

ESF Community Grants Programme Launched

Karen Ferguson, GLE

This ESF small-grants initiative builds on Fast Forward, which was one of the key features of the last London ESF Objective 3 Programme. Community Grants will provide up to £12,000 to small voluntary and community organisations to engage with local communities and deliver a range of skills and employment support activities. These grants will support quality outreach provision, providing an essential stepping stone for unemployed and economically inactive participants to find employment or progress to further learning.

This new Programme is funded jointly by the London Development Agency (LDA) and the European Social Fund. Grants will be awarded and administered by the Greater London Enterprise (GLE) selected by the LDA to act as the Grant Co-ordinating Body.

Overall there will be a total of three tendering rounds for Community Grants over the period 2008-2010. The first tendering round opened on 22nd October 2008. To be eligible, applicant organisations must meet the following criteria:

- a written constitution/set of rules formally adopted by 31 October 2007.
- no more than 2 full time paid staff or the equivalent.
- Income must be no more than £60,000 in the most recent complete financial year.
- a bank account in the organisation's name with a minimum of two signatories.
- must not have been in receipt of ESF funding before (except under Fast Forward).
- charities must be registered with the Charities Commission.

London Programme Revalued

As a result the revaluation of the England ESF Programme, following the significant decrease in the value of the pound against the euro, London has received an extra £26,123,143 ESF for the first half of the Programme (2007-10). Once broken down by Priority this results in an extra £17,622,527 for Priority 1 and £8,500,616 for Priority 2.

London Councils has already made a formal request for an additional £4,566,368 ESF under Priority 1, including a very small amount of funding under Priority 1.2 (Young people Not in Education

Community Grants will fund 150 organisations for the 2008-2009 Programme. Successful projects will work with a minimum of 15 participants and support one or more of the following target groups:

- Lone parents
- Disabled people
- People belonging to Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups
- Women
- Older people (aged over 50 years)
- Young people aged 19-24

Applicants need to be aware that grants will no longer be paid 100% up front before the commencement of projects. Instead, payments will be paid in 3 stages:

- 50% of the grant will be paid once the contract is signed.
- 45% of the grant will be paid when the grant recipient can demonstrate actual spend of 30% of the total grant. Evidence of spend will include invoices, copies of bank statements and cheques.
- the final 5% will be paid at the end of the Project on the final submission of expenditure reports and all required monitoring information.

Further details about upcoming workshops and application packs can be obtained from <http://www.gle.co.uk/services/communitygrants.html> or 020 7940 1515.

The deadline for applications will be 19 November 2008 at 5.00pm. ■

Employment or Training) to be matched with funding from 13 boroughs. The request has been approved by the ESF Regional Committee and London Councils launched a prospectus to tender the new funds on 21 October 2008.

The LDA European Programmes Unit is in discussion with the other London CFOs around the use of the remaining funds. ■

Commentary

Ray Phillips

50 Issues On!

We'll we've made it to 50. For those of us in the third sector at street level, there's not much to celebrate. Financing the sector has become increasingly difficult. The credit crunch is just a further turn of the screw. Groups concerned with unemployment and poverty face the prospect of being at the end of another queue when it comes to "bailing out". Indeed, there is the very real danger that the public spotlight will move to the re-skilling of the new unemployed at the expense of those furthest from the labour market.

In the Commentary to our 1st Issue in November 1999, reference was made to London "In so far as anything is certain in politics, we can be assured that the arrival of the impoverished states of Eastern Europe over the next few years will leave only crumbs at the Structural Funds' table in 2007." Yes, we have seen the size of the London share diminish over the years but this has been the spur to more effective targeting in the recognition that London remains a "tale of two cities".

The plight of the economically disadvantaged in London reflects the fear in the third world that the faltering of the global financial system will, in the end, hit them hardest through no fault of their own. Important steps taken by governmental leaders must include the reassertion of support for interventionist programmes such as the European Structural Funds premised on notions such as social justice and combating exclusion and inequality.

