



## Liverpool Charity and Voluntary Services

### LCVS Funds

Due to the cuts in funding to LCVS and the wider sector, we have had to take a long hard look at how we will allocate funds over the coming months. In the past we have been able to work with broad criteria for the LCVS Trust funds in particular but the changing times mean that we will now be looking to focus in much more on the community impact of any grants we make. The LCVS Board has set out 4 priority areas for the organisation moving forward and these are

- **Education**
- **Health and Well Being**
- **Income Stability**
- **Community Safety**

Our grant making will focus in on these themes and groups should bear in mind that we will only fund activities that can evidence the outcomes for those most in need in Liverpool and Merseyside. We receive many more applications than can be supported and groups should be clear in their applications about the benefits of their project. It is important that you use the word count on the application form to tell us **as much as you can** about your project. **Please note: any information in excess of the specified number of words may not be considered when the application is processed.**

### **PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR THE NEXT CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS**

#### Who can apply?

We have had to make changes to the eligibility criteria for organisations. Groups must be registered charities or have charitable aims as part of their governing document and **must** be able to register with the charity commission if their income exceeds £5,000.

The Charity Commission guidance states that

'Public benefit is at the heart of what it means to be a charity. The Charities Act 2006 requires all charities to have aims which are, demonstrably, for the public benefit. Two principles (with a number of sub-principles) must be met to show that an organisation's aims are for the public benefit:

1. There must be an identifiable benefit or benefits
2. Benefit must be to the public or a section of the public

In addition groups **MUST** have

- an income of less than £100k per year (average over last 3 years)
- at least **TWO** cheque signatories

- a constitution or set have a bank account in the name of the organisation or group
- a Child Protection Policy/Vulnerable Adults Policy and evidence that staff and volunteers are CRB checked.

### **Community Interest Companies**

Community Interest Companies (CiCs) are not eligible for funding. CiCs are 'organisations that are going to earn all or most of their income through trading (charging for goods or services) and do not have charitable objects as defined by the charity regulator' or are 'organisations that are going to earn all or most of their income through trading and have charitable objects, but do not want the limitations of charitable status and are willing to forego the tax and other advantages of charitable status'. LCVS Charitable funds are aimed at those small, grassroots charities and charitable organisations who do not primarily earn income through trading or do not undertake taxable trading (trading which is not primary purpose trading).

### **What you can apply for**

For the next 12 months we will be focusing on our corporate priorities which are

- **Education**

e.g. Projects or activities that can demonstrate clearly how they will help develop attainment levels for children and young people

- **Health and Well Being**

e.g. Projects or activities that can clearly demonstrate how they help people become more active in the longer term, especially those people living in isolation or who are disabled

- **Income Stability**

e.g. Projects working in communities with high poverty rates that help people manage their money more effectively

- **Community Safety**

e.g. projects that helps communities deal with high levels of crime and anti-social behaviour.

### **Additional guidance**

Where groups are looking to run a series of workshops or classes over a short term period they must be able to demonstrate how people will benefit in the longer term.

**EXAMPLE:** If you are running a series of fitness sessions for elderly residents over a 12 week period, what plans do you have in place once the sessions

have come to an end? Will beneficiaries be supported and signposted into other local community activities?

It is important that groups are able to tell us how they have identified the need for the project. Generic local statistics are valuable but it is more important to be able to demonstrate that local people have been consulted.

**EXAMPLE:** If you are running activities for young people to gain accreditation, it is important to demonstrate how you have identified young people you are targeting rather than simply referencing local unemployment statistics or local, regional or national reports. If you tell us that you have sent out questionnaires or conducted local surveys, we will need to see copies of the results of these.

We envisage that most grants will be for one-off projects that have direct public benefit. Where an LCVS grant is part of a larger project, groups must be able to evidence that they have other funding in place. Groups must be able to demonstrate how those most in need will benefit from any grant made by LCVS. General appeals will not be funded

### **Funding of Core Costs (Running Costs)**

In certain cases, LCVS will make grants to support the running costs of an organisation for a short period, subject to the following criteria:

- Groups **MUST** have secured funding from other funders or via generated income towards their annual costs
- Groups **MUST** have a planned programme of activities with identified positive outcomes for beneficiaries
- Groups **MUST** have successfully returned monitoring from previous LCVS grants awarded or have a proven track record of delivery within the community over a number of years
- Funding for core costs would only be available for a maximum of one year and would **NOT** be repeated year on year

If you need to apply for core costs, it is essential that you call us first on 0151 227 5177 to discuss your application.

### **Arts/Theatre Projects**

Arts and Theatre projects must be able to provide evidence that the need for the work that requires funding has come from within local communities. We are unlikely to fund performances, local tours or any activity that has limited or no direct community involvement.

### **How much can I apply for?**

The maximum amount a group can apply for is £3,000. Successful groups are unlikely to be funded within the same 12 month period. Please note though that the average grant made is around £1,500.

## **Emergency Grants**

In certain cases LCVS will make emergency grants. These are only made in **exceptional** circumstances to eligible groups where funding is mission critical and for the following:

- Groups have an unexpected cost that, if not funded, could put the **entire organisation** in jeopardy. (It is envisaged that these will be, in the main, capital costs for emergency repairs to buildings etc.)

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Any group in receipt of funding must agree to provide detailed monitoring and evaluation. This monitoring must show how many people have benefited from the funding and what outcomes were achieved. This is important if we are to be able to measure the community impact of the limited funds we have. It is also helpful for us as we can use this information to support our work in growing philanthropy and giving in Liverpool.

## **Exclusions**

LCVS Grants will NOT be made for

Start up costs for new organisations
Medical Research
Theatre performance or touring
Vehicles
Schools or activity taking place in school time
Sports kits or general fees (league fees etc.)
Individuals
Cultural Festivals
The advancement of religion
Animal welfare
Other grant making bodies
NHS Trusts
Parent Teacher Associations
Replacement funding (e.g. statutory funding coming to an end)
Loans or business finance
Universities
Sponsorship/marketing appeals/fundraising costs
Overseas projects/travel
Safety equipment for individual households
National charities
CCTV installation

**Community Investment and Grants, LCVS|United Way, 151 Dale Street,  
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