

Community Development Fund: frequently asked questions

Updated: 2 August 2010

1. What is meant by Community Development?

As indicated at point 2 in the invitation for bids we do not pursue a rigid definition of Community Development. We are developing a strategic framework for Community Development with the sector in the course of the year. The projects resulting from the Community Development Fund will inform this strategic framework (rather than the other way round).

2. What counts as innovation?

The reasons for requesting bidders to address innovation in their submission are that:

- We do not want to replace existing funding, but aim to provide seed funding for projects which are daring and new.
- Novel and innovative approaches are more likely to provide value to other providers as case studies.

Hence, the request for innovation is meant to free up providers in their thinking rather than limit them. We hope that bidders who do feel they have something new and innovative to offer have little difficulty in articulating it. Bidders may provide evidence of preliminary research which supports their project as being distinctive.

3. What are considered to be suitable partnerships?

We believe that bidders know best which suitable partners to select for their projects. However, we would envision that addressing community issues benefits from cross-sector partnerships. Bidders might consider partnering with local councils, employers, local businesses, charities, health service providers and so on.

4. Are projects meant to fulfil all criteria?

Partnership, Sustainability and Innovation are important criteria for the bids. However, we appreciate that fulfilling all these criteria in the same way might be difficult. Hence, we set out that each bid at least outlines how it tries to address these criteria and to what extent they are achievable within the framework of the project.

5. What if the timeline of my project is longer?

We do not want to jeopardize the success of the projects by a too rigid timeframe. However, we aim to compile draft case studies from the projects by January 2011. These can be subsequently updated when the projects come to an end. Finally, all projects need to take into account that LSIS's current financial year finishes 31 March 2011. All projects should aim to be completed by then.

6. What if I haven't got any partners yet?

We appreciate that partnerships take a while to develop. Any proposal, however, needs to set out which (kind of) partners will be approached and, ideally, for what reason.