

FUNDING NEWS

Age Concern offers grants for new or expanding services or activities which directly benefit older people. The Barclays Programme offers grants of up to £150 to voluntary organisations with an income of less than £50,000 per annum.

The Bright Ideas programme offers grants of up to £2,000 to voluntary organisations with an income of less than £200,000 per annum. For more information see www.ageconcern.org.uk/AgeConcern/grant_giving.asp

The Conservation Foundation and O2 have launched a new award scheme to help provide funding for projects designed to improve local environments throughout the UK. Grants of up to £1000 are available for projects which benefit the community or build community spirit. For more information see www.itsyourcommunity.co.uk

If you are involved in education, health and welfare, heritage or the arts and require grants of a more substantial size for buildings and equipment it might be worth looking at The Wolfson Foundation www.wolfson.org.uk

This particular Trust fund looks to support outstanding projects across a wide range of activities and looks to support important areas that are under funded. Applicants are encouraged to work in collaboration with other expert bodies and the Trust encourages the use of its funds as a means of leveraging in additional support.

The Nationwide Foundation is offering grants to charities that offer support for prisoners' families and for the rehabilitation of young offenders. The small grants programme offers grants of up to £5000 to registered charities across the UK that have an income of less than £0.5m. www.nationwidefoundation.org.uk

The Big Lottery Fund will be launching the £30m Community Assets programme in early September. The programme will make grants of between £150,000 to £1m to Local Authorities and third sector partners. Grants will be awarded to facilitate the transfer of assets from Local Authorities to the third sector for their use as community resources and, to partnerships between Local Authorities and the third sector to refurbish Local Authority owned buildings and facilities. Further details of the programme will be published on the Big Lottery website www.biglotteryfund.org.uk when the programme is launched in September.

The LankellyChase Foundation funds community projects working in the following areas: arts; breaking the cycle of abuse and deprivation; developing communities; heritage; mental health; and offenders and society. In addition there is a limited programme of support for organisations working with refugees and asylum seekers. See www.lankellychase.org.uk

The Government has advised (The Scarman Trust) that the Community Champions programme will end in March 2008 and at the moment there are no plans to replace it. The Trust is campaigning for a continuation of the programme and more information is available via www.thescarmantrust.org And there is an e-petition at www.petitions.pm.gov.uk/save-champions