



The Skills Funding Agency and Oldham Partnership  
are working together to offer a

## **‘Funding Opportunity’**

### **for Voluntary and Community groups in Oldham**

Oldham Partnership has been allocated 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 2010 and July 2011) 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
- Be prepared to work in partnership with other organisations

**Key points to consider when making an application:**

- The funding period is from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010 until 31<sup>st</sup> July 2011 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	<b>Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010</b>
Deadline for submissions of applications	<b><u>12 noon Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2010</u></b>
Application appraisal by the independent panel	<b>Week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> August 2010</b>
Applicants informed of outcome	<b>Week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> August 2010</b>

Guidance and application forms are available from:

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 West Street  
 Oldham  
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