Present economic challenges call for the reinvigoration of the European social model. In London, we're embarking on the new 2007-2013 Programmes of the European Social Fund and the on the new European Regional Development Fund. With the former, we have the added scope of the Transnational Programme, which gives us an opportunity to link up with our continental neighbours around new EU initiatives such as Active Inclusion.

Crumbs can be useful when the cupboard is otherwise bare! ■

Support LVSTC . . . become a Member!

helping LVSTC continue to provide strategic support for the voluntary and community sector

If your annual turnover is less than £60K claim your membership discount.

Contact Ingrid Babcock, ingridb@lvstc.org.uk

Around the London ESF Programme

LDA European Programmes Management Unit

London Councils

London Councils published its first prospectus worth £7.2m (ESF & match) on 15th November 2007. From 136 applications received, 33 projects were selected for funding and applicants were notified of the results in March. After completion of contract negotiations, £3.69m ESF has been awarded across 32 contracts and a list of successful projects is available on London Councils' website. Below is a sector breakdown of the contracts.

Sector	Number of contracts
Third sector	32
Public sector	0
Private sector	0

London Councils launched the 2nd Prospectus under the new Programme in October. This tendering round will seek to allocate the additional funding that the CFO has recently applied for as part of the programme revaluation. A further tendering round will be launched in autumn 2009 to allocate the remaining funds under London Councils' 2007-10 CFO Plan. ■

London Development Agency

The LDA launched its 1st Prospectus under the 2007-13 Programme on 23rd November 2007. The value of the Prospectus was £20.26m (ESF & match), with £17.2m supporting activities under Priority 1.1 and £3.06m for activity under Priority 2. 329 applications were received and 60 projects were selected for funding across the two Priorities. A list of successful providers has been published on the LDA website. The sector breakdown of the projects is as follows:

Sector	Number of contracts
Third sector	20
Public sector	12
Private sector	28

Contract negotiations have been completed with around 40 projects. The LDA expect to award a total of approximately £20m (ESF and match), with roughly £17m for activity under Priority 1.1 and £3m for activity under Priority 2.1 (Employees with basic skills needs) in total.

The LDA plans to launch a second tendering round in November 2008 to award the remaining unallocated funds under Priority 1.1 and 2.1 of its the 2007-10 CFO Plan. ■

Learning and Skills Council

The LSC published its 1st Invitation to Tender for Round 1 of the new Programme on 24th November 2007. The total value of the ITT was £58.08m ESF, comprising £10.08m for activity under Priority 1.1, £27.75m for Priority 1.2 (Young people Not in Education, Employment or Training) and £20.25m across Priority 2 (Employees with: Basic Skills; Level 2; Level 3/4 needs). In total 328 ITTs were received from 237 organisations and following scoring and moderation, 99 projects were selected for funding across the 3 activity areas of Adult, Youth (Priority 1.1 and 1.2) and Employer responsiveness (Priority 2).

Initial analysis of the result shows that 38% of the funding has been allocated to Third Sector providers.

Sector	Number of contracts
Third sector	40
Public sector	29
Private sector	30

In total over £48 million has been allocated under the LSC's first ESF tendering round. The LSC is in the final stages of contract negotiations with providers. A list of successful providers (subject to award of contract) has been published on the LSC website.

In Round 2, LSC ESF Youth, Adult and Employer Responsiveness Projects tendered in June 2008 have been appraised and moderated and successful providers have been informed of results. £10.2million of ESF is expected to be allocated in this second round, resulting in full allocation of the LSC's Priority 1.1 and 1.2 funding for 2007-10. The initial analysis results reveal that 46% of the funding will be allocated to Third Sector providers.

