



Funding Signpost

March 2009

The 'Skills for Midlothian Businesses' project is a partnership between Midlothian Council new leaf, Midlothian Voluntary Action, Midlothian Council Library Service, Mid and East Lothian Chamber of Commerce, and Jewel and Esk Valley College.

Skills for Midlothian Businesses provides an integrated approach to helping Midlothian businesses and their employees to develop their potential more fully.

The project offers the following opportunities to social enterprises:

- Training opportunities for key staff;
- Human resources support;
- Signposting for enterprises to potential funding sources;
- Support for enterprises to assess their funding needs and manage new funding.



Welcome to *Funding Signpost*, a briefing on sources of funding available for social enterprises in Midlothian. The briefing is provided by Skills for Midlothian Businesses, and is part-funded by the European Social Fund.

Featured in this briefing:

Sources of funding

Big Lottery Fund

- 2014 Communities
- Investing in Ideas

Arts

- The Elephant Trust

Women and Girls

- Rosa

Community

- Government Rescue Plan (mainly England)
- The Henry Smith Charity
- The Centre for Social Justice Awards
- Esmee Fairbairn Relocation
- Voluntary Action Fund Community Chest

Young People

- Lankelly Chase Summer Playscheme

Environment

- B&Q One Planet Living Awards
- Scottish Energy Efficiency Housing Prize
- Carbon Trust Applied Research Grants

Freebies

- Free Management Support from the Cranfield Trust

If you would like support in applying for any of the funds mentioned in this briefing, contact Lesley Kelly on 663 9471 or at Lesley.kelly@mvacvs.org.uk

BIG LOTTERY FUND

2014 Communities

Summary of the programme

Glasgow is hosting the 2014 Commonwealth Games and the Big Lottery Fund Scotland wants to ensure that we are providing support to groups who want to benefit from this once in a lifetime opportunity for people and communities across Scotland.

To do this BIG has developed a new funding programme, 2014 Communities, which is focused on building a legacy of well-being before and beyond the Commonwealth Games. 2014 Communities is a micro grant programme aimed at grass roots sports and community organisations. Through the programme BIG hopes to encourage more people to take part in sport or physical activity, and to increase the numbers of those volunteering in sport or physical activity, and to bring communities together through sport and volunteering.

What is 2014 Communities grants programme?

2014 Communities is a new micro grants programme, offering local sports clubs, voluntary and community organisations, community councils and schools grants of £300 to £1,000 to support and stimulate grass roots involvement in sport and physical activity. In year one of the programme, Big Lottery Fund has £0.5 million to award in grants. 2014 Communities will continue to operate up to the Glasgow Commonwealth Games in 2014, but what we focus our funding on and how we deliver our funding may change based on learning leading up to 2014.

What is the overall aim of this programme?

2014 Communities is about building a legacy of well-being before and beyond the Commonwealth Games. The programme aims to encourage more people to take part or volunteer in sport or physical activity as well as encourage greater community cohesion in the run up to the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

What are the outcomes for this programme?

For this programme we want to fund projects that will achieve one or more of the following outcomes:

- More people take part in sport or physical activity.
- More people volunteer in sport or physical activity.
- More people and communities are brought together through taking part or volunteering in sport or physical activity.

What are priorities for this programme?

Because we want to see more people taking part and more volunteers in sport and physical activity from low participation groups such as women & girls, people who are disabled, people over 50 years of age, people under 25 years of age and people from black and minority ethnic communities, we are more likely to fund projects that meet one of these priorities. Our priorities may change in the future and will be updated on the 2014 webpage.

How will the programme be delivered?

Grants between £300 to £1,000 will be offered based on a process similar to the Awards for All model. However supporting documentation such as constitutions or governing documents and bank statements will only be requested once a conditional offer has been made. If the documents you return are satisfactory we will pay the grant directly into your organisation's bank account.

Are you eligible?

