

➤ **Key European funding streams for voluntary and community groups include:**

➤ **Global Grants** provide European funding to local projects with a key theme of overcoming barriers to employment. As there is an input of money from other sources as well as the EU, groups do not need to find matching funding. Grants can be for up to £10,000 and the application and monitoring processes are designed to be simple. The activities supported should help to move beneficiaries closer to the labour market. In Norfolk, Global Grants is administered by Norfolk County Council and other public bodies under the name 'Acorn Grants' (see below).

➤ **Acorn Grants – Grants for small voluntary & community groups in Norfolk**

The aim of Acorn Grants is to give funding to small community and voluntary groups to help people who are suffering from disadvantage in society to increase their prospects of gaining employment, and to improve the quality of life and the environment in their local community.

Funds activities that in some way improve peoples employment prospects for those not in full-time employment or education, and who have the greatest barriers to overcome to gain employment, for example volunteering or informal learning. It will also fund the start-up of a new social enterprise business (i.e. one that puts any profit back in to the business and has a community benefit, such as a community crèche).

Grants are available for projects costing between £500 and £10,000, but are not for capital projects such as building work. Will cover revenue costs and small items of equipment, maximum of £1,000 per capital/ equipment item.

Application: To apply groups must be independent, have a bank account, a written constitution/ set of rules and an equal opportunities policy (VOLkit can provide help to write these). Contact Fay Sheldon for advice or for an application pack at Charing Cross Centre, 17-19 St John Maddermarket, Norwich, NR2 1DN, Tel: 01603 88382, Email: fay.sheldon@norfolk.gov.uk If you are uncertain whether your project idea fits the programme, Fay is happy to discuss it with you.

➤ **Objective 3** of the European Social Fund is a national Programme and provides £185m funding for the eastern region. It is designed to tackle long-term unemployment, assist those at risk of not being able to find work, improve training, education and counselling for lifelong learning, encourage entrepreneurship and adaptability in the workplace and promote equal opportunities and the role of women in the workplace. There are two aspects to Objective 3 funding: alternative (or direct) bidding and co-financing. Through the alternative/ direct route, groups can bid for funds from the Government Office of the East of England as the managing authority. Match funding is required from other sources, and your application needs to show how you fit in with the East of England Development Agency's (EEDA) Regional Development Plan.

- **Co-financing** is the easiest way for groups to access Objective 3 money, as it involves just dealing with one organisation and not having to match funds. Within Norfolk there are three co-financing organisations available to match Objective 3 money, offering 100 per cent funding for projects. These are the Learning and Skills Council, EEDA and Job Centre+. Each have their own priorities, in-line with the five policy fields (priorities) of the Programme. For example, the first priority of Objective 3 is 'Active Labour Market Policies' which the Job Centre+ co-finances for, as this fits into its remit. EEDA, with its regional focus, co-finances for priority 4 'Adaptability and Entrepreneurship'; whilst the Learning and Skills Council co-finances priority 3 'Lifelong learning' (see below).
- **LSC Norfolk ESF Round 4:** The LSC Norfolk Co-financing Plan funds activities that contribute towards meeting Learning and Skills Council objectives for post-16 learning and skills development. The Plan will continue to support existing measures for project activities in Norfolk which last a maximum of 2 years and which must start and end between January 2005 and December 2007. The Prospectus was launched on 9th September 2004 at an official joint event with EEDA and Job Centre Plus.

Contact Information:

- **LSC:** For more information visit www.lsc.gov.uk/norfolk and go to the Funding Learning Section. The Tandem Newsletter gives an excellent summary of co-financing developments and case studies in Norfolk.
- **EEDA** Visit the website at <http://www.skillsforum.org.uk> or contact the programme monitoring team Tel 01223 200878, Email: monitoring@eeda.org.uk
- **Jobcentre plus:** Visit the website at www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk or contact Diana Edwards on Tel: 01480 322050, Email: Diana.edwards@jobcentreplus.gov.uk
- **Useful web sites**

www.esf.gov.uk
www.eeda.gov.uk
www.go-east.gov.uk

www.lsc.gov.uk
www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk
<http://www.skillsforum.org.uk>



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