

Who are we?



The Voluntary Action Fund (VAF) is an independent charitable grant making trust which invests in voluntary and community based organisations across Scotland. The funding and support we provide enables them to undertake projects that challenge inequalities and overcome barriers to being involved in community life.

With funding from the Scottish Government, VAF gives grants to meet the needs of disadvantaged communities and encourage volunteering.

Through our main grant programme, the Volunteering Scotland Grant Scheme (VSGS):

- small grants of up to £5,000 are available for projects that will improve the involvement of volunteers,
- main grants, of up to £35,000 per year for 1 or 2 years, are available to establish projects that provide volunteering opportunities for people experiencing disadvantage and that will benefit the community.

For more information regarding the Volunteering Scotland Grant Scheme contact the Voluntary Action Fund.



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The Voluntary Action Fund "unlocks the energies and talents in Scotland's communities" by:

- Overcoming barriers
- Resourcing communities
- Targeting disadvantage
- Building skills and confidence
- Including and empowering

CASH FOR YOUR GROUP

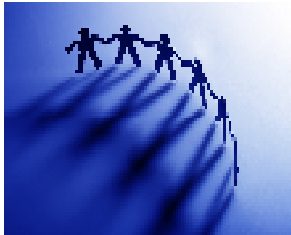
COMMUNITY CHEST

Grants of up to
£1,000
available



What is Community Chest?

Community Chest is a small grant programme providing grants of up to £1,000 designed to



help small community groups in Scotland fund activities which would not be possible without financial assistance. This could include making a contribution

towards the running costs of the group, holding an event or helping to buy an essential piece of equipment.

The overall aim of the grant is to help build the capacity of groups in Scotland to deliver their activities.

To help achieve this VAF will host a number of free workshops covering charity law, making successful funding applications, working with volunteers and evaluation. The workshops will also enable groups to network with each other and provide information on further support and funding.

The offer of a grant is conditional on agreement to attend at least one of the free workshops.

While applications from across Scotland will be considered, in 2008-09 a percentage of the funds available will be prioritised for applications from Clackmannanshire, Inverclyde and South Ayrshire.

Who Can Apply?

The grant is aimed at small, local groups with limited funding. Groups will be considered for grant if they have:

- Revenue income below £25,000 per year
- A signed Constitution or set of rules
- A bank account in the name of the group with 2 signatories on all cheques
- An independent referee who can vouch for the group

Groups that are not charities will be considered for a Community Chest grant if:

- Their purposes and activities could be considered charitable, and
- Their constitution or set of rules makes it clear that any assets or funds that belong to the group can only be used for the groups purposes and cannot be distributed amongst members.

Community Chest will not consider funding:

- Individuals
- Activities that promote a particular political party or religion

How to Apply

It's so simple, contact Patricia or Chris at the Voluntary Action Fund for an Application Form and set of Guidance Notes either by telephone or e-mail or download them from our website.

Complete the form and return it to our office along with a copy of your constitution and a copy of your most recent annual accounts. If you are a new group and have not yet prepared accounts you should provide copies of your latest 3 bank statements.

What Happens Next

Applications for the Community Chest programme are welcome throughout the year. We will try to assess your application as promptly as possible (hopefully within 4-6 weeks).

Thereafter we will contact you to let you know if you have been successful or otherwise. If you are successful we will send you a cheque shortly afterwards.

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