



Learning Together Cheshire & Warrington

Working smarter together rather than harder alone

ESF Community Grants Programme 2008/2010 **From Learning Together Cheshire and Warrington**

Information sheet.

1) Aim of the ESF Community Grants Programme

The European Social Fund (ESF) has made this programme available to Voluntary Community and Faith Sector organisations to support disadvantaged or excluded unemployed and inactive people to progress towards employment particularly from the following groups:

- People with disabilities and health conditions (including mental ill health)
- Lone Parents
- People aged 50 and over
- People from ethnic minorities
- Females

2) Type of Activities funded

The Community Grants Programme will focus on the progression of learners rather than achievements of jobs and qualifications. The grant can support a range of activities including:

- Initial help with basic skills
- Taster work experience including voluntary work
- Training advice and counselling
- Job search assistance including the provision of equipment and other assistance necessary to secure employment
- Confidence building activities
- First contact engagement activities

3) Outcomes to be achieved 2008 - 2010

Successful applications for grants must contribute towards the following programme outcomes for Cheshire, Warrington and Halton area:

- 525 beneficiaries engaged in learning activity
- 365 beneficiaries progress to further learning activity
- 130 beneficiaries engaged in volunteering activity
- 360 beneficiaries in job search activity
- 10 beneficiaries achieving a job outcome

4) Applicant organisation criteria

Organisations which are not Registered Charities **must** supply a copy of their constitution or governing document with their application.



Applications are invited from any voluntary, community or faith sector organisation that is either based in, or benefits, residents of Cheshire, Warrington or Halton and:-

- is independent
- is self governing
- is not for profit
- is of public benefit

5) Funding available: maximum £12,000 per organisation

This ESF funding has become available via the Learning and Skills Council with Learning Together Cheshire and Warrington chosen to deliver the Community Grants Programme within the Cheshire, Warrington and Halton areas. The amount available for allocation between 2008 - 2010 is up to £215,000 across Cheshire and Warrington and up to £35,000 across Halton. There will be six deadline dates with equal funding allocated at each meeting. Any unallocated funding will be rolled forward.

The maximum funding for any one organisation is £12,000 within this 2008-2010 Community Grants Programme period. You may bid for the total amount in one application or over several applications, but we can only allocate £12,000 per organisation. Applications exceeding £12,000 will not be considered.

6) Deadlines for applications

<u>First Round</u>	17:00 July 31st 2008
<u>Second Round</u>	17:00 October 31st 2008
<u>Third Round</u>	17:00 February 27th 2009
<u>Fourth Round</u>	17:00 June 30th 2009
<u>Fifth Round</u>	17:00 October 30th 2009
<u>Sixth (final) Round</u>	17:00 February 26th 2010

After each round deadline, the Community Grants Panel will meet to evaluate the submitted applications – see flowchart Annexe 1. Applications can be submitted at any time throughout the year and will be considered at the appropriate panel meeting. Applications received after the final round deadline will not be considered.

8) Appraisal and selection

Applications will be evaluated and scored according to the criteria which are outlined in the Community Grants Guidance Notes accompanying the application form. The Community Grants Panel will prioritise the applications in order of their score. If eligible applications exceed the available funding for that panel, the panel will use its judgement with respect to outcomes.

9) Requirements of successful applicants

- a) Successful applicants will need to have their own accounting system and be able to handle any grant awarded. Note that VAT is often payable for purchases and should be included.
- b) Successful applicants will have to complete regular monitoring and evaluation reports to Learning Together Cheshire and Warrington and comply with Learning and Skills Council reporting requirements; Learning Together Cheshire and Warrington will provide support in this area.



- c) Successful applicants will have to attend an induction session before the grant allocation can be released.
- d) Successful applicants will be responsible for the health and safety of the beneficiaries on their programme; Learning Together Cheshire and Warrington will provide support in this area.
- e) Successful applicants will be responsible for the quality of provision on their programme; Learning Together Cheshire and Warrington will provide support in this area.

10) Help available

Help with completing the application form is available from the following people or via LTCW's website:-

Jolene Weaver Learning Together Cheshire and Warrington
email jolene@learning-together.co.uk

Chris Baker Learning Together Cheshire and Warrington
email chris@learning-together.co.uk

www.learning-together.co.uk

11) Forms Available

Application forms are available on request from Learning Together Cheshire & Warrington by contacting 01244 320528 or by e-mailing admin@learning-together.co.uk .

The forms are not available through the LTCW website because we need to ensure that all organisations that receive a form are added on to our database.



This project is funded by:



ESF Community Grants: Application Process Flowchart