We will offer grants to sports clubs, voluntary and community organisations, community councils and schools. Branches of a larger organisation may be eligible to apply, but we will request the written support of the larger organisation in the event of an offer. Branches that are independent can apply in their own right. Groups can only apply for one grant in a 12 month period, with decisions made within 15 working days. Further information on how to apply can be found in page 8 of the [guidance notes](#) [Guidance notes for 2014 Communities programme. - 669KB.](#)

We would like the projects we fund to reach people who are less likely to take part in sport or physical activities. Our priorities are listed below.

- Getting more women and girls to take part in sport or physical activity.
- Getting more disabled people to take part in sport or physical activity.
- Getting more older people (over 50 years old) to take part in sport or physical activity.
- Getting more younger people (under 25 years old) and older people to take part in sport or physical activity together.
- Getting more people from black and minority ethnic communities to take part in sport or physical activity.

Your project does not need to meet any of these to be offered a grant but if we do not have enough funds to support all the projects we would like to, we are more likely to fund those that meet one of our priorities.

What to do next

Questions about 2014 Communities? [Find out more.](#)

Not eligible for a 2014 Communities? [Browse our other current programmes.](#)

Who do I contact for more information?

You can find out more about 2014 Communities and the work of the Big Lottery fund in Scotland by calling 0870 240 2391

Email us at enquiries.scotland@biglotteryfund.org.uk.

If you have a hearing impairment you can contact us using a textphone on 0141 242 1500.

Investing in Ideas

Summary of the programme

Do you have an idea that could help benefit your local community but do not know if it would work? The Big Lottery Fund has money to invest and we want to use it to turn your ideas into reality. We want to invest in Scotland's communities – and we want you to come to us with ideas we can invest in. The Scotland Committee is keen to continue funding the development of ideas, so Investing in Ideas will be open for applications using the current form and guidance materials until March 2010.

We have an additional £1.3 million to invest in the development of project ideas. So, would you like to start up a new activity for older people in your area but do not know if people would back it and make it viable? Investing In Ideas could help you carry out a survey and see if there is support for your idea. Or maybe you want to bring an existing building into community ownership and need to explore the feasibility of the project? Investing in Ideas could pay for a feasibility study to help you find out if the idea would work.

Investing in Ideas can award grants of £500 to £10,000 to test and develop ideas that could eventually become fully-fledged projects. Investing in Ideas could pay for the things that can turn your basic idea into a well-planned project including:

- market research
- feasibility studies
- business planning
- training for your committee
- exchange visits in the UK to see how other projects work
- community consultation
- professional advice
- technical reports and scheme design studies

It is important that your idea has the potential to fit with one of our four areas of investment. More information on these can be found in the [Investing in Communities](#) section.

Please note that although Investing in Communities is now closed, projects applying to Investing in Ideas still need to demonstrate a fit with an investment area.

Got the idea?

What to do next

Questions about Investing in Ideas? [Find out more.](#)

Not eligible for a Investing in Ideas? [Browse our other programmes](#)

Contact

If you'd like to discuss your idea to see if we're likely to help you develop it, phone us on 0870 240 2391

If you'd like to apply to Investing in Ideas and need a hardcopy of the application materials call 0845 606 11 99.

ARTS

The Elephant Trust

As the financial crisis bites we already have anecdotal evidence here of organisations losing money they had thought had been promised, and of some funders calling up to renegotiate the payment schedule of grants. This can leave you with unexpected shortfalls in projects where most of the money is in place. So we thought we'd mention The Elephant Trust, which, at least for artists and those presenting their work, might be a short-term solution. The Trust provides small grants usually up to £2000 or so, enabling an artist's show to go ahead when otherwise the funding would be hard to find. Any art form is accepted, but there is a preference for the visual arts.

What can you apply for?

The Trust is not a new one, we mention it here because of its ability to respond quickly and imaginatively at a time when some artists may be facing unexpected short-term crises.

The Trust was set up in 1975 to allow artists and those presenting their work to undertake and complete projects where funding was lacking. The Trustees are particularly keen to support work and artists and institutions that depart from the routine and signal new, distinctive and imaginative work. Priority is given to individual artists and small organisations or galleries.

Projects must take place in the UK and the emphasis is on production and exhibition of work; residencies and research **will not** be supported.

