



Comic Relief Local Communities Fund

Comic Relief spends money raised by its fundraising campaigns, Red Nose Day & Sport Relief

Comic Relief, registered charity 326568 (England and Wales), SCO39730 (Scotland).

A grant-making programme managed locally by Thames Community Foundation (TCF)

Comic Relief Local Communities Fund

Grant Criteria

There are still many communities in the UK that suffer from economic and social deprivation and the current economic climate may make this situation worse.

This programme aims to empower local people enabling them to create lasting change in their communities.

Projects should be run by people directly affected by the issues they are dealing with and priority will be given to small, locally based groups or organisations in areas of disadvantage that have a clear understanding of the needs of their community and are undertaking actions as a means of addressing these needs. This can also include "Communities of Interest" which cover a wider geographical area.

While groups will be using a range of activities, we specifically want 50% of the available funds to go to **sports** projects that:

- increase access to sport and exercise for people who face social exclusion and isolation
- help people who are experiencing difficulties in their lives

The remaining funding will support community groups running projects that:

- increase local services
- build skills of local people
- increase community cohesion
- respond to local economic needs

This work can cover a small geographical area such as a housing estate, but we will also consider work covering a slightly larger area such as a borough where there is evidence of community involvement.

Who can apply?

- Community Groups
- Resident Associations
- Community Centres
- Social Enterprises/Community Interest Companies
- Credit Unions

We welcome applications from voluntary and community organisations working in the London Boroughs of Hammersmith & Fulham, Hounslow, Kingston, Merton, Richmond, Sutton and Wandsworth.

Please note that Sports Clubs are **not** a priority unless they can clearly show that their project (a) tackles exclusion, isolation, disadvantage and/or marginalisation and (b) they have the capacity to welcome beneficiaries on a long-term basis.

Examples of the type of activities we will fund:

- Community sport activities
- Furniture Projects
- Projects providing access to benefits advice
- Projects combating fuel poverty
- Community consultation exercises
- Community employment projects
- Food Co-ops
- Running costs; including salaries, core costs and project costs
- Committee and volunteer/staff training

This list is not complete and we expect a very wide range of activities to be funded. Please call us if you would like to have an informal discussion about your ideas.

Regardless of the precise activity, grants will be awarded to support work where there is clear evidence of a sustained beneficial impact on the lives of people who are excluded or disadvantaged through low income, social isolation, age, disabilities, race, sexuality or gender.

How much you can apply for:

Groups can apply for grants of minimum £1,000 up to a maximum of £10,000. You are very strongly advised to speak to Thames Community Foundation **before** you make your application if you intend to

apply for more than £5,000. Priority will be given to applications where Comic Relief funds at least 50% of the total cost of the project.

Sorry, but grants won't be awarded to fund:

- Individuals
- Statutory organisations including schools
- Trips abroad
- Mini buses or transport schemes
- Building costs or building access adaptation
- Tournaments, sports days and one-off events

When you can apply:

There are two grant rounds each year.

Closing dates are:

31st July 2009 29th January 2010

30th July 2010 31st January 2011

Making an application

You will need to complete an application form which is in two parts, Part A and Part B.

You can download a hard copy of the application form by going to our website:

www.thamescommunityfoundation.org.uk

Your application will need to show:

- How your project fits the criteria for the Comic Relief Local Communities Fund as described on page 1.
- That your organisation is a registered charity or has a constitution (set of rules) that shows that it has charitable purposes.
- That you have appropriate safeguarding policies and CRB checks if you are working with children, young people or vulnerable adults.

What happens next?

Once we have received your application, it will be assessed by our grants officer who may contact you for further information or arrange to meet you to discuss the application in more detail.

Applications are considered by a local grants panel chaired by a Trustee from TCF and/or by TCF's Trustees.

We aim to ensure that you have a response to your application within 6 weeks of the closing date.

If your application is successful you will receive an e-mail offering a grant. The e-mail will give the amount of grant offered and how it is to be used.

At this stage, we shall also ask you to complete a Pre-Project Questionnaire which will provide useful baseline data for evaluation.

Monitoring and Evaluation

One month after the funded activity has ended, we ask you to send us a completed End of Grant Questionnaire. We may also ask you for an interim report.

A member of staff or Trustee of TCF or representative from Comic Relief may visit you to find out more about what was achieved with the grant.

Need more information?

If you need more information or help with your application form and especially if you are applying for more than £5,000, please contact:

Grants Officer
Thames Community Foundation
NPL- Building 1 - Rooms 201/206,
Hampton Road,
Teddington
TW11 0LW

Tel: 020 8943 6030.

E-mail: grantstcf@btconnect.com.

Registered charity number: 1122432
Company registration number: 6251399

Thames Community Foundation

TCF is a community foundation that manages and distributes funding on behalf of individuals, companies, local and central and government to meet community needs in West and South West London. TCF currently make grants totalling around £1m per annum. Details of our grant programmes are available on our website.

TCF also raises endowment (permanent capital) from high net worth individuals and companies. The investment income from this endowment is used to make grants to community groups.

30th June 2009

