

Where to go for funding



The Asset Transfer Unit has been working to facilitate the Community Assets programme. The Office of the Third Sector funds the Community Assets Programme which is managed by the Big Lottery Fund. The programme's objective is to bring about community empowerment through the vehicle of the transference of genuine assets from local authorities, although not schools, to the third sector for community benefit. £30 million has been set aside to support this. This fund is now closed but it does give some background information on current thinking in terms of funding.

Obtaining successful asset transfers from schools sites is unlikely as the swimming pool is often an integral part of the school building. It is however viable to achieve long term lease arrangements for the management of the pool.

For further information go to

http://www2.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_community_assets

The Asset Transfer Unit not only works on community enterprises but also runs informative conferences for potential new organisations

<http://atu.org.uk/Support/catconference>

and they also provide a service for business plans for new organisations which advises on whether they are likely to receive funding. Whilst they will not write a business plan, it is a time saving device for organisations

<http://atu.org.uk/Support/Referral>

The ATU take organisations through a process for funding. This includes a needs analysis/rational for money; negotiating price; cost of works, business plans and finance strategy. The ATU argues that plans for finance should always be strategic. It states: *'A fundraising strategy is a document, which sets out how you intend to fund your project/work. It should complement your business plan and enable you to reach your stated goals. It should not be designed to be fixed or rigid, but should give you focus and purpose as to how to raise funds and to set out a plan. It should not deter you from applying for funding from sources not identified in the plan'*.

In conjunction with this, the ATU suggest 3 on-line resources that may be of use. First, a web page which suggests what should be included in a fund raising strategy:

<http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/sfp>

Second, a web page which contains a list of the different methods of fundraising and where to start looking:





<http://www.knowhownonprofit.org/funding/fibasics>

and, finally, a template for getting started

<http://www.vawcvs.org/funding>

There is more money than you think out there! It is just a question of knowing where to obtain it and how to go about doing it. In order to make easier reading, we have broken down the various types of finance into sections:

Grants

Community Builders programme

The Community Builders Fund is a consortium led by Adventure Capital Fund in partnership with Future Builder England and the Community Alliance. Future Builders, which was established in 2009, administered grants through to 2010. Support comes in three forms- funding for staff development up to a maximum of £2,000; business support of up to 5 days and grants of up to £20,000 for project development for smaller projects and 30 days of support and grants of up to £75,000 for larger projects; and loans between £50,000 and £2,000,000 offered at 5% for an initial three year period of a ten year loan term.

Details are available at

<http://www.communitybuildersfund.org.uk/>

Adventure Capital Fund

The point about this type of funding is that it is long-term and recognises that community enterprises need to develop their income streams. The finance is normally through a mix of low interest loans and grants ranging from £50,000 to £750,000.

The Investment Fund provides working capital or revenue costs in order to finance the purchase of capital assets or to refurbish existing assets while the Business Development Fund assists community enterprises in the early stages of development. The purpose behind this grant is to prepare an organisation so that it can run its own enterprise. Grants are provided up to £15,000 and this is supplemented with up to 5 days of support for the organisation. The contact details are Adventure Capital Fund, Ground Floor, IbeX House, 42-47 Minories, London EC3N 1DY or

go for further details to

www.adventurecapitalfund.org.uk

Directory of Grant Making Trusts



Another useful source of grants comes from the Charities Aid Foundation Directory Of Grant Making Trusts.

Their on-line resource provides a list of trusts and a description of what each trust will give money for along with contact details.

Click here for details

<http://www.grantsonline.org.uk/page/about-us/>

Directory of Social Change

The Directory of Social Change's Trust funding web site provides both the Directory of Grant Making Trusts and the Guide to Major Trusts Volume 1 and 2.

Details can be found at

<http://www.trustfunding.org.uk/Default.aspx>

Grant funds on-line search

The following search facilities enable you to search through a number of grant making bodies:

Grant finder is another opportunity for searching on line and has access to 6,000 grants.

