

Availability of Funding

Although everyone is entitled to apply to Sport England for funding, we don't think it's fair to raise your expectations if the prospect of a grant is unlikely. So, to give you some idea of the context in which we make our funding decisions, here are some hard facts:

- In its first year the Community Investment Fund (CIF) attracted over 2,000 enquiries of which around 1,400 developed into formal applications. However, in the end only 104 grants were awarded.
- You will realise from this that demand far outstrips the availability of funds and that competition is fierce.
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- Our focus is on funding more revenue projects than capital. Typically our grants have been in the region of £50,000 to £100,000.
- It gives us no pleasure to turn down sensible bids but we simply cannot afford to fund every application, however justifiable and worthwhile the project may be
- Accordingly, we would prefer not to waste your time, effort and money in working up and submitting applications that are destined to be rejected, albeit reluctantly and with much regret.

So, you may ask, **what are the ingredients of a successful bid?**

- With a relatively modest sum to spread around the whole of England, we are unlikely to be the primary or major funder of large, costly projects
- We will target our funds at those schemes that will help us to achieve our national and regional priorities, and in particular a significant increase in participation. It is essential that you check "Our Priorities for Funding."
- We aim to attract £2 partnership funding to match every £1 from our Community Investment Fund, which means that you will need to meet 65% of the cost from other sources.
- Your project needs to have clear, quantifiable benefits and outcomes; reasonable costs offering best value for money, and manageable risks.
- Whether it is a capital or a revenue scheme, you will need to demonstrate its quality and sustainability.

If your project meets these criteria and, more importantly, you can convince us that it does, we will work with you to make it a success.

If not, you should reconsider your intention to apply to us for funding. However, we may be able to direct you to alternative sources of support. The Running Sport resource “Fundraising, Grants and Sponsorship” is a short 17 page booklet, which provides information on places for people to apply to for funding and can be found at www.sportengland.org/runningsport (and then click on Free Downloads).