntary Sector Forums, briefings and training sessions commissioned by BVS, BDBC and HCC.

BVS Funding Report - Top Funders to Try

BVS produce this report annually for our members, listing all the funders and grants that we have knowledge of, and are currently in operation. We can provide this on request to local charity and voluntary groups who are members of BVS.

Do-it-Yourself fundraising

This is a more informal way of getting money from individuals and can be done in a whole variety of ways. Jumble sales, summer fetes, raffles, sponsored walks and social evenings are just a few examples.

The main advantages of raising money this way are that:

- it can be a fairly quick way of raising small amounts of money;
- it can be fun;
- it's a good way of involving lots of people; and
- it can cost very little to set up.

The main disadvantages are that:

- it is an unpredictable way of raising money;
- it can be hard work and time consuming;
- there are legal considerations to take into account such as licences for street collections and rules on gambling;
- events may even lose money.