Click on

<http://www.grantfinder.co.uk/>

Fit for funding provides a newsletter and search facility for grants via the web. Find this at

<http://www.fit4funding.org.uk/>

Loans

Community Development Finance

The Community Development Finance Association is a trade association which represents Community Development Finance Institutions. These are independent organisations which provide loans and support to businesses and individuals. One of their objectives is to help organisations that have had difficulty in obtaining finance from sources such as banks and building societies and often they focus on creating opportunities for disadvantaged communities.

They make it easy for you to find out more by completing a simple form on-line.

Find out more at

<http://www.cdfa.org.uk/>



The Charity Bank

The Charity Bank is unusual in that it specialises in making loans in order to build 'social' capital. It focuses on projects that can help to bring about social change. It supports charities and social profit organisations.

More details at

<http://www.charitybank.org/>

There are a number of other banks who will help on a similar basis and are well worth following up on. These are:

Big Issue Invest

Big Issue invest is a specialised provider of finance to social enterprises or trading arms of charities that create social and environmental transformation. Details at

<http://www.bigissueinvest.com/>

The Unity Trust Bank

Also try the Unity Trust Bank by going to

<http://www.unity.co.uk/>

Tridos Bank

The Tridos Bank only invests in ethical organisations. Further details at:

<http://www.tridos.co.uk/>

The Co-operative Bank

<http://www.co-operativebank.co.uk/servlet/Satellite/1193206375355,CFSweb/Page/Bank>

Co-operative and Community Finance

Co-operative and Community Finance, which is a member of Co-operatives UK, provides 'sympathetic loan finance' in support of social and community organisations. It has been in existence for 36 years. More details at:

<http://www.icof.co.uk/>

Wessex Community Assets

Wessex Community Assets, an Industrial and Provident Society, helps community orientated organisations to use community investment as a means of establishing locally owned assets and enterprises.

The Society is part of the Wessex Reinvestment Trust group, through which it offers loans for small and social enterprises. Find out more at:



<http://www.wessexrt.co.uk/>

Key Fund Yorkshire

Key Fund Yorkshire works with disadvantaged communities in Yorkshire and the Humber. Funding is available through either loans or grants or a mix of both and is directed towards social entrepreneurs, community organisations and social enterprises.

Details can be found at:

www.keyfundyorks.org.uk

Community Bonds

Community bonds is a government backed initiative, regulated by The Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, which offers the opportunity for investors to buy bonds and community shares in social enterprises. The idea is to offer communities the opportunity to buy shares and bonds rather than to rely on wealthy individuals and the private sector. In this way, it is planned that communities raise large amounts of money by investing in themselves.

Find out more about how it works at:

<http://www.communityshares.org.uk/>

Energy4All

An extension of this idea is Energy4All which was set up to help communities develop renewable energy schemes and this is normally achieved through local share issues. The model is based on establishing co-ops in communities. More information can be found at:

http://www.energy4all.co.uk/energy_home.asp

Operational funding

There are also several opportunities to generate income through the programmes run at the pool. These include:

Local area agreements

Occasionally funding may be available because swimming will help to generate targets set in a local area agreement.

Primary Care Trust funding



If not included within the framework of a local agreement, PCT's often fund swimming projects targeted at the young and obese as well as specific target groups for their own particular locality.

Wells Sports Foundation

If your pool is owned by a club, the Wells Sports Foundation makes grants of between £500 and £2,000 to help sports clubs encourage greater participation at grassroots level. Details can be found at:

<http://www.swimming.org/asa/news/clubs>

Revenue funding

School Swimming Improvement Service

The Department for Education, through the ASA, fund a programme of additional lessons for young people unable to achieve the Key Stage 2 standard in primary school swimming lessons. This funding is administered through local School Sport Partnerships. The Youth Sports Trust will have details of the school sport partnership in your area:

<http://ssx.youthsporttrust.org/page/introduction-new/index.htm>

Regular school swimming lessons

In addition, each local education authority will have funding for regular school swimming lessons. Often this is supplemented by contributions from parents. Since, the Local Management of Schools was introduced, schools manage their own budgets for school swimming and it may be necessary for you to deal with each school individually rather than a local authority representative.

Swimming teaching and coaching

From time to time funding is also available for pool operators that stage ASA training courses for swimming teachers and coaches. Details of these will be available through the ASA Regional Offices.