

Tips on making a successful funding submission

It is worth remembering that funding organisations receive a great number of applications and often have quite strict criteria for selecting the successful ones. Therefore, follow these simple tips to make sure that your application isn't the one that ends up in the bin!!

- ☑ Do your research, to avoid the disappointment of being turned down make sure you find out what the criteria is of the organisation you are applying to. It is useful to check out their websites as this will list the type of projects they have funded in the past and give you a good indication of whether or not your bid will be successful. Moreover, this will save you a great deal of time in the long run as applications can be very time consuming.
- ☑ Also when doing your research make sure you find out when the deadlines are or when trustees meet to discuss applications so that you can ensure that you get yours in, in plenty of time to be included. Most funders will work in funding rounds and usually restrict you to one application submission per round.
- ☑ Don't ask for things, for example funders get thousands of bids asking for funding for minibuses and are rarely successful, instead highlight what the benefits are of having a minibus and what it will be used for. It is always best to give an outline of the aims and the benefits of the project before breaking down what the funding will be used for.
- ☑ 'Its all in the name' use 'buzz' words to help sell your idea for example a healthy eating club sounds very different to a lunch club and will broaden the funding opportunities available. Likewise a new pre-school building will not create the same interest from funders as a Community centre would, that incorporates not only a pre-school but many other activities that the whole community can get involved in.
- ☑ In fact whatever type of bid you are making don't make it just about the children attending your setting, involve the wider community and the benefits your setting has on the community as whole.
- ☑ For large projects create a shopping list and approach different funders for items on the list. Some funders even like to see your shopping list so that they can select the items they would be willing to fund.
- ☑ It is important to express passion for the project, funders want to be inspired.
- ☑ Describe what you have been doing already and how you have been trying to set up a worthwhile project against all odds. Don't imply that if you give me the money then I will do this project, instead build up a portfolio of what you have done already. This will prove that you are committed and the funder will gain more confidence in your project.
- ☑ 'Its not what you know, its who you know', invite a local celebrity or MP to come and see what you are trying to do, if they are willing to support your ideas the local media would soon jump on board and give your project plenty of the coverage it needs. This will help drum up support from your local community and prove to funders that others have shown faith in your ideas and that your project is credible and worthwhile.
- ☑ If you are fortunate enough to be successful, make sure you acknowledge the receipt of any funding with a thank you, it is also a good idea to inform them of the progress of the project. Keeping an ongoing relationship could prove beneficial for future projects that may require funding.

Sources of funding

Statutory

- Dorset Sure Start – Consult your BSO if you are planning on any large projects or are experiencing short term sustainability issues as there may be some grants available that can help.
- Government – Visit this website for a comprehensive list of all statutory funding bodies - www.governmentfunding.org.uk
- Parish and Town Councils – for details of more local statutory funding bodies visit - www.dorset-aptc.gov.uk

Lottery

- Awards for All (www.awardsforall.org.uk) currently can fund up to £5k soon rising to £10k and childcare provision is amongst its current funding priorities.
- Big Lottery Fund – Reaching Communities- up to £500k revenue funding and up to £50k capital, over 5 years. (www.biglotteryfund.org.uk).

Trust Funds

There are thousands of trust funders and they can be a valuable source of income with the largest 500 trust funds making available over £1.9 billion. Many trust funds will also not require feedback/reports!

- Garfield Weston Foundation - £100 - £1000000 – www.garfieldweston.org
- Lloyds TSB - £500 - £20,000 - www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk
- Children in Need – The support varies but the trust distributes a total of £25-30 million a year - www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey
- Princess Diana Memorial Fund - £15,000 and £80,000 per year for up to three years - www.theworkcontinues.org
- Comic Relief - Up to a maximum of £30,000 per annum, up to £90,000 over three years - www.comicrelief.com
- UK Village Community Kitty - £50-£500 – www.ukvillages.co.uk
- The Leonard Laity Stoate Charitable Trust - £100- £2000 - www.stoate-charity.org.uk
- Bernard Sunley charitable Trust - £200 - £5000 - (020) 7408 2198

Local sources

- Local Network Fund - £250 - £7000 – www.localgiving4dorset.org.uk
- Round table – www.roundtable.co.uk
- Lions – www.lionsclubs.org
- Rotary – www.ribi.org

Free internet search engines available to help find grants

- www.fundraising.co.uk
- www.grantsnet.co.uk

NB. Contact your BSO who will prepare a 'Grantfinder' report for you this will match your project to funders criteria and produce a list of grants that you could apply for.