SOME OF THE LATEST GRANT FUNDING STREAMS

Affordable Homes Programme 2015-18 – Homes & Communities Agency
On 27 January 2014 the Homes & Communities Agency (HCA) launched the prospectus inviting housing associations, councils, developers and others to bid for a share of up to £1.7bn of grant funding for delivery of new affordable housing outside London. Homes delivered with this funding will contribute to the Government’s ambition to deliver up to 165,000 new affordable homes across the country between 2015-2018.

The 2015-18 Affordable Homes Programme (AHP) is largely based on the current 2011-15 Affordable Homes Programme model. The HCA has taken the opportunity to introduce some new features which will be factored into the bidding process and the programme itself, building on lessons learned from the current programme.

There will be two routes to bidding: either firm schemes only, or the mixed route comprised of firm schemes and indicative proposals. Any bidder will be able to bid for firm schemes only. Current HCA Investment Partners with a proven track record of good delivery will be able to access the mixed route, where this has been agreed with the HCA. This is intended to maximise certainty of delivery, and delivery of firm schemes will be encouraged early on in the programme in order to help maintain an even supply of affordable homes.

A portion of the £1.7bn funding will be retained for future bids through ongoing Market Engagement. This will allow organisations to take the longer timeframes they need to submit funding bids where schemes are not fully worked up by noon at 30 April 2014 when the formal bid round closes. This approach is also intended to encourage bidders to bring forward a higher proportion of firm and realistically deliverable schemes at the outset as it will allow them the flexibility to respond to development opportunities as these arise.


Coastal Communities Fund – Big Lottery
The Coastal Communities Fund (CCF) aims to encourage the economic development of UK coastal communities by awarding funding to create sustainable economic growth and jobs. The third and final round of the current CCF programme will open on 10 January 2014. Grants of £50,000 and over are available. The closing date for stage 1 applications will be February 2014 (date to be confirmed).


Alternative Broadband Technologies Fund – Department for Culture, Media & Sport
A £10 million fund will be available to alternative technology providers who come forward with innovative ideas to help superfast broadband reach Britain’s most remote communities. Potential technologies that could be piloted under the new fund for remote areas include:

- Using 4G mobile signal to deliver ‘fixed wireless’ superfast broadband.
- Using fibre direct to premises.
- Taking fibre from broadband cabinets to a distribution point further down the network, increasing speeds by reducing the reliance on copper.
Satellite technology.

The fund will open on 17 March 2014 and the government is asking local authorities to offer support to these pilot projects.

Community Energy Saving Competition – Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC)
As part of the Community Energy Strategy, Government announced on 27 January 2014 the launch of a new community energy saving competition that will offer a minimum of £100,000 to incentivise communities to develop innovative approaches to saving energy and money. Six of the finalists will be given access to mentoring support to help them develop their business plans in more detail. To register your interest in the competition email: communityenergystrategy@decc.gsi.gov.uk
Further details of the announcement are available at:

Rural Community Energy Fund
The Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF) supports rural communities in England to develop renewable energy projects which provide economic and social benefits to the community. The fund will provide up to approximately £150,000 of funding for feasibility and pre-planning development work to help projects become investment ready. RCEF provides support in two stages:

- Stage 1 provides a grant of up to approximately £20,000 to pay for an initial investigation into the feasibility of a renewable energy project.
- Stage 2 provides an unsecured loan of up to approximately £130,000 to support planning applications and develop a robust business case to attract further investment.

The fund is being delivered on behalf of the government by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP). Applications will be reviewed on a monthly basis and there is no set deadline for bids
http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/rural-community-energy-fund

Urban Community Energy Fund
On 27 January 2014, government announced the creation of an ‘Urban Community Energy Fund’ which will be open to all communities in England that are not eligible to access the rural fund.

Young Carers Can . . . Programme – Carers Trust
Carers Trust has launched the third round of funding for the Young Carers Can... programme funded by Comic Relief. It is open to Third Sector/not for profit organisations to provide support activities for young carers across the UK.

Carers Trust are providing grants of up to £2,500 to provide fun, social and structured activities that will improve well-being and aspiration, through tackling social exclusion and improving the self-esteem of young carers living in their local area.
The deadline for applications is 20 February 2014.
http://professionals.carers.org/young-carers/articles/young-carers-can,7142,PR.html?dm_i=l34,24TWJ,BK71A4,7PG3X,1
Help the Homeless Grants
Help The Homeless makes grants to charitable organisations with the aim of returning homeless people to the community and enabling them to resume a normal life. Small and medium sized registered charities (with a turnover of under £1 million per annum) can apply for grants for capital costs, generally up to £5000. Deadlines for submitting applications are quarterly with the next deadline on 15 March 2014. http://www.help-the-homeless.org.uk/applying-for-funding/

