

Searching for Funding

Searching for funding can be a time-consuming exercise, regardless of the type of project or the level of funding required. This factsheet will give you helpful hints and tips of where to get the best information when looking for funding for your project.

The funding landscape can be fast-moving with opportunities that have short timescales, new funding sources being launched and existing funding sources coming to an end. Knowing how to find this information and keeping up to date with new initiatives will give you the best chance of being successful.

Information, Advice and Support

Northumberland CVA can offer one to one advice and support to voluntary and community groups and organisations within Northumberland.

We also organise regular funding events that allow local groups to meet with local, regional, and national funders. Additionally, we produce a fortnightly e-bulletin that includes up to date information about funding sources and deadlines. If you are interested in receiving the e-bulletin regularly, you can get in touch using the contact details at the end of this fact sheet or sign-up via our website www.northumberlandcva.org.uk.

Funding Search Engines

There is a large industry based on charging fees for access to funding search engines, but a number are provided for free or low cost.

Funding Central – www.fundingcentral.org.uk

Funding Central is a website for charities, voluntary organisations, and social enterprises. It is managed by NCVO and is free to organisations with income below £100,000; for those above this level the cost is £100 + VAT per year.

Other sources of funding information:

North East Guide to Grants for Voluntary Organisations **– Funding Information North East / VONNE**

This guide (often referred to as the FINE guide) is an easy-to-use book detailing over 100 Charitable Trusts and Foundations that have a significant grant-making presence in the North East of England, with information on more than £55 million available annually to voluntary & community groups and social enterprises. For groups with an annual income of less than £50,000 the guide can be purchased for a 50% reduction on a 'first come first served' basis.

Fine On-Line

FINE also produce Fine On-line – An e-bulletin sent fortnightly - approximately 26 issues a year allowing subscribers to keep up to date with funding opportunities.

Contact the FINE Project Officer on 0191 2332000 or visit the website www.vonne.org.uk/funding-and-support.



Directory of Social Change

The Directory of Social Change produces several publications, including the Directory of Grant Making Trusts, which includes details of 2,500 trusts with the potential to give at least £25,000 each. The publication is an extensive document, and the current price is £125, which reflects the size of the book and the amount of research that goes into it.

Volume 1 of the Guide to Major Trusts contains information on the 400 largest trusts that give over £300,000 per year; volume 2 contains information on 1,100 smaller trusts. Each of these books is priced at £75.

The Directory of Social Change also produces specialist funding guides on sport, environment, youth, and education.

There are also several subscription-based websites available through DSC including sites on trust funding, company giving, Government funding and grants for individuals.

Website: www.dsc.org.uk.

Funders

A number of funders produce their own newsletters which provide information on available funding and recent awards.

Examples:

The Community Foundation Serving Tyne & Wear and Northumberland.
www.communityfoundation.org.uk/newsletter

The Big Lottery produces a regional e-bulletin www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/about-big/ebulletin-subscription

Other useful tips

Look at other organisations' annual reports, websites, and promotional material to see where they have secured funding for their own projects.

- Network with other organisations
- Social networking – crowdfunding

Further information

Northumberland Community Voluntary Action (Northumberland CVA) has access to a wide range of resources to help you identify appropriate funders for your projects. For more information, advice and support email enquire@northumberlandcva.org.uk or call 01670 858688.