The Trust's modest income means that most grants are below £2500, but there are exceptions. Overall giving has been about £60,000 a year in recent years. Amongst those receiving £2000 last year were Kettle's Yard, Ikon Gallery, and Milton Keynes Gallery. 16 individual artists shared £27,234.

How to apply.

Application is brief and straightforward and must be by post. You will need:

- A maximum 300 word description of the project on one A4 sheet;
- A budget on one A4 sheet covering the total cost, the amount requested, details of other applications made, and the name and address of the prospective grant holder;
- A small collection of images of the artwork, on paper. About 6-8 at most, no bigger than 20 x 30 cms. You can include a few press cuttings or other similar materials too;
- A brief CV where relevant;
- A stamped and addressed envelope to return your stuff.

Applications need to be sent to:

Ruth Rattenbury
The Elephant Trust
512 Bankside Lofts
65 Hopton Street

London
SE1 9GZ

E-mail: ruth@elephanttrust.org.uk

Closing date: The next application deadlines are 14 April and 19 June 2009.

WOMEN AND GIRLS

Rosa

We first covered Rosa back in July 2008 when the creation of the UK-wide grant fund to support work with women and girls was first announced. The first grants programme has now opened to applications, with a modest £25,000 in total available to support projects that focus on body image, and specifically how women and girls can be supported to develop a positive body image. Priority will be given to projects working with girls and women under the age of 25.

Background.

This is the first of what will be several grant application rounds in this and future years.

The foundation has four policy areas, which are:

- Economic Justice;
- Health and Well-Being;
- Leadership;
- Safety.

The plan is to have quarterly application windows, with each window opening on one of the policy areas. By the end of the year each policy area will have been covered once.

In addition to the policy area, each application round will have a theme. So, for this application round the policy area is Health and Well-Being, and the theme is Body Image.

What are the guidelines?

Rosa is looking to support projects that help women and girls view themselves more positively and with less self-criticism. The guidelines suggest that this might include projects of the following type:

- A forum of disabled women set up to examine how society can be changed to counteract the negative idea that disabled people's problems stem from not having 'normal' bodies.
- A South Asian women's project looking at why young South Asian women living in the UK are at an increased risk of self-harm.
- A campaign to increase the number of media images of women with body sizes nearer to that of the majority of the population.
- Research to provide evidence on the need for eating disorder services.
- Projects to get women with poor body image more engaged in sporting activity.

But we must emphasise that these are illustrative examples, and Rosa is open to whatever specific interpretation you make of the theme.

Who can apply?

Applications are welcome from organisations with charitable objectives within the UK, working in the UK. The project must be run by women, but your organisation does not have to be a women's organisation.

The project must be carried out in partnership with at least one other organisation; this is because Rosa believes that solutions to problems need to be achieved by people working together. You also need to have a link with the media, either through local, national or specialist press, or through electronic media.

What can you apply for?

It is anticipated that this call for applications will result in 2 or 3 small grants of between £2000 and £3000, and one larger grant of between £10,000 and £20,000. You will need to use the money within 12 months of the grant being made.

Grants can be for revenue and/or capital costs, and might fund a project or be used to support core costs.

You will need to have some match funding: at least 20% of the value of the grant you are seeking.

More information and how to apply.

The women at Rosa have an unusually philosophical approach to their grantmaking and it would be well to understand this before you apply. You will get a flavour of it by reading the application guidelines at <http://rosa.plus-two.com/UserFiles/file/Rosa%20Grant%20Giving%20Information%20Pack%20February%202009.pdf>.

There is a two-stage application process, the first of which is to send in an application form. You may then be asked for follow-up information. The form is available at <http://rosa.plus-two.com/grants/default.aspx>. You can also contact either Ann-Sophie Morrissette or Dinah Cox on 020 7324 3044.

The closing date is 9 March 2009 and it is hoped that grants will be announced at the end of May 2009.

The contact address is:

Ann-Sophie Morrissette
Rosa
c/o WRC, Ground Floor East
33-41 Dallington Street
London
EC1V 0BB

Closing date: 9 March 2009.

