

Community Grants



<p>What are Community Grants?</p>	<p>Community Grants form an integral part of the European Structural Funds and are funded through the European Social Fund (ESF). Community Grants in the North West are small grants up to a maximum of £12,000 available to community groups to help develop their skills and capacity to help people in deprived communities into the labour market.</p>
<p>What is the purpose of Community Grants?</p>	<p>The purpose of ESF Community Grants is to enable small Third Sector organisations which would not otherwise be able to access ESF, to apply for small grants through simplified application arrangements. Grants focus on progression towards the labour market but will not duplicate provision that is available through mainstream ESF activity. Grants strengthen the ability of small Third Sector organisation to deliver employment and skills activities to disadvantaged people.</p>
<p>What is the strategy behind Community Grants?</p>	<p>ESF Community Grants will support a range of activities aimed at assisting the disadvantaged or excluded to move closer to the labour market by improving their access to mainstream ESF and domestic employment and skills provision, Activities will support participants from the target groups in the ESF Regional Framework but because the focus will be on individuals who have difficulty in accessing ESF or mainstream provision outcomes are more likely to be based on progression rather than achievement of jobs and qualifications. The grants will support a wide range of activities including,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Initial help with basic skills ● Taster work experience including voluntary work ● Training, advice and counselling ● Jobsearch assistance including the provision of equipment and other assistance necessary to secure employment ● Confidence building ● First contact engagement activities <p>Grants must not be used to duplicate provision that is available through other ESF funding support—they will provide support to hardest to reach communities and individuals, especially those from deprived communities, to access employment or further learning and training,. Small Third Sector organisation that access grants are likely to be well placed to reach excluded individuals facing barriers which hinder access to mainstream provision.</p>
<p>Target Groups</p>	<p>Target groups is small community based Third Sector organisations who work with individuals from the following groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● People with disabilities; ● Lone parents; ● People aged 50 or over; ● People from ethnic minorities; and ● Females.

North West Network is registered in England. Registered Charity Number 1024636. Company Limited by Guarantee Number 2837260. VAT Registration No. 732 7791 13.



Community Grants



<p>Community Grants Capacity Building</p>	<p>In addition there will be limited scope of up to 10% of the ESF available to support Community Grants for small Third Sector organisation themselves to support activities such as,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training for staff and volunteers in Third Sector organisation on main-stream routes to employment and training. • Actions to support the development of delivery and accreditation arrangements in-house. <p>If there were situations where Third Sector organisation had common capacity development needs that can best be delivered in a regional/sub-regional provision or by referral and signposting.</p>								
<p>Community Grants Co-ordinating Bodies in the North West</p>	<p>The Community Grants Co-ordinating bodies within the North West region are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumbria Cumbria Community Foundation Dovenby Hall, Cockermouth, CA13 0PN Tel: 01900 825760 • Cheshire Learning Together Cheshire & Warrington The Annexe, The Old Coach House, 8 Garden Lane Cheshire, CH1 4EN Tel: 01244 320528 • Lancashire Lancashire County Developments Ltd County Hall, PO Box 78, Preston PR1 8XJ Tel: 01772 536600 • Greater Manchester GMCVO St. Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North, Manchester, M12 6FZ Tel: 0161 277 1019/1017 								
<p>Further Information</p>	<p>If you would like further information on Community Grants please contact the North West Network European Team at:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>North West Network</td> <td>Tel: 0161 236 6493</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd Floor, Albert House</td> <td>Fax: 0161 228 6137</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17 Bloom Street</td> <td>E-Mail: info@nwnetwork.org.uk</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Manchester, M1 3HZ</td> <td>Website: www.nwnetwork.org.uk</td> </tr> </table>	North West Network	Tel: 0161 236 6493	2nd Floor, Albert House	Fax: 0161 228 6137	17 Bloom Street	E-Mail: info@nwnetwork.org.uk	Manchester, M1 3HZ	Website: www.nwnetwork.org.uk
North West Network	Tel: 0161 236 6493								
2nd Floor, Albert House	Fax: 0161 228 6137								
17 Bloom Street	E-Mail: info@nwnetwork.org.uk								
Manchester, M1 3HZ	Website: www.nwnetwork.org.uk								

North West Network is registered in England. Registered Charity Number 1024636. Company Limited by Guarantee Number 2837260. VAT Registration No. 732 7791 13.

