

Big Lottery Fund

Enabling Communities to take the lead



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www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

Who are we?



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Alice Grimes

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Billy Beckett

Policy Officer within the Public Affairs Team





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Our Funding in England

The Big Lottery Fund is the largest community funder in the UK, and one of twelve distributors of money raised by National Lottery Players.

Last year in England, we awarded **£509.6m** across **8,704** grants. Overall, the Big Lottery Fund awarded **£712.7m** across **13,814** grants.

We fund in every single local authority in the UK and most of our grants go to local charities, run by volunteers.



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Our Vision: People in the Lead



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Our funding empowers people to make a difference to their communities and lives.

Strong, vibrant communities can be built and renewed by the people living in them

We invest in people's strengths and assets, developing and supporting thousands of amazing projects run in communities around the country



What we're funding in England



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We are enabling people across England use their local knowledge to test and grow ideas that matter most to them

We are helping people to share learning about “what went well”, and “what didn’t” so that many more can benefit



Our funding priorities



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Stronger relationships

We support ideas that bring people together, strengthening relationships in and across communities



Shared and sustainable places and spaces

We support people to shape and sustain the places that matter to them, like a park, community centre or online network



Early action to prevent problems and tackle disadvantage

We support activity that empowers people to fulfil their potential, working to address problems at the earliest possible stage

How we're funding in England



- We will listen to people's ideas, so we won't just talk about projects
- We will ensure our processes are simpler, more responsive and proportionate
- We will make good judgements using our knowledge about the local and national context



Our funding in England



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National Lottery Awards for All

This is our most popular funding stream. We award grants of £10,000 or under. Last year, we made more than 12,352 grants, reaching over 6m people across every local authority in the UK (7, 786 in England).

Reaching Communities

This stream provides longer-term funding, with awards upwards of £10,000. Last year in England, we made 434 successful awards, with an average award size of £340,000.

Partnerships

Funding for joint action that goes beyond what any single organisation can achieve alone. Supporting ideas that address long terms issues in a place or with a theme.



How we're making a difference in Rural Communities



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Spend per capita by region for Awards for All



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Region	A4A	A4A (Rural)
East Midlands	£1.36	£1.55
Eastern	£0.84	£1.35
London	£0.95	£0.01
N. East	£1.84	£1.87
N. West	£1.69	£0.88
S. East	£0.73	£0.73
S. West	£1.27	£2.56
W. Midlands	£1.49	£1.25
Yorkshire & Humber	£1.77	£1.46

Rural based on ONS population estimate



UK

Village SOS



- £1.4m funding available to support and inspire rural communities across the UK to become more enterprising
- Led by ACRE, with grassroots support provided in England by ACRE's Network of 38 rural community councils
- Volunteers from social enterprises across the UK mentored groups to share the learning from their success
- The delivery and design of the campaign was informed by a large-scale piece of research involving 500 individual involved/interested in rural communities



Wales

Rural Programme (£13.5m)



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Awarding grants up to £350,000 to groups addressing rural poverty through:

- Improved wellbeing
- Raising aspirations
- Enhancing skills in local communities
- Increasing resilience to challenging circumstances



Rural Programme Survey: what did we learn?



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- People heard about the programme through work and word of mouth and some via Facebook
- The majority of people surveyed had never applied for our funding
- Some people had never heard of us, some did not realise they were eligible and some thought our processes were too complicated and time consuming and did not know how to apply
- People preferred a mixture of email and face to face communication with us



Scotland

Community Assets



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- Awarding grants from £10,000 to £1m
- Launched in July 2016 and builds on the success of 'Growing Community Assets' and the 'Scottish Land Fund'
- Aims to empower people to create strong and resilient communities by supporting them to acquire and/or develop local assets that are important to them such as a building or land
- Groups can ask for funding for: development and mentoring assistance





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How will we work in the future?





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Local ways of working

- Currently, the England Local Team are a network of managers and officers based across the country
- We're trialling new ways of working in the 'Southern Cluster' (London, South East & Eastern regions) and the 'Hothouse' (Yorkshire & Humber)
- Big Lottery Fund's ambition is to have:-
 - More localised assessment
 - More localised grant management
 - Increased levels of local stakeholder relations



What does our new approach look like?



- Conversational
- Iterative
- Strengths-based
- Identifying collaborations and partnerships





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Our Influence



Policy and Public Affairs



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- Policy: Using the learning from all of our programmes to design and develop solutions to social issues
- Public Affairs: Communicating with government and parliament, sharing our knowledge with policy makers and building relationships with political stakeholders



What we can do



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- Long term funding programmes – scope, scale, reach
- Non-partisan – less impacted by change of government
- Lots of data and learning – we have funded success and failure



We what need



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- We rely on the expertise and knowledge of our colleagues and stakeholders in wider sector
- We work in partnership with other orgs to maximise potential
- Our policy positions and funding decisions are influenced by what people tell us needs to happen
- We are working to become a 'trusted advisor' to government, so we can tell them what we have learnt - what works and what doesn't



Find out more



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Talk to your local Funding Officer – we can put you in touch

Visit our website:

<https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/>

Call our BIG Advice Line: 03454 102030



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