COMMUNITY

Government Rescue Plan (mainly England)

The Government has published details of its rescue plan for charities and social enterprises in England (*with some reference to Scotland* and Wales) facing difficulties because of the recession/depression. Amongst the solutions are providing volunteering opportunities for jobseekers.

Background.

The plan is the result of several months' consultation managed by the Office of the Third Sector in response to pleas from the third sector to do something about the growing demand for services from communities and the risk of declining income to the sector. Called *Real Help for Communities: Volunteers, Charities and Social Enterprises*, the plan and the document is part of the Government's

broader 'Real help now' programme that offers solutions to the private sector too. There are some new fund names in there, but much of the content is a rebranding or restatement of existing or previously-promised schemes, a call to make the most of opportunities like Gift Aid that have been around for ages, and a celebration of programmes like Grassroots Grants, Futurebuilders and the volunteering organisation v.

The detail.

The Government has broken its rescue programme into two main sections: Meeting Demand for Services and Tackling Unemployment; and Strengthening the Sector Now and in the Future.

1. Meeting Demand for Services and Tackling Unemployment.

This set of schemes takes up £25.5 million of the £42.5 million offered by the programme as a whole.

Amongst the specific proposals are:

- Up to £10 million to a **volunteer brokerage scheme** for unemployed people to create over 40,000 opportunities for people to learn new skills. **Unlike most of the proposals, this one covers England, Wales and Scotland.** It will build on an existing DWP commitment to support the benefit entitlement of people on Jobseekers Allowance who volunteer. From April 2009 it will allow people who have been unemployed for at least 6 months to access suitable work-focussed placements without their benefits being affected.

There are also proposals to pilot new accreditation systems for smaller third sector welfare to work providers, and a national campaign to press upon government bodies that invoices should be paid

Real Help for Communities: Volunteers, Charities and Social Enterprises is available at www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/121758/real%20help%20for%20communities.pdf or by calling 0845 014 0010 quoting URN 09/Z1.

The Henry Smith Charity

New Guidelines for work taking place in Scotland: Revenue and Capital Grants

The Henry Smith Charity is a UK-wide grant maker distributing approximately £25 million each year.

From 1st March 2009, the Henry Smith Charity is piloting a new application process for eligible projects in Scotland.

Applicants must use the new guidelines and application form if they wish to apply for a grant towards a Revenue or Capital project taking place in Scotland, regardless of whether or not the organisation is based there.

If the grant being applied for is UK-wide or is regional but involves some work in Scotland, please refer to the Henry Smith Charity's Main Grants Programme guidelines.

Please look at the website for further details and the application form. These will be available towards the end of February.

www.henrysmithcharity.org.uk

The Centre for Social Justice Awards

Application Deadline 17 March 2009
Awards Ceremony 1 July 2009

The CSJ Awards recognise and reward effective poverty fighting groups from across the UK. You can apply now for your organisation's chance to win from a prize fund of over £50,000! The Awards ceremony will take place in central London on Wednesday 1 July 2009 at 7pm.

What are we looking for?

If you are a charity, small voluntary group, or other project tackling poverty in your local area and helping turn lives around, then we want to hear from you. You will be people focused, tackling causes as well as symptoms, practical, entrepreneurial, driven by conviction and motivated by compassion. Most importantly, whether a small organization on a shoe string, or a larger organization with robust funding streams, you will be helping people out of poverty and/or reversing social breakdown. Effective poverty fighting groups with or without charitable status are welcome to apply. To get an idea of who has won an award browse through each year to view videos of winning groups.

How to apply

There is no application form. Simply describe in 500 words or less how your organization makes an exceptional contribution to tackling poverty and turning lives around.

Evidence of anecdotal and numerical results of how lives are being turned around are particularly welcome.

Supporting evidence of up to 15 pages may be attached to your application. This can include press articles, evaluation reports or applications for funding. Documents sent to us cannot be returned.

Where to send your application

Applications can be posted or emailed to arrive by 5pm on the 17 March 2009.