The LSC will be looking to launch a further tendering round in April 2009 to allocate the remainder of their Priority 2 funds. However, the increased flexibilities in Train to Gain are presenting a major challenge (at both regional and national level) to the LSC's ability to identify the gaps in mainstream provision where ESF can add value. The LSC has identified some potential gaps under Priority 2.2 and 2.3 and hope to be in a position to provide a more detailed update on the situation by end November. ■

Department for Work & Pensions

DWP published its ITT on 3rd December 2007, with the intention of allocating the entire share of ESF for 2007-10 (£44.7m). A total of 53 tenders from 16 different organisations were received against the 15 published project specifications. Following post tender negotiations with preferred bidders, 7 Prime Contractors have been awarded 13 contracts and the published list is available on the DWP website.

Below is a sector breakdown of the successful Prime Contractors (excluding the two contracts re-tendered).

Sector	Number of contracts
Third sector	2
Public sector	0
Private sector	11

There are 48 sub-contractors beneath the 13 Primes and 23 (48%) of these are third sector organisations.

The preferred bidders for two London specifications (South and West London) re-tendered in June have now been selected and post tender discussions are currently underway. Contracts have been signed for all 13 providers, with a total value of £34,594,824. The two re-tendered contracts are expected to be awarded in November to a maximum value of £5,650,000. Some projects have commenced delivery and over 200 participant starts have been reported to date.

... Meanwhile with ERDF

In the opening bidding round of the London European Regional Development Fund Programme, 67 applications were submitted to the LDA European Programmes Management Unit. 60 were successful at the appraisal stages and entered contract negotiations (for a total amount of £64.5m ERDF). There was one appeal which was not upheld. One-to-one Pre-Grant Meetings have been held with all applicants to discuss eligibility and other technical aspects of applications. Three applications have withdrawn to date, enabling £1.03m to be returned to the pot and presented for allocation in Round 2.

The second round of the London ERDF 2007-2013 Programme is now open for applications. There are two main Priorities for which applications are invited by the EPMU:

- **Priority 1** - Business innovation and research and promoting eco-efficiency
- **Priority 2** - Access to new markets and access to finance

The second Prospectus (Round 2) builds on Round 1 and reflects the Operational Programme setting out the investment priorities for London ERDF. The Prospectus provides information on the specific types of projects which will be supported, the application process, timetable, and the technical eligibility criteria. There is no Expression of Interest Stage for Round 2. To prevent applicants spending unnecessary time preparing applications unlikely to succeed, the EPMU strongly encourages applicants to meet with officers to discuss applications. Officers are not in a position to suggest project ideas, source match funding or confirm whether applications will or won't be successful.

Applicants must complete the Full Application/Business Plan for submission to the EPMU at the LDA by 12 noon on Friday 16 January 2009.

Details can be found on the LDA website at: <http://www.lda.gov.uk/server.php?show=ConWebDoc.2823>

EPMU is working with LDA colleagues and the GLA Communications' Team to ensure that the official programme launch on 8 December is publicised. At a practical level, EPMU has updated the ERDF web-pages by creating a project management page that contains necessary information regarding the day-to-day running of projects including complying with EU communications regulations.

See <http://www.lda.gov.uk/server.php?show=nav.00100l003001003>

DWP is not currently planning any future tendering rounds but this may change dependent on any future requests for revaluation funds. ■

New LDA Round Ahead

The LDA is preparing to launch the second prospectus (Round 2) under its European Social Fund (ESF) Programme 2007-2010 in mid November. The focus of projects in Round 2 will be on sustained employment outcomes for participants. Payments will increasingly be made on achievement of results and progressions. The LDA would also like to encourage more flexibility for applicants by funding innovative projects to achieve these outcomes.

Round 2 will consist of a 2-stage application process. Stage one is an on-line Pre-Qualification Questionnaire which applicants have to complete via CompeteFor. In Stage 2, short-listed applicants for each of the Programme specifications will be invited to submit full Applications.

