

Third Sector Investment Programme
Financial Assistance Fund 2010 to 2011

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
December 2010

1. ELIGIBILITY

Q: Who can apply for grants under this programme?

A: Organisations must meet the conditions set out in Section 64 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968 to be eligible to receive a grant under this fund. The Act gives the Secretary of State for Health the power to award grants to not for profit organisations in England whose activities support our priorities. You can find more detail in the information pack available at www.dh.gov.uk/thirdsectorinvestment.

Q: My organisation is not health or social care focused. Can we apply?

A: Grants can only be awarded to organisations "...providing a service similar to a service provided by the National Health Service or by Local Authority social services ...". If your organisation does not have a health, well being or social care focus you may not be eligible. If you are unsure, you can check your charity's objects or your organisation's objects (as set out in your Memorandum and Articles of Association). If your objects allow you to carry out health focused activities then you will meet this eligibility criteria. We may ask you to provide details of your organisation's objects if we cannot get this from existing sources such as the Charity Commission website.

Q: My organisation is based and registered in Scotland. Can we apply?

A: Any activity or support to be funded must take place in England. Organisations based in Scotland (or Wales or N Ireland) can apply so long as the activity or support will take place in England. The fund is not available for activities that take place in the devolved administrations of Wales, Ireland or Scotland. The devolved administrations have their own arrangements.

Q: Do my organisation's activities need to be of a national significance?

A: No. This fund is aimed at organisations that may be experiencing a gap or reduction in funding and are at risk of closure but where there is a realistic long-term plan in place to sustain the organisation.

Q: I have submitted an application under the Innovation, Excellence and Service Development Fund for 2011/12. Does this mean I cannot apply for the Financial Assistance Fund?

A: No, any eligible organisation can apply.

2. THE APPLICATION PROCESS

A: How do I apply for a grant?

Q: To apply to the fund, you will need to submit an application made on a Word form, available from our website. Completed applications, with supporting information should be emailed to thirdsectorinvestment@dh.gsi.gov.uk no later than noon on 19 January 2011. We will let you know whether your application is successful by email in February 2011.

A: I do not have internet access. How do I apply?

Q: We use email to communicate with applicants. Please contact us if this is likely to cause a problem for your organisation. Not having internet or email access should not put you off making an application if your organisation is eligible. We can make alternative arrangements.

Q: Do I need to register on the AIMS application system?

A: No.

3. COMPLETING MY APPLICATION

A: Can I make more than one application?

Q: No. Organisations can only submit one application.

Q: In the application you ask us to indicate how much funding our organisation is requesting. Is there a maximum that we can apply for?

A: There is no maximum limit. However, availability of funds is limited and each application will be assessed on its merits.

Q: I am also applying to the Office of Civil Society Transition Fund. Can I apply for this as well?

A: Yes, although we may discuss your application with the Big Lottery Fund to ensure there is no duplication of funding.

Q: Is the word limit of 400 for the whole form?

A: No. The word limit of 400 applies to four questions in the "Funding Details" section - 1.6, 1.7, 1.8 and 1.11.

Q: I'd like to discuss my proposal. Whom should I contact?

A: Please contact the Third Sector Grant Funding Hub on 0113 2545450 or email thirdsectorinvestment@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Q: Do I have to discuss my application?

A: You do not have to discuss your proposals and preference is not given to organisations that have talked to the Department of Health or Strategic Partners.

Q: Can I discuss my application face to face with someone?

A: Unfortunately, due to the large numbers of applications involved and the timescales, it is not possible for us to meet to discuss applications. All

applicants will be notified in February 2011 of the outcome of their applications.

Q: How will you assess applications to the Financial Assistance Fund?

A: We will initially assess applications based on the conditions for eligibility set out in the information pack. If your organisation is not eligible under these conditions, we will reject your application.

We will then assess your application based on the information provided. We may want to discuss your application with you. If this is the case, we will contact you.

The Fund has a limited budget and so we will have to prioritise applications. It is important that you read the information pack and tell us exactly how your application meets the eligibility criteria we have described.

Q: When will we know if we have been successful?

A: We aim to let you know in February 2011 if you have been successful. If you have not heard anything by the end February 2011, please contact us. If there are any delays, we will let you know about the delay, the reason for the delay and give you a new date when you will hear from us.

4. GENERAL

Q: Where can I get information?

A: You can download an information pack from our website at www.dh.gov.uk/thirdsectorinvestment.

If you need more information after reading the pack, you can email the team at thirdsectorinvestment@dh.gsi.gov.uk or call 0113 2545450.

Q: What involvement have the DH Strategic Partners had in this application process?

A: The Strategic Partners' role is to communicate the Fund to their members and networks to identify organisations most at risk in this financial year. They will communicate with the Department as to which organisations are interested in applying and then support those organisations through the application process. They may also assist, where helpful, with the assessment process.

Q: What is the Compact?

A: The Renewed Compact is an agreement between the Coalition Government, and their associated Non-Departmental Public Bodies, Arms Length Bodies and Executive Agencies, and civil society organisations (CSOs) in England. The agreement aims to ensure that the Government and CSOs work effectively in partnership to achieve common goals and outcomes for the benefit of communities and citizens in England. See the Compact website for more information - www.thecompact.org.uk. We are committed to following the Compact and recognise the need to continue to promote it within all our agencies.

For more information, please contact the Third Sector Grant Funding Hub at thirdsectorinvestment@dh.gsi.gov.uk or see our website at www.dh.gov.uk/thirdsectorinvestment.