

NATIONAL LOTTERY – FURTHER INFORMATION

The National Lottery is now the largest single source of funds for voluntary organisations and for arts, sports and heritage projects. The lottery is of such size and importance that many organisations now gear a substantial part of their fundraising effort towards getting support from the various distribution boards.

The Lottery was launched in 1994 and has established itself as a key funder of voluntary activity. Many voluntary groups have applied for Lottery and many have succeeded. However, it takes time and effort to put together a good application and the assessment is a rigorous and demanding one.

It is operated under licence until 2009 by Camelot plc. After prize money is given out, tax due to the Treasury and operating expenses, 28.5% of the total take is passed to the National Lottery Distribution Fund for distribution to good causes. The Distribution Fund is then passed onto the various distributors of which there are currently seven in England:

- Awards For All
- Arts Council England
- Big Lottery Fund
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- NESTA (National Endowment for Science, Technology and The Arts)
- Sport England
- UK Film Council

(Each of these areas is described in more detail in Appendix ...)

Awards for All

This is the small grants programme. The Arts, Charity, Heritage and Sports Distributors, working together, make grants in the range of £500 to £5,000. The programme is open to small charities and community groups with an annual income of less than £15,000.

It is administered by the Community Fund on behalf of the Four Boards. Awards For All Funds projects which enable people to take part in art, sport, heritage and community activities, as well as projects that promote education, the environment and health in the local community - although it should be noted that small grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund are not available in respect of conservation for fear that 'local communities might do it wrong'. The bulk of the funding is for Community Fund projects.

There are no deadlines or programme closure dates for grants for the arts as it is a rolling programme.

www.awardsforall.org.uk - for more information

Big Lottery Fund

The Big Lottery Fund was formed from the merger of the New Opportunities Fund and the Community Fund. It currently distributes half of the fund that the National Lottery raises for good cause approximately £600 million p.a.

Big Lottery Fund gives grants to projects that improve health, education and the environment and support those most in need. Big Lottery Fund has a rolling programme of funding streams with 'Awards for All' currently being the major focus with respect to small grants.

www.biglotteryfund.org.uk - for more information

Heritage Lottery Fund

The Heritage Lottery Fund aims to enable communities to celebrate, look after and learn more about the Country's diverse heritage. The types of projects supported range from museums and historic buildings to parks and nature reserves.

The Heritage Lottery Fund operates a number of grant schemes with differing grant levels from £5,000 up to major awards in excess of £1 million.

www.hlf.org.uk - for more information

NESTA (National Endowment for Science, Technology and The Arts)

The National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) offers support to enable individuals, groups and organisations to explore new ideas, develop new products and services and generally be creative and innovative in science, Technology and the Arts. This can be for social or commercial objectives.

NESTA's funding can range from £500 up to £85,000 upwards, depending on the funding programme.

www.nesta.org.uk - for more information

Sport England

Sport England funds projects that help people get involved in sport and physical activity. This includes refurbishing or building new facilities and developing programmes and initiatives that use sport and activity to support community cohesion, improve health and raise educational standards.

The programmes within the Community Investment fund generally start at £10,000 with no defined limit.

www.sportengland.org.uk - for further information

UK Film Council

The UK Film Council uses National Lottery money to develop new filmmakers and develop new British Films, with the key aim of encouraging jobs, investment and the image of Britain abroad.

www.ukfilmcouncil.org.uk - for further information