



Young People Focused Funding Policy of the Youth Council for Northern Ireland

PROGRAMME SUPPORT FUNDING 2009/10 **Strand C: Community Relations and Cultural Diversity**

INFORMATION NOTES

PURPOSE OF THE FUNDING

The purpose of this funding strand is to enhance the capacity and contribution of Regional Voluntary Youth-based Organisations (RVYOs) to the building of a more peaceful and inclusive society and to further embed the principles of Equity, Diversity and Interdependence into youth work policy and practice.

This contribution may be through work with young people or through activities aimed at supporting institutional change and development. A concern to address one or more of the following issues must be fundamental to projects seeking this funding:

- Developing inclusive practice which promotes acceptance and understanding of our rich cultural diversity
- Defusing sectarian and prejudice-based issues and/or reducing tension and conflict
- The development of integrated/inclusive youth work
- Communication, trust, tolerance and respect for different cultures, faiths and traditions

Embedding the principles of Equity, Diversity and Interdependence (EDI) into the ethos, policies and practices of RVYOs underpins this purpose.

Grant aid is available to assist RVYOs to deliver new and innovative programmes, policies and/or strategies in support of the above purpose. Under this strand YCNI is keen to support the development of innovative practice which encourages purposeful contact across the different communities that make up our local society as well as agencies working to promote acceptance and understanding of our rich cultural heritage; those fostering partnership work with minority ethnic groups and those working to promote inclusion across the Section 75 groups.

OBJECTIVES

Priority will be given to applications that meet one or more of the following objectives:

- Develop innovative community relations and cultural diversity projects and programmes which are capable of replication elsewhere.
- Improve the effectiveness of community relations and cultural diversity work within the voluntary youth sector.
- Develop new and innovative methods to engage groups of young people who may not previously have been involved in work focused on the themes of community relations and cultural diversity.
- Increase the ability and confidence of young people to be at ease with difference, acknowledge one another as equals and promote improved relations between all.
- Provide opportunities for greater interaction and sharing of experience between Youth Service organisations around the issues of community relations, cultural diversity, mutual understanding, prejudice reduction and conflict transformation
- Promote the Youth Work curriculum
- Embed the principles of Equity, Diversity and Interdependence.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Whilst one of the aims of community relations work is purposeful contact across different communities, the Council recognises the value of exploratory and reflective work within a particular community. Ideally such work should be in preparation for follow-up contact work, or an important part of an ongoing programme involving both contact and single community sessions. Programmes funded under this theme must be able to demonstrate how they increase the ability and confidence of young people to be at ease with difference, acknowledge one another as equals and promote improved relations between all.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY: Under this theme, programmes that provide for the participation of young people from regional minority language communities¹ are welcomed. The Council also encourages approaches concerned with wider community relations issues, including issues of race and ethnicity, and other areas where prejudice is an issue. Again, programmes funded under this theme must be able to demonstrate how they increase the ability and confidence of young people to be at ease with difference, acknowledge one another as equals and promote improved relations between all.

ELIGIBILITY

In accordance with the new YCNI funding policy, all organisations wishing to access this funding strand must demonstrate that:

- they can meet YCNI's basic criteria; and
- YCNI's test for a regional organisation.

Organisations that meet the above criteria can apply on a competitive basis to deliver specific programmes that meet the aims and objectives of the funding strand.

The Council will also prioritise bids which are developmental in nature, and which are related to a clear community relations and diversity or inclusion policy and strategy.

¹ As ratified by the UK under the **European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML)**

FUNDING AVAILABLE

Funding is available under the following headings:

- Staffing
- Training (including consultation and development)
- Administration/Overheads
- Transport/travel
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Activities
- Other assistance

Funding for materials is paid only on items which help the project and which cannot be obtained through the usual channels. If items costing in excess of £200 are deemed necessary, a covering note should be included explaining how these will enhance the programme.

GRANT MAKING PROCEDURES

The closing date for applications is **4.00 pm on Wednesday 29 July 2009.**

Applications will be assessed by a Grants Panel, comprising non-aligned members of the Youth Council for Northern Ireland and independent advisers (if deemed appropriate), within a four week period from the closing date of 29 July 2009.

The majority of the budget is ring-fenced to support short-term, capacity building projects that are no longer than one year in length.

A small grants are available for agencies wishing to develop a Community Relations and Diversity or Inclusion policy.

Assistance will be given to all applicants on request and you are advised to avail of this offer.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

All funding is issued on the basis that it is used for the purposes outlined in the application. It is the responsibility of the funded agency to notify Council if any change of circumstance occurs. Any change of focus for a funded programme of work must be agreed in writing by the Council prior to continuing with the work.

In terms of delivering the programme of work, Council must be notified in advance of key delivery dates. This information may be used to facilitate an on-site visitation by our Development Officer as part of monitoring conditions.

Organisations in receipt of grant aid **MUST** provide an evaluation report to the Youth Council on completion of the programme. Criteria for this report will be outlined within the letter of offer. Future funding is subject to the submission of this report plus a financial breakdown of expenditure (see below). The use of an external evaluator is encouraged by the Youth Council.

The annual accounts of agencies in receipt of funding must clearly indicate the grant from YCNI, and a financial statement must be submitted to Council on completion of the project clearly outlining the income and expenditure relating to the project. The Council reserves the right to request original receipts relating to all expenditure.

MAKING AN APPLICATION

Applicants are asked to complete and return the attached application form by the deadline above. Additional application forms can be downloaded from our website at www.ycni.org.

Please note that applications for funding are not accepted by e-mail.

Joint applications are welcomed from two or more agencies, provided there is a clear agreement between the agencies about the administration and distribution of any funds received.

Completed application forms should be forwarded to the:

**Development Officer (Equality Principles)
Youth Council for Northern Ireland
Forestview
Purdy's Lane
BELFAST
BT8 7AR**

Envelopes should be clearly marked “Community Relations and Cultural Diversity Funding Application”.