

Funding Information Sheet 2: Researching Funders

This information sheet will provide you with some basic advice to help you identify suitable funders to support your organisation or proposed project.

Where to find funders

- Community First Yorkshire's [Funding Bulletin](#) – organisations in North Yorkshire or Community First Yorkshire members can sign up [here](#) for our free monthly Funding Bulletin with all the latest funds in an easy to read format.
- **Searchable databases:** find the right fund by typing in information about your organisation and project. Funding Central (free), Grantsnet, Grantfinder, and Grantsonline are all examples. You may have to pay to access some of these. We can run tailored grant searches for organisations in North Yorkshire using IDOX, a grant finding database.
- **Internet searches:** download guidelines and application forms on funders websites.
- **Funding Fairs:** local infrastructure organisations like Community First Yorkshire, often organise local Funding Fairs where you can meet funders face to face to discuss your project.
- Other **newsletters:** sign up to receive to receive funding bulletins and newsletters, which will provide up to date news on funding opportunities.

Getting started

Before you start, spend some time thinking about your project. Work out what you want to do and how are you going to do it. Become confident with answering these questions:

- What do you want the funding for? Be specific.
- Who are you involving in your project?
- How do you know there is a need for the funding?
- What will change with the funding?
- How much funding do you need?
- What resources will you need to get the funding?

Next look at the potential funders. Find out all about the funder you are going to, what they do and how they operate. What's their vision and what are they aiming to do? Does your organisation or intended project reflect the funder's values and goals?

Eligibility

Most funders have fixed eligibility criteria, for example:

- Only funding a specific type of organisation - funders may fund groups which are constituted in a certain way, for example, most Charitable Trusts and Foundations will only fund charities which are registered with the Charity Commission.

- The right amount - you must ensure that the total cost of your project and the amount you are requesting is within the funder's guidelines.
- The right type of project – a funder may only give funding towards either capital or revenue costs, or may specify on what aspect the majority of the grant should be spent.
- The right timescale – some funds run for a limited time period or have set deadlines.
- Match funding (funding from another source) – some funders either want you to secure match funding or may want to be the sole funder. Sometimes match funding can be 'in kind' or volunteer hours.
- A specific audience or subject – funders may focus on children, young people, people with learning disabilities. They may focus on heritage, arts conservation, economic development etc.
- National, regional or local – funders may only work in particular areas.

Make sure you:

- Understand timescales: find out how often the funders meetings are held and deadlines for getting your applications in. How long does it take for funders to make a decision? Does it fit with your timescale? Funders generally won't fund a project if it begins before they have awarded funding.
- Plan for keeping track: find out what requirements they have in relation to monitoring and evaluation and make sure you will be able to do the paperwork while you are delivering the project.
- Have the support of your committee: ensure that your committee is aware you are submitting the application and that they fully support the project as the funder may want to visit your organisation and talk to your committee members.
- Take advice: make an appointment to see a development officer at Community First Yorkshire so they can help you write a successful funding application and can read through a copy of the application before it is sent off.

Do always read a funder's guidelines. Read them carefully. If the funder is not relevant to your scheme or organisation, move on and find a funder that is. Don't apply to funds just because they are there. You will either:

- Waste time and not be successful as your project won't fit the criteria
- Risk changing your aims and objectives to fit the funders' criteria.

Remember whom your project was intended to benefit, how and why. If you select a funder that best matches your project, you are more likely to stay in control of it.

Additional Support

Community First Yorkshire can help you choose the funding that is right for you. We can support you on a one to one or group training basis by helping you to develop your project, research the right funder, plan a funding strategy, and give you advice about any funding applications you would like to submit. Simply fill in an [enquiry form](#) and we'll get back to you.

You can sign up for our news bulletins [here](#):

- Our monthly Funding Bulletin lists updated funding opportunities.
- Our weekly newsletter has information about the volunteer and charity sector, including training courses about funding.