



The Learning and Skills Council and Oldham Partnership are working together to offer a

‘Funding Opportunity’

for Voluntary and Community groups in Oldham

Oldham Partnership has secured almost £180,000 of Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities Funding (NLDCF) to help local voluntary and community sector organisations deliver and support learning opportunities for residents of disadvantaged neighbourhoods, with an emphasis on assisting those who wish to enter employment. Up to 75% of the NLDC funds can be used to align with Skills for Jobs activities to support workless people with pre-employment activity.

Does your group provide activity which engages local people in learning and prepares them for accessing and securing employment opportunities?

The Oldham Partnership has made a firm commitment to help residents of Oldham in the current economic downturn by channelling resources into activities which aim to tackle worklessness and skills shortages in a rapid and joined up way. If your group can hit the ground running and already have the infrastructure in place to deliver a programme of activity (between Sept 09 and July 10) you may be able to access NLDCF funding.

What can NLDCF fund?

The focus of this year's NLDCF allocation is revenue based activity up to 75% of which can be focussed on 'Skills for Jobs' activities. Key components are;

- First step learning in local communities, citizenship, new modes of curriculum delivery to attract under-represented groups into learning.
- Capacity building programmes for the Voluntary Sector.
- Employability skills and activities to meet the need and individual needs of those who are not working and may face additional barriers when seeking to secure employment e.g. being disabled, from an ethnic minority background, over 50 years of age or a lone parent.
- Training or re-training of local people to develop leadership roles in the community e.g. community champions/ active citizenship skills.

Examples of Skills for Jobs activities could include;

- Signposting and referral to specialist provision for the delivery of vocational skills training e.g. in science based and cultural industries
- Individual skills diagnostics and 'softer' skills development e.g. assertiveness, confidence building, motivation, and working as part of a team
- Learner mentoring and support services

In order to access NLDCF, applicant organisations will need to:

- Work in deprived communities and involve local people
- Either deliver learning directly or facilitate direct delivery of learning
- Succeed in engaging people aged 19 + years.
- Help participants plan and progress to further learning opportunities or employment
- Work alongside partners and mainstream funded activity to complement and enhance current delivery
- Encourage learning and employment opportunities in emerging labour markets, e.g. science/cultural industries

Key points to consider when making an application:

- The funding period is from 1st September 2009 until 31st July 2010 only.
- All activity and spend must take place within this timescale, no extensions or year on year funding will be offered.
- There are no specified upper or lower limits for applications.
- Funds are for revenue activity only.
- The fund will look to support projects demonstrating innovation and effective partnership working including working alongside mainstream funded activities.
- Assist learners in accessing routes to further learning opportunities including employability initiatives within emerging labour markets to meet the change in Oldham's labour market needs.
- Funded organisations will be required to complete and submit management information through completion of Individual Learner Record (ILR) details.
- Successful organisations will need to participate in 'Recording and Reporting Progress and Achievement' (RARPA) for learners.
- Oldham Partnership is particularly keen to support activity which provides complementary links with other employment focused initiatives.

The process:

Forms made available to applicants	W/C 3rd Aug 2009
Deadline for submissions of applications	12 noon on Friday 28th August 2009
Applications appraisal by the independent panel	W/C 7th September 2009
Applicants informed of outcome	W/C 14th September 2009

Guidance and application forms are available from:

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