Further information is available at www.lda.gov.uk/competeFor

A workshop will be organised to advise on how to register on CompeteFor. If you would like to attend an introductory workshop, please fill in the online form at www.lda.gov.uk/esfregistration. However, it is not

a requirement to attend a workshop. Registration on CompeteFor can be done now.

Emphasis in Round 2 will be placed on partnership working and larger scale projects. Applicants are encouraged to consider a joined-up and consortia approach to this round where appropriate. The LDA is also keen to ensure a spread of projects across London. The LVSTC Partnership Portals offer a system whereby organisations from all sectors can target prospective providers, ensuring closer cooperation, greater reach and improved cross-sector involvement - contact www.lvstc.org.uk/partnership_portal.php

Following the launch of the Round 2 Prospectus, the LDA website may be used as a tool to access further information and guidance applicants. The key support mechanisms in place to guide you through the application process will be:

- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- Workshops
- Guidance Notes
- ESF e-mails

The deadline for submission of applications is 12 December 2008. The assessment process is expected to be completed by end of January 2009, with projects due to commence delivery from 1 April 2009. Each Theme will be supported at national level by a Thematic Network planned to be in place for the launch of projects.

More information can be found on the national ESF website at www.esf.gov.uk. ■

London Goes Transnational

London has an allocation of just over £4m ESF to fund dedicated innovative and transnational activity in the region. A menu of Themes has been developed by the national Innovation Mainstreaming & Transnationality Sub-Committee. The London Regional Committee has prioritised Themes for the region.

The selected Themes for the London region are:

Priority 1

Active Inclusion
Engaging with Employers
New Challenges – Demographic Change (Older workers and Migration)

Priority 2

Engaging with Employers
New Challenges – Demographic Change (Older workers and Migration)
Skills for Climate Change

There will be no more than 4 projects in London and each project is expected to be worth around £2m (ESF & match). Projects will be delivered outside of Co-Financing, through direct bidding and as such applicants will need to supply their own match funding. The split of funding by Priority is £2,749,114 for Priority 1 and £1,326,096 for Priority 2. As such, 3 projects are expected to be supported under P1 and 1 project under P2. There is no stipulation of an amount for each Theme in order to allow flexibility to allocate the funds on the basis of the quality of applications received.

The England ESF Division supported by the recently appointed ITM Co-ordinating Body (Birmingham City Council) issued a call for proposals on 31 October 2008. The Co-ordinating Body will be responsible for publicising the call for proposals and will be holding 4 information events in November. The event for the South will be held in London and is taking place on 14th November.

New Minister for ESF

In the Government reshuffle on 3 October 2008, Tony McNulty moved to become Minister of State for Employment and Welfare Reform at the Department for Work and Pensions and Minister for London, attending Cabinet. For the first time, the responsibilities for welfare reform and ESF have been combined in the same portfolio



Tony McNulty was elected to Parliament in the May 1997 General Election. He served as a Whip from 1999 to 2002, following a period as Parliamentary Private Secretary to David Blunkett. He was then appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister with responsibility for neighbourhood renewal, housing and planning. He was moved to the Department for Transport in June 2003 as Parliamentary Under Secretary with responsibility for aviation, local transport, and London, and was promoted to Minister of State with responsibility for Rail and London in September 2004.

Tony moved to the Home Office on 9 May 2005 as Minister of State for Immigration, following the general election reshuffle. In May 2006 his Home Office portfolio changed to responsibility over policing and crime, security and counter-terrorism. In July 2007, he became a Privy Councillor. ■

LVSTC Portal

LVSTC has one of the most comprehensive databases of voluntary and community sector providers in the region and we have been exploring ways in which we can exploit this technology for all organisations wishing to access the European Social Fund. Collaborative and partnership working being as it is, projects will be larger than in the previous programme, resulting in the need for well organised and sustainable partnerships and consortium.

Our Portal offers an essential system whereby organisations from all sectors can target prospective providers, ensuring closer cooperation, greater reach and improved cross sector involvement. The Portal can be searched by: target groups, location, skills, provider status and alphabetically.

