



## Top tips for applying to Awards for All

Awards for All is the Big Lottery Fund's small grants scheme offering grants of between £300 and £10,000 and over the last year or so plenty of local groups have successfully applied.

One such success story is that of the **Weston Church Youth Project** in Southampton. It has just been awarded **£9,900** to run a series of activities and events to help raise the aspirations of seven to eleven year olds in the area.

The youth group will work with a local junior school to encourage its students to look beyond the estate they live on and encourage them to consider all the options available to them. The youngsters will get to visit local universities and colleges as well as workplaces such as hospitals and ship builders to see some of the career options on offer. Other professionals will visit the school to give talks about their work. The group will also organise events such as a fashion show and a mock jobs fair and encourage the children to volunteer in their community to help boost their confidence and life skills.

So what's the secret to their success? Here are some top tips for applying to Awards for All:

- Be as realistic as you can when describing what you want to achieve and make sure to include realistic costs to back it up.
- Don't be put off by the form – it may appear long and complex but in fact is quite simple to fill in.
- Remember to apply for something new – Awards for All cannot fund existing projects or the running costs of your organisation.
- Don't just apply for a list of things you need – think about the difference that these items and activities will make to your beneficiaries and remember to write about this difference in your application.
- Remember to link your project to the outcomes of the Awards for All programme. Your project only needs to meet one outcome to be eligible but the more you can meet the better. The four Awards for All outcomes are: people have better chances in life; stronger communities; improved rural and urban environments; and healthier and more active people and communities.
- Read the guidance notes – there is some helpful information in these that help to explain what BIG is looking for.
- Make sure that the person you nominate as the main contact knows all about the project as they will be BIG's first port of call if it has any questions.
- It may sound obvious, but make sure you complete every question otherwise the form will be returned to you. In fact a third of all application forms are sent back for this very reason.
- And finally, get someone else to read through your completed application form. If it makes sense to them then it will make sense to your Grants Officer.

Awards for All is a rolling programme which means that you can apply at any time. So it is worth taking your time on getting your application right the first time round.

For more information on how to apply to Awards for All visit the [website](#) or call the BIG advice line on 0845 4 10 20 30.