Funding for food projects

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Different sources of funding

- Local grants and trusts

- Funding from health bodies and local authorities

- National funding streams

- European funding

The types of funding you're eligible to apply for will depend on :

- What type of organisation you are.

- What type of project you are working on.

- Who you are working with, and

- Where you are based.

Local grants and trusts

- There are lots of local grants and trusts in each village, town, county or region.
- You can find out details via Funder Finder databases and books or via your local CVS.
- Grants are often quite small – i.e. £1000 or less.
- Minimum monitoring and reporting requirements.
- Simple application process.
- Often quite quick turn around depending on how frequently the trustees meet.
- Good to apply for capital items
- The Community Fruit and Veg Project received £1,000 from Isabel Blackman Trust for IT and other equipment and also a small grant to pay for marketing materials.

Health bodies and Local Authorities

- Often run small grant schemes for £500 - £1000 for community projects.
- Larger pots of funding may be available via health commissioners or projects runs in partnership with PCTs and LAs.
- Many food & health projects have been started with grants and support from PCTs & LAs but continued funding is more difficult.
- There may also be other sources of funding for businesses / job creation which are more relevant to social enterprises.
- Good to get in touch at the end of the financial year – when pots of money may need to be spent.
- You need to build up a good relationship with officers.
- The Community Fruit and Veg Project was originally started by the PCT and continued to receive funding from them.
- CFVP also got a grant for £5,000 from Hastings Borough Council to develop an e-commerce website for their box scheme.
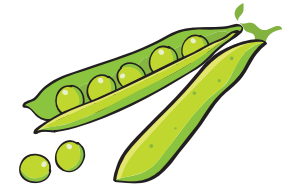
National funding streams

- There are various national funding bodies which have streams focussing on food, health and/or environment e.g.
- Big Lottery Local Food Fund, Esmee Fairbairn Foundation
- Other grants are not specifically focussing on food but are open to wide range of projects, particularly in disadvantaged areas e.g.
- Big Lottery Awards for All, Reaching Communities and Tudor Trust
- There are also a few food and health focussed awards but are much more competitive and only have a small number of grants e.g.
- Healthy Heart Grants – Heart Rese arch UK and FSA Sheila McKechnie Awards
- Grants can range from £10,000 to £500,000
- Large grant applications require a lot more work and planning
- CFVP applied to Awards for All for £5,000 for a delivery van
- CFVP received over £350,000 for a 5 year project from Reaching Communities

European funding

- The European Union funds a variety of programmes. These are available to organisations and businesses.
- E.g. Leader +, Interreg Funding, the European Social Fund and EU Structural Funds – Objective 1, 2 and 3.
- These are generally only available to specific areas of the UK, and some will require projects to have a partner in another part of Europe.
- Many grants will also require you to have significant match funding from other sources.
- European funding is often quite difficult to apply for and has quite stringent monitoring and reporting requirements.
- The CFVP received Leader + funding via the WARR partnership to expand the project into rural areas.

Top tips

- Start small – apply for small grants first to get practice at writing bids and build up a track record for getting funding.

- Work out how long it will take you to apply and what the monitoring/reporting requirements are – and if it is worth the effort in terms of the amount of the funding you'll get.

- Have standard text that you can use in all your funding applications so they can be completed quickly and you can apply for lots of different grants at the same time.

- Always check the closing date and make sure you get your bid in in time – do not leave it to the last minute.

- Get your figures right and make sure your budget adds up.

- Describe the project in a way that meets the funder's priorities and provide the information required.