Our Environment Our Future – BIG Lottery
BIG want to invest £30 million in around 25-35 projects across the UK, each of which will support young people (aged 11-24) to improve their local environment. The projects will all be selected and supported by a lead organisation (or partnership of organisations) that will:
  • link the projects together as a single coherent portfolio (having worked with us to select them)
  • help the projects to scale-up or replicate successful approaches
  • facilitate sharing of best practice and learning between them (and share this more widely).
At this stage of the application process BIG are only appointing the UK portfolio lead. Once the UK portfolio lead is in place BIG will work with them to identify and assess individual portfolio projects. Organisations who do not have the capacity to be a lead partner but believe they have an exceptional project that could be replicated or scaled up should complete the relevant form and submit this to BIG to record their individual project details. These project details will be passed on to the chosen UK portfolio lead organisation at the relevant time, however please note that the chosen UK portfolio lead is under no obligation to consider your project for the portfolio.

Creative Employment Programme – Creative & Cultural Skills
The Creative Employment Programme is a £15m fund to support the creation of traineeships, formal apprenticeship and paid internship opportunities in England for young unemployed people aged 16-24 wishing to pursue a career in the arts and cultural sector. The fund can provide part wage grants to employers who create new apprenticeship and internship job opportunities for young unemployed people aged 16-24 in England. Employers will need to make an application for funding in order to access a part wage grant. Application deadlines occur throughout the year. The next deadlines are 14 February and 21 March 2014. http://creative-employment.co.uk/the-creative-employment-programme

Local Sustainable Transport Fund – Department for Transport
On 23 December 2013 local authorities were invited to bid to the £78.5 Local Sustainable Transport Fund. The guidance launched on this date will invite local transport authorities in England (outside London) to apply for revenue funding up to a maximum of £1 million to support the cost of a range of sustainable travel measures. Proposals should consider the importance of integrating sustainable transport to make it easier and more convenient for people to make their journey from door-to-door by public transport, cycling and walking. The guidance will also set out the criteria against which decisions on the allocation of funding will be taken and the need to demonstrate value for money, deliverability and affordability of package proposals. This fund will also support Bikeability training.
The deadline for applications is 31 March 2014 and expenditure must take place from April 2015 to March 2016.

**Rethinking Parks – BIG Lottery**

Rethinking Parks is a joint initiative between Big Lottery Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund and Nesta. Pioneers of 21st Century parks are being asked to come forward and rethink the use and financial sustainability of the UK’s public parks.

Through this new £1m programme, Nesta, Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund will support the most innovative and promising new business models for public parks. Grant funding of up to £100,000 per project and a package of non-financial support is available to develop, test and scale new approaches to help local parks thrive. The programme is intended to help park managers and those responsible for park funding and maintenance to test new options for generating income and managing their park.

To help people develop their ideas, workshops will be held around the country and online in January 2014. The best ideas will be chosen to receive funding in early summer.

**People’s Postcode Trust Small Grants programme**

Not-for-profit organisations, social enterprises, charities and others in England and Scotland can now apply for between £500 and £20,000 to deliver a project of up to 1 year in length. The Small Grants Programme opened again for applications on Monday 6th January. There will be four funding rounds in 2014 and their opening and closing dates are detailed on the website. Applications are submitted through an online application form which is available to access during each funding round.

There are a number of funding criteria and all projects must meet at least one of the following:

- Prevention of poverty
- Improvement of health
- Promotion of community development
- Advance participation in sport
- Promotion of human rights
- Promotion of environmental protection

The deadline for applications in the current round is 21 February 2014.

**Community Right to Build – Department for Communities and Local Government**

Anyone planning new building projects in their community can apply for a share of £17 million to get their ideas off the ground.

Housing Minister Mark Prisk announced the fund in August 2013 which will offer additional support to people with plans and ideas for their neighbourhood, from self-build homes to community shops. The minister said the money will ensure that those wishing to realise their vision will no longer be put off building by the challenges of design and permissions.
Until now, the £17 million pot was earmarked solely to help Community Right to Build projects develop their proposals. But to ensure that local building plans can access the same support, whatever route they take, Mr Prisk has expanded the scheme to include any community project. This means that communities who want to make a change in their area, such as creating a new playground, renovating an empty home or making plots available for house building will be able to access the money they need to develop plans and make it happen. The fund is available for communities outside London until March 2015.

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/community-led-project-support
http://www.wired-gov.net/wg/wg-news-1.nsf/lfi/DNWA-9AAGTX

**Reaching Communities England – Big Lottery**

Reaching Communities funding is for projects that help people and communities most in need. Grants are available from £10,000, upwards and funding can last for up to 5 years. If you think you need more than £500,000 you must call Big Lottery before applying to discuss why you believe a larger project is appropriate. There is no upper limit for total project costs. Reaching Communities can fund salaries, running costs, a contribution towards core costs and equipment. Reaching Communities can also fund up to £100,000 for land, buildings or refurbishment capital costs.