Once you have found an organisation that is of interest, you can then simply either contact your prospective partner yourself, or ask LVSTC to make initial enquiries on your behalf. We will also provide support for organisations, consortia, partnerships or other collaborative arrangements resulting from its use.

If you would like to take part in developing collaborative working through the Partnership Portal, go to www.lvstc.org.uk/partnership_portal and complete the Partnership Portal Data Collection Form.

For help and information about the ESF Partnership Portal, contact the ESF Unit at LVSTC on 0845 262 2006 / 020 7538 4309. ■

London Councils offers new ESF

London Councils has launched a second round of ESF funding. 13 boroughs have provided funding to be matched by ESF to create a £9m programme. London Councils welcomes tenders from organisations to deliver in one of the 13 boroughs: Barking & Dagenham, Bromley, City of London Corporation, Ealing, Hammersmith & Fulham, Hillingdon, Kingston, Lambeth, Redbridge, Southwark, Tower Hamlets, Wandsworth, Westminster.

For more details, applicants should go to <http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/grants/esf/default.htm>

The ESF Prospectus and ESF Tender Application Form are available for download on the London Councils website. **The deadline for tenders is 12 noon on Monday 17 November 2008.**

LVSTC is offering help and advice to third sector applicants and their partners. Contact Kwasi Ofei on 0845 262 2006/020 7538 4309 or email kwasio@lvstc.org.uk. ■

Hello CompeteFor!

The CompeteFor service was launched in London on 17 January 2008 along with the London Business Network. London 2012 anticipates that between now and 2012 there will be up to 75,000 contracts available through the London 2012 supply chain. These contracts will be from a wide range of industries from construction to hospitality. The London Development Agency (LDA) working closely with London Business Network and London 2012 has set up CompeteFor to ensure that diverse businesses across the capital can access these commercial opportunities.

CompeteFor acts like a 'dating' agency matching buyers throughout the 2012 supply chain with potential suppliers. The service is open to all businesses but is specifically designed to support Small and Medium-sized Enterprise to bid for contracts further down the 2012 supply chain. Bidders not already registered on the CompeteFor

portal will need to register in order to access and respond to all LDA contract opportunities which are not being awarded via an existing panel. The LDA's next ESF tendering round will be precured via CompeteFor.

Registering on CompeteFor opens a wide range of LDA and non-LDA contract opportunities to organisations.

Find out more by visiting the CompeteFor website: <https://www.competefor.com/london2012business/login.jsp> ■

Health in ESF

The LDA have incorporated for the first time Health as a regional Cross Cutting Theme. This means that they expect projects to demonstrate how they will address and contribute to the strategy set out in the regional ESF programme.

The Leitch Report a review of skills by highlighted that health problems, including depression and obesity, are more common in unskilled and low-income households. The review went on to say that skills can impact upon health either directly, by providing information on improving health, or indirectly, by improving income and making a healthy lifestyle more affordable. The Review concludes by stating that whilst it is difficult to estimate the potential health benefits of skills improvements, these are likely to be greatest at the lower end of the skills distribution. The report also highlights that:

- Unemployment rates are a key indicator of health inequalities;
- Worklessness is directly associated with mental and physical; health and with poverty and other factors impacting on health;
- Prosperity is increasingly seen as a route to health and skills are a driver of prosperity. Improving employment for those parts of the population affected by ill health is a key objective in the report. Statistics point to the fact that those people with poor health live in low income households and that increasing employment is the best way to reduce poverty. The London Health Commission reports that the average life expectancy is 8% higher for women and men living in Kensington and Chelsea (80.5 for men, 85.8 for women) compared to Newham (73.9 for men, and 78.8 for women).