We would be particularly pleased to receive your applications by email and/or pdf or word format rather than hard copy where possible.

Organisations that have applied before are welcome to apply up to a maximum of twice.

Please send them to:

By email

awards@centreforsocialjustice.org.uk

By post

CSJ Awards 2009

The Centre for Social Justice

9 Westminster Palace Gardens

Artillery Row

London

SW1P 1RL

Judging Panel

The judging panel comprises senior figure from business, politics and the voluntary sector, and this year, is likely to include:

Camila Batmanghelidjh (Kids Company)

Rt Hon Frank Field MP (Labour MP and former Welfare Reform Minister)

Revered Luke Geoghegan

Bob Holman (Social Affairs Writing)

Rt Hon Theresa May MP (Shadow Cabinet Member)

Tim Campbell (Entrepreneur & winner of the apprentice (2005))

Tris Lumley (Senior Analyst, New Philanthropy Capital)

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation Relocation

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation is moving offices, as of 2nd February 2009 our new contact details will be:

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation

Kings Place

90 York Way

London N1 9AG

Telephone: 0207 8123 700
Fax: 0207 8123 701

The Voluntary Action Fund Community Chest

The Voluntary Action Fund (VAF) is pleased to announce that the Community Chest has re-opened for new applications. The Community Chest, a new grant aimed at smaller community groups and voluntary organisations across Scotland, will provide grants of up to £1,000 and free training to groups with an annual income under £25,000.

Groups can apply for funding for a wide range of activities or operational costs. However, we are particularly keen to fund activities that will help build and develop strong organisations, for example; training for committee members and volunteers; visits to other organisations and conferences or professional support and consultancy.

Applications for the Community Chest programme are welcome throughout the year with deadlines on 31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December. Groups wishing to apply for a Community Chest grant can download the application form and guidance notes from the VAF website at www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk. Alternatively contact Patricia or Chris at the Voluntary Action Fund, either by telephone on 01383 620780 or by e-mail at Patricia.McKibben@voluntaryactionfund.org.uk.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

LankellyChase Summer Playschemes

Once again, the LankellyChase Foundation is inviting applications for small grants of £500 to support summer playschemes throughout the UK. Playschemes must benefit children between 5-17 years old. Projects with strong volunteer support are especially encouraged. There is particular interest this year in supporting specific activities for children and young people living in refuges, and for young carers.

Preference is given to small playschemes that will benefit most from the grants of £500. The trustees will also be looking for evidence that your organisation is affiliated to a relevant nationally recognised body and adhering to national standards of practice. Around 120 grants will be made this year, the aim being to ensure a spread of support throughout the UK.

If you have any questions about your plans or eligibility you can seek advice by e-mail at enquiries@lankellychase.org.uk. There is a simple application form, available at www.lankellychase.org.uk or by contacting:

The LankellyChase Foundation
1 The Court
High Street
Harwell
Didcot
Oxfordshire
OX11 0EY

Tel: 01235 820044.

Closing date: You should apply as soon as possible, but certainly no later than 8 May 2009. Decisions will be announced in June.

Young Scot Scotland in Focus

Young Scot is calling for applications to fund projects that will enhance the environment and appearance of urban areas and neighbourhoods around the country. Scotland in Focus has been created to encourage young people in Scotland to identify and improve the places that are important

to them. Areas that have been neglected, affected by litter, vandalism, or would benefit from projects such as community gardens will be considered for funding. Applications should consist of photography of the chosen area, a brief description of how the site will be improved and how much money is required for the project. Submissions should be made through the website where visitors will be able to rate individual projects. High ranking entries will be considered and successful applications will receive the requested funding allowing them to turn their plans into reality.

For more details [click here](#)

ENVIRONMENT

B&Q One Planet Living Awards

B&Q, the do-it-yourself superstore business, is inviting applications to its One Planet Living Awards for 2009. This is the second year of the Awards, which were previously known as 'You Can Do It'. To celebrate B&Q's 40th year in business the Awards have been extended this year, with almost twice the number of winners than last year. Community organisations and charities across the UK and Ireland can win between £2000 and £10,000 worth of B&Q products to do up their premises or provide materials for their project.