All projects must address one or more of the following outcomes:

- People have better chances in life, with better access to training and development to improve their life skills,
- Stronger communities, with more active citizens, working together to tackle their problems,
- Improved rural and urban environments, which communities are better able to access and enjoy,
- Healthier and more active people and communities

There is a two stage application process. After submitting a Reaching Communities Stage One application form, applicants will be told within 6 weeks whether the project is one that might be considered for funding. If successful, the applicant will be sent a Stage Two application form. Applicants will usually have four months to complete this.


**Reaching Communities Buildings – Big Lottery**

The buildings strand of Reaching Communities provides funding for land and buildings projects costing more than £100,000. It can also provide revenue funding to help to get the building running and deliver project activities (for revenue funding or funding for a land and buildings project of less than £100,000, see Reaching Communities England).

Funding is available for building grants up to 2015 and there are currently no deadlines for applications. However, the programme is regularly reviewed and applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as they are ready. To ensure that this funding makes the biggest difference to those most in need, it is targeted at buildings or sites based in the most deprived ‘Lower Super Output Areas’ in England.


**Transition Funding – Heritage Lottery Fund**
Transition funding is available to organisations in the UK who want to achieve significant strategic change – through acquiring new skills or knowledge, or new models of governance, leadership, business and income – in order to become more resilient and sustain improved management of heritage for the long term.

You may be in transition legally or structurally – for example, local authority heritage services transferring to trust status - or facing strategic or financial challenges due to loss of regular or anticipated income streams.

To apply you must be a previous recipient of an HLF grant. You can apply for a grant of more than £10,000 and up to £100,000.

http://www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/programmes/Pages/Transition_funding.aspx#.UuocVMKYYbIU

**First World War: then and now – Heritage Lottery Fund**

This programme provides grants of £3,000 to £10,000 for communities to mark the Centenary of the First World War. HLF also provide grants of more than £10,000 for First World War projects.

http://www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/programmes/Pages/FirstWorldWarThenandNow.aspx#.UupOwcKYbIU

**Grants for the arts Libraries Fund – Arts Council**

The Grants for the arts Libraries fund will invest £6 million of the Arts Council's Grants for the arts National Lottery money in projects delivered by public libraries or library authorities working in partnership with cultural organisations across all art forms.

It is hoped that the Grants for the arts Libraries fund will inspire ambitious, innovative partnerships between libraries and arts organisations, and encourage library users and those living locally to take part in artistic and cultural activities.

Public libraries can apply for grants of between £1,000 and £100,000 covering activities lasting up to three years. The fund opened to applications on 27 September 2012 and will run until March 2015. From 1 July 2013 the application and assessment process for Grants for the arts changed in order to help streamline the investment process.

http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding/apply-for-funding/grants-arts-libraries-fund/

**Childcare Business Grants Scheme – Government Equalities Office**

The new Childcare Business Grants Scheme has been introduced to boost the provision of childcare in England and to incentivise entrepreneurship. It will encourage and support the starting up of new childcare businesses by providing a flat rate start-up grant of:

- £250 for new child-minding businesses setting up in England (those who are looking after one or more children under the age of 8 years, to whom they are not related, on domestic premises, for reward and for a total of more than 2 hours in any day);  
- £500 for new child-minding businesses, as above, that will provide care for disabled children (applicants will need to demonstrate that they have incurred additional expenditure in setting up their business as a result of this);  
- £500 for new nursery, out of school club, or childcare on domestic premises setting up in England.
The scheme has been funded for one year with a fixed budget of £2 million. Should the funding be over-subscribed before March 2014 the scheme will terminate at the point where the scheme funds have been exhausted.

http://www.childcarebusinessgrants.dcms.gov.uk/

Sharing Heritage – Heritage Lottery Fund
The Sharing Heritage programme is for any type of project related to national, regional or local heritage in the UK. Applications can be made for a grant from £3,000 to £10,000. The fund is available to not-for-profit organisations or partnerships led by not-for-profit organisations wanting to explore, share and celebrate their community’s heritage.

This is a rolling programme and applications can be submitted at any time.
http://www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/programmes/Pages/SharingHeritage.aspx

Our Heritage – Heritage Lottery Fund
The Our Heritage programme is for any type of project related to national, regional or local heritage in the UK. Applications can be made for a grant of more than £10,000 and up to £100,000.

Under this programme, HLF fund applications from not-for-profit organisations, private owners of heritage (including individuals and for-profit organisations) and partnerships.
This is a rolling programme and applications can be made at any time.
http://www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/programmes/Pages/OurHeritage.aspx

Young Roots – Heritage Lottery Fund
The Young Roots programme is for projects that engage young people with heritage in the UK. Applications can be made for a grant of more than £10,000 and up to £50,000. Under this programme, HLF fund partnerships of heritage and youth organisations to help young people shape and deliver their own projects in safe environments.

This is a rolling programme and applications can be made at any time.
http://www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/programmes/Pages/YoungRoots.aspx