The GLA Act (2007) gives the Mayor a new duty to produce a Health Inequalities Strategy (HIS) for London. The ESF programme will be co-ordinated with the emerging HIS. More information about the Health Cross Cutting Theme can be found on the LDA's website . ■

LVSTC up and coming ESF and BAMER workshops

November

4 Equality and Diversity including Gender Equality

venue: Bromley Hall
time: 9.30am to 1.00pm

The workshop aims to ensure that all ESF providers and potential ESF providers can implement this cross cutting theme (via embedding EO in Policies/Procedures, monitoring/equality-proofing, targeting excluded groups) and share good practice.

5 Business Continuity -BAMER groups

venue: Bromley Hall
time: 9.30am to 1.00pm

This is a half day workshop aimed at providing an awareness of the risks affecting an organisation and outlining measures that can be taken to ensure business continuity. The workshop is intended to help project managers to develop a plan to ensure business continuity in the event of a disaster such as a fire or a flood. It will highlight the importance of backing up data and explain the process of developing a back up plan. This workshop is aimed at project managers likely to be involved in this process but with little or no experience in this area.

6 Tracking Beneficiaries

venue: Bromley Hall
time: 9.30am to 1.00pm

This workshop explores practical techniques in identifying outcomes for beneficiaries, recording them and reporting positive results to funding agencies.

12 Sustainable Development

venue: LVSRC, Holloway Road
time: 9.30am to 1.00pm

This workshop will enable Providers to fully explore issues of this cross cutting theme under 5 broad themes (energy, water, waste, procurement and transport) and will also inform participants about attainment of the Green Mark.

December

4 Fundraising - BAMER groups

venue: Bromley Hall
time: 9.30am to 1.00pm

The workshop is for groups who are seeking to hone their skills or knowledge about fundraising, and signposting for more experienced fundraisers about strategies and new opportunities.

10 Financial Planning - BAMER groups

venue: LVSRC, Holloway Road
time: 9.30am to 1.00pm

The overall aim of this workshop is to strengthen the capacity of ESF project managers and finance officers in the preparation, management and monitoring of budgets in order to enhance the governance and accountability mechanisms of BAMER projects.

Support LVSTC . . . become a Member!

helping LVSTC continue to provide strategic support for the voluntary and community sector

If your annual turnover is less than £60K claim your membership discount.

Contact Ingrid Babcock, ingridb@lvstc.org.uk

LVSTC staff contacts

ESF (inc CEEP)

Stewart Goldring, Deputy Director – stewartg@lvstc.org.uk
Misbah Javed, ESF Senior Adviser – misbahj@lvstc.org.uk
Kwasi Ofei, CEEP Co-ordinator – kwasio@lvstc.org.uk
Barbara Deason, Consultant – barbarad@lvstc.org.uk
Jacqueline Black, IT Officer – jacquirb@lvstc.org.uk
Wayne Deane, ESF Adviser – wayned@lvstc.org.uk
Angela Heap, Training Adviser – angelah@lvstc.org.uk

Directorate (inc SGEIP)

Ray Phillips, Director – rayp@lvstc.org.uk
Bill Burke, Finance Officer – billb@lvstc.org.uk
Ingrid Babcock, ICT Co-ordinator – ingridb@lvstc.org.uk
Humera Gondal, Information & Publicity Officer – humerag@lvstc.org.uk
Geoff Robinson, SGEIP Co-ordinator – geoffr@lvstc.org.uk
Ian Foster, SGEIP Outreach Adviser – ianf@lvstc.org.uk
Steve White, ELM Co-ordinator – stevegw@lvstc.org.uk



London Voluntary Sector Training Consortium
Bromley Hall, 43 Gillender Street, London E14 6RN
Tel: 0845 262 2006/020 7538 4309 Fax: 0845 262 2005/020 7005 0275
Web: www.lvstc.org.uk Email: info@lvstc.org.uk
Company No: 2433659 Charity No: 80307

"The London voluntary and community sector in partnership with Europe to promote social inclusion."