Who can apply?

Applications are invited from most community-based organisations, charities, and schools within the UK and Ireland. The only prohibition is applications from winners of 'You Can Do It' Awards in 2006 or 2007 or a One Planet Living Award in 2008. 'You Can Do It' Award winners before 2006 are able to apply.

Projects must take place within the UK or Ireland.

What can you apply for?

Forty Awards are on offer, Awards being the value of B&Q goods you have access to, not cash sums:

- 1 of £10,000;
- 4 of £5000;
- 35 of £2000.

Applicants must be needing materials for projects that fall into one or more of the following categories:

- **Saving energy:** projects that will help contribute to the health of the planet through the reduction of energy use or an active effort to limit their environmental footprint.
- **Conserving nature:** projects that will support, protect and celebrate the natural habitats in local communities including community gardens, meadows, wetlands, chalk rivers and forests.
- **Supporting local culture and heritage:** projects that will support, enhance and celebrate valuable aspects of local culture and heritage including its roots and traditions, local buildings, local building techniques, local produce and local arts and crafts.
- **Growing your own:** projects that will grow produce and involve the local community.

Wind turbines or solar panels cannot be provided because of the planning application and building assessments required to install them.

Project work must be undertaken between 22 June and 25 September 2009.

More information and how to apply.

Applications are invited up to 27 March 2009. The winners will be announced in June 2009. You must use a form, and they are available, along with a limited amount of additional information, at

www.diy.com/diy/jsp/bq/templates/content_lookup.jsp?content=/aboutbandq/2004/social_responsibility/YCDI_Awards/faqs.jsp, or by calling the 24 hour application hotline on 0845 300 1001.

B&Q will not discuss applications or provide any advice, but there is a list of last year's winners at www.diy.com/diy/jsp/bq/templates/content_lookup.jsp?content=/aboutbandq/2004/social_responsibility/YCDI_Awards/2008_winners.jsp that may be assistance.

Closing date: 27 March 2009.

Scottish Energy Efficiency Housing Prize

A new £1 million pound annual prize fund is to be launched in April 2009 to inspire innovative ways of improving the energy efficiency of Scotland's housing sector. Called the Scottish Energy Efficiency Design Awards, they will focus on innovation and design solutions to encourage the development of low carbon buildings, with a particular emphasis on housing. The aim is to support pioneering and affordable solutions that can inspire others. Bids will be invited from housing providers, the building and construction industry, and community groups.

More information.

Further details have yet to be published. The Awards will be managed by The Energy Saving Trust, and potential applicants and interested parties should keep an eye on the Website at www.energysavingtrust.org.uk or contact Jennie Devlin at the Energy Saving Trust on 0131 555 7900. The Scottish Government press release announcing the scheme is available at www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/02/03100504.

Carbon Trust Applied Research Grants

The Carbon Trust has doubled the size of grants available under its Applied Research Scheme. Grants of up to £500,000 are available to support ambitious projects put forward by research bodies, not for profit organisations or private businesses to support the development and commercialisation of technologies that have the potential to reduce UK carbon emissions. Whilst most grants have gone to the private sector in the past, some have been picked up by universities and by housing associations and others seeking to develop technologies for use in socially purposive settings.

Background.

The Applied Research Programme sits alongside a number of other schemes offered by various grantmakers to encourage the use of low carbon technologies. The key point of this one is the aim to take fledgling technologies and develop them into something that is commercially or otherwise deployable on a larger scale. Projects need to:

- Be genuine innovations with the potential to reduce substantially UK greenhouse gas emissions;
- Build on previous activities;
- Have results that will allow a clear step forward on the path towards commercialisation;
- Represent good value for money;
- Provide demonstrative benefits within the UK.

Among the kind of thing that voluntary organisations or local authorities have been funded for are:

- Bradford West City Community Housing Trust, for a building-integrated wind turbine demonstration;
- Hertfordshire County Council for a demonstration project in Howe Dell School;
- Shropshire County Council for heat pumps in rural off gas grid buildings.

