

Community Development Fund

Invitation

1. LSIS is pleased to invite learning and skills providers to submit bids for activities around Community Development. The aim is to support innovative and sustainable projects in this area to further develop and refine the role of learning and skills providers in their locality.

Criteria for selection

2. The project should address a clearly identified need in the locality and/or in a Community relevant to the learning and skills provider. Evidence for instance from research which supports the identified need is appreciated. A clear definition of which Community aka target group that is being addressed will be needed. It is understood that the term Community has many definitions such as geographical, cultural, being shaped by common interest, identity and governing boundaries etc. One can belong to more than one Community. Hereby, issues of Equality and Diversity play a decisive role. In the past issues such as Preventing Violent Extremism, Guns, Gangs and Knife crime, NEETs etc. have been identified as critical issues in local communities. However, it should be noted that Community Development is not based on pre-determined structures and approaches, but rather on values such as fairness, equality and diversity, social inclusion and empowerment. Aims that have been associated with learning and skills are creating a culture of learning, raising aspiration or enabling individuals to make their own choices.
3. To enhance collaborative working and to encourage a concerted approach, funded projects are expected to involve local partners relevant to address the identified need. Possible partners might include local authorities, employers, community and voluntary sector organisations etc. Partnerships are considered to be key for problem solving in the locality. They might also lead to efficiency saving.
4. To assure that the funded projects support the development of innovative practice, any proposal needs to state how they take a novel approach to an existing problem. Bids will have to prove that the funding will not be used to replace existing funding as the fund is partly meant to facilitate approaches which would not be funded otherwise. Hence, successful bids need to demonstrate how their project constitutes an innovation in their respective area.
5. Sustainability is another key aspect of the Community Development Funding. Bids will need to demonstrate how they aim to assure the livelihood and/or impact of the project beyond the funding period. This might be achieved through suitable partnerships with businesses, employers, voluntary organisations or other charities. Other options could be the development of a social enterprise or a community interest company. Successful bids need to state how they explore any attempt to make the project sustainable.
6. Bids have to set out clear and quantifiable anticipated benefits of the project for the locality and community.

7. Bids need to demonstrate how learning can be transferred to other providers e.g. in form of approaches and models to be deducted from the project.
8. It is essential for projects to promote equality and embed diversity. Principles and objectives of equality and diversity need to be central to all activities and considerations of the project. For LSIS Community Development and all associated activities sit firmly within an equalities framework. Bids need to demonstrate how their suggested activities and impact relate to current equalities practice and legislation. The new Equality Act 2010 is of vital importance for this.
9. Bids need to identify clear activities, milestones and dates for completion. Ideally, these would be logged in a project plan.
10. Requested funding cannot exceed a total cost £25,000 inclusive.
11. Projects need to take a value for money approach including a detailed budget.
12. Bids set out how success of the project and its impact will be measured.
13. Need to clearly describe reporting arrangements and sharing of project outcomes, including lessons learned.
14. Submission of project report which needs to be suitable to serve as a case study to be submitted on the Excellence Gateway
15. Successful bids, while having a focus on Community Development, will also reflect an awareness of and commitment to other cross-cutting themes such as sustainable development, equality and diversity, learner engagement and social inclusion, which are strongly allied to sustainable development within the learning and skills sector. Bidders are also encouraged to set out how learners, the local community and other stakeholders can be actively engaged with and contribute to the proposed project or activity.
16. The LSIS Community Development Fund is only open to organisations in England whose primary function is as a provider of further education and training. Eligible providers will be SFA/YPLA-funded organisations (excluding schools) subject to inspection by Ofsted. The only eligible Higher Education Institutions would be those with learning and skills provision funded by the SFA/YPLA. This aspect of their provision would also be subject to inspection by Ofsted. Consultancies or other bodies involved in supporting learning and skills providers, student representative bodies, schools and school sixth forms are not currently eligible. Non-FE organisations (including providers funded by BIS) may be part of a consortium which submits a bid, provided that the lead organisation is a recognised learning and skills provider, and that the outcomes from the project offer clear and sustainable benefits to other organisations within the learning and skills sector.
17. Providers should only submit one bid.
18. Successful bidders will be expected to:
 - Produce a case study of their activity to go on the Excellence Gateway using a template supplied by LSIS;
 - Produce a written, qualitative and quantitative assessment of the outcomes from the project and its impact, both within the originating organisation(s) and (through the dissemination events) within other providers;

- Show willingness to attend and present findings at an LSIS regional conference;
 - Participate in network activities during and beyond the life of the project/activity.
19. Bids should be submitted on the accompanying application form by **12:00 midday on Monday 27 September 2010**.
20. Successful projects will receive funding in the form of a grant. Half will be payable once the project funding has been approved. The rest will be paid on receipt of a satisfactory case study and the impact assessment report.
21. Funded projects will normally be completed within the 2010-11 financial year – ie by 31 March 2011.

Review and reporting arrangements

22. A brief interim report (ca. 2-3 sides of A4 on a template supplied by LSIS) will be required by 15 November 2010 and a final report by the agreed end date. Details of the reporting required will be supplied to successful applicants.
23. A brief case study report will be required by 14 February 2011. The project may continue beyond, and the case study would be updated thereafter.

Applications

24. In order to maximise the benefits across the sector, bids are limited to one per provider/consortium.
25. To apply for the Community Development Fund, please complete, clearly and concisely, all the boxes on the accompanying form, to include a breakdown of the total cost of the project, with the contribution requested from LSIS, and the anticipated project start and end dates.
26. Applications must not duplicate activities which are being funded from elsewhere, though proposals may follow on from previous projects. Please state if the project has previously received funding from LSIS or elsewhere, or has previously been submitted to LSIS for programme funding. LSIS aims not to simply replace funding streams that are coming to an end. The proposal may build on previous projects and knowledge, but need to be distinct in their activity and aim.
27. Applications should be emailed to sarika.dewitt@lsis.org.uk, titled 'LSIS Community Development Fund'. If you have any questions, please contact the LSIS helpline on 0870 211 3434.
28. The closing date for applications is **12:00 midday on Monday 27 September 2010**.

29. All organisations submitting bids to the Community Development Fund will be advised by **Monday 11 October 2010** whether their application has been successful, and given details of arrangements for the payment of the grant for this work.
30. Successful bidders will be offered additional support during the course of their project.
31. Please also be aware of the Equality and Diversity Partnership funding that will be open soon for application on the LSIS website. If you are in doubt which fund might be most appropriate for your project, please contact the LSIS helpline on 0870 211 3434.