Grassroots Grants: Frequently Asked Questions

What is Grassroots Grants

The Grassroots Grants programme is a government funded programme which is managed by O-Regen in Waltham Forest. The funding is for three years and the amount which will be distributed in each year is as follows:

2008/09	£108,000
2009/10	£116,000
2010/2011	£121,000

Who is eligible for Grassroots Grants recipients

The purpose of this programme is to support small informal voluntary and community groups and organisations, many of whom are dependent on volunteers.

This may be the first grant for many of the groups that apply to Grassroots Grants.

The types of group or organisation that we want Local Funders to fund though Grassroots Grants will be:

- a not-for-profit, third sector voluntary or community group, active in Waltham Forest for not less than 12 months prior to 31 December 2007
- have an evidenced income of less than £20,000 per annum, taken as an average turnover for the last three financial years (or over the life of the group if it is less than three years old), and net of any grants received through the Grassroots Grants programme
- be volunteer led (i.e. with largely volunteer based input)
- be connected with and/or meeting the needs of the local community
- have a governing document that has as a minimum the name, aim/purpose, objects, a dissolution clause for the organisation, a list of Trustees/Committee members, and Trustees/Committee member signatures.

The programme is not eligible to provide funding for individuals.

Eligible Expenditure:

Examples of what can be funded are:

- the purchase of equipment, like a computer, oven, furniture
- the costs of putting on a local event or workshop
- staff costs to enable the employment of individuals
- contribution to rent costs (related to activities/service delivery)
- the cost of attending a conference or event
- training for volunteers
- additional activities to expand an existing funded project
- activities that support community activity

- activities that meet an identified need in the local community
- funding to support an organisation to achieve a quality or other standard relevant to their activities.

These are just examples and we expect that Grassroots Grants will be led by the needs of local groups and organisations, and local people.

What are the things we will **not** fund

- statutory organisations, such as Local Authorities, schools and the Police Force
- regional or local offices of a national organisation
- arms length public sector organisations that are controlled wholly or in part by, for example, a Local Authority, a Primary Care Trust or agencies of these
- any party political activity
- commercial ventures
- organisations that are for the sole benefit or relief of animals or plants.
- The grants must be used for activity within Waltham Forest.
- there are some restrictions on the types of activities that can be supported for Asylum Seeker groups. This funding cannot be used for the provision of services to asylum seekers when those services are inconsistent with immigration laws or Home Office policy. For the purposes of this fund, an 'asylum seeker' means a person who has brought an asylum or human rights claim in the UK which has not yet been determined by either the Secretary of State or, as applicable, any relevant appellate authorities. It also includes a person who is a dependant on such a claim. Further information can be found at http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk

How much can a group apply for?

The maximum grant to a local organisation will be £5,000 and the minimum will be £250.

To ensure maximum flexibility organisations will be able to apply for either a one-off payment or a grant spread over a maximum of the three year period (2008 – 2011), but with no portion of that spread being less than the minimum grant amount.

This means applicants can bid for £5,000 over the three year period (single application), or as a single one-off payment, or a number of grants (multiple applications over time) that total no more than £5,000 in the life of the grant scheme

Groups may apply to Grassroots Grants for assistance towards capital purchases. For the purposes of this programme, capital costs are defined as being for any single asset that costs more than £1,000 (net of VAT), and that has a life of more than one year.

It should be noted that only 7.5% of the grant fund for Waltham Forest can be allocated by O-Regen for capital expenditure. The following table provides a breakdown of the allocation for capital funding

2008/09 £108,000 of which £8,100 will be allocated for capital expenditure

2009/10 £116,000 of which £8,700 will be allocated for capital expenditure
2010/2011 £121,000 of which £9,075 will be allocated for capital expenditure

Groups need to be aware that given the competition for funds, groups may not receive all of their requests for capital funding.

It should be noted that applicants can only receive £5,000 in total from Grassroots Grants. Thus if a group receives funding from two or more grassroots funds and this total exceeds £5,000, then the excess will need to be repaid.

Priorities for 2009/10

The programme will have three priorities for 2009/2010. These priorities are:

- Sporting related activity
- Arts and Cultural activity
- General

Each category will receive £38,000.

Round 1 will prioritise Sporting and General priorities
Round 2 will prioritise Arts and Cultural and General Priorities
Round 3 will prioritise across all three prioritises.

What is the small grants programme?

The small grants programme enables community groups to apply for funding up to £900. This programme is available continuously throughout the year.

What happens if some of our participants are from outside Waltham Forest?

The grassroots programme is designed to help the residents of Waltham Forest. If a group has a number of participants from outside Waltham Forest e.g. Newham then they should be looking to submit an application to the Grassroots programme for Newham. However groups need to be aware that Grassroots will only fund a group up to £5,000 over the lifetime of the programme. A community group cannot get £5k from more than one grassroots area. If a group does receive over £5k by mistake then this will come to light by way of the central co-ordinating system, and the group will be asked to repay any monies over and above the £5k.

Can Grassroots Grants support religious groups?

Grassroots grants can only support activities undertaken by religious groups and organisations so long as the activity that they are proposing is inclusive and open to all.

What is the closing date for this round of Grassroots Grants?

The closing date for this round of Grassroots Grants is **5th June 2009.**

The Independent Panel is due to meet on the week ending 10th July 2009.

The next round will be launched beginning of September 2009, with closing date at the end of November and Independent Panel sitting mid December 2008.

The final round for the financial year 2008/09 will be launched in December 2008 and close in February 2009.

Do we have to apply for £5,000?

Community groups can apply for up to £5,000 from Grassroots Grants (the minimum grant is £250). This can be in the form of one grant application, or through a series of grant applications throughout the three years of the grassroots programme. A community group can thus apply for more than one grant application. Many community groups may wish to apply under the smaller grants programme.

If my group has not been successful will that prevent us applying again?

No. Each group will receive feedback on any unsuccessful application. This feedback is designed to help the community group in future applications.