What can you apply for?

Grants are unlikely to be for less than £50,000 and can be up to £500,000. At least 40% match funding is required.

How to apply.

Bids are accepted during a series of application windows. The current window is open until 16 April 2009. Further ones will follow between 22 June and 20 August 2009, and 26 October and 24 December 2009.

Applications must be made online, and there is a two-stage process beginning with an outline proposal. All the information is available at www.carbontrust.co.uk/technology/appliedresearch/. A full list of previously funded projects is available at www.carbontrust.co.uk/technology/appliedresearch/successfulprojects.htm.

Closing date: The next closing date is 16 April 2009

Architectural Heritage Fund

The Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) has published its application closing dates for 2009. The Fund provides grants and low-cost loans for the conservation of listed or scheduled buildings, or those in conservation areas, within the UK. Applicants must be registered charities or Building Preservation Trusts. Grants for repair are not available, only grants for conservation appraisal.

What can you apply for?

The Fund provides grants and low-interest loans.

- **Grants** come in a variety of forms, but organisations that are not registered Building Preservation Trusts can only apply for **Options Appraisal Grants**. These cover up to 75% of the cost of an initial options appraisal to see if the project is likely to qualify for a further AHF loan. The maximum grant is normally £7500, but in exceptional circumstances you can get up to £12,500.

Options Appraisal Grants are to help you look at the key conservation issues affecting your building, examine all the options for conservation in outline, and consider the viability of the most beneficial option. You should also use this as an opportunity to consider all the possible avenues for funding the work. The outcome must be a report that brings together conservation and financial findings in the form of an implementation strategy covering the preferred option.

- **Loans** are available as working capital to allow purchase of property or the cost of capital conservation works. To be eligible to apply you must either own the building, be able to acquire it, or have a long lease.

The maximum loan is normally £500,000 and security is required. The interest rates are currently 4% for conservation work and 6% for acquisitions. Loans normally last two years, or until the building is sold, whichever is the earlier.

More information and application details.

There are extensive guidance notes for both grants and loans. They are available at www.ahfund.org.uk/finance_grants.html and www.ahfund.org.uk/finance_loans.html respectively. You will also need an application form. There are quarterly application deadlines, and the next three for 2009 are 7 May for a June meeting, 13 August for a September meeting, and 22 October for a December meeting.

The contact address is:

The Architectural Heritage Fund
Alhambra House
27-31 Charing Cross Road
London
WC2H 0AU

Tel: 020 7925 0199.

E-mail: ahf@ahfund.org.uk.

Closing date: The next closing date is 7 May 2009. The two further dates this year are 13 August and 22 October 2009.

FREEBIES

Free Management Support from the Cranfield Trust

The Cranfield Trust (www.cranfieldtrust.org) is recognised as the UK's leading provider of free management consultancy support to charities and social enterprises across the country. Now celebrating our twentieth anniversary, we will be offering free management support on a friendly one to one basis to over 200 organisations in 2009.

What type of support is available?

We can help in many ways. Perhaps your business plan needs updating or you are considering a new trading opportunity and would like some help in planning it. You may be thinking of taking a fresh look at your marketing plan or have staffing issues (e.g. reviewing salary scales, reporting structure, team building). We would be pleased to help with these and many other areas.

To ensure each assignment is appropriately skills matched, the Trust allocates a local Project Manager to every project assignment. This enables you to leverage the maximum benefits from the volunteer's time and expertise.

Who is eligible for support?

The Cranfield Trust's management consultancy projects are available to charities and social enterprises whose primary purpose is to tackle issues of poverty, disability and social exclusion.

How do I find out more information? :

Please visit our website www.cranfieldtrust.org for further information. For an informal discussion about a free management consultancy project please call Iain Ferguson or Jane Whitworth on 0844 800 3390, or email admin@cranfieldtrust.org

Registered Charity No. 800072 www.cranfieldtrust.org

We gratefully acknowledge the use of some information from the Argyll and Bute Funding Alert.