

Funding Opportunities for Orienteering Clubs

Introduction

Looking for and securing funding for orienteering activity (or any other activity for that matter) is a complex process. There are 3 factors which will currently impact on the quest for funding...

1. Successfully applying for funding is not an easy process
2. Many other sports groups will be chasing funding at the same time
3. The impact of Covid-19 is such that some funders may have less at their disposal to give out to applicants than they might have previously had.

Principles to stick to when applying

- Be very specific about what you want funding for. A vague request for money will be fruitless. (That might seem to be stating the obvious, but you'd be surprised...)
- Know and show all of the costs of your project. All of them.
- Demonstrate good governance in your organisation (constitution, minutes, finances)
- Be able to articulate what the wider benefits of funding will be (e.g. health & wellbeing, improved/enhanced community capacity or facilities, personal development, increased participation, etc.).
- Apply carefully, succinctly, following any application guidelines.

Seek out the right funding sources by looking at funders' criteria (e.g. no point in applying to some funders if you're not a registered charity with a Scottish Charity Number.) and check deadlines and timescales for decision-making.

Main Types of Funding Sources

- Sporting Umbrella Organisations (eg SportScotland)
- Major funders such as the National Lottery, the Peoples Postcode Lottery and the Prince's Charities
- Larger Charitable Funders, Charitable Trusts and Company Giving (e.g. Robertson Trust, Co-op, Tesco Community Grants, Baillie Gifford Community Awards). Supported projects and criteria can vary from year to year.
- Local Authorities
- Windfarm Community Benefit Funds (in certain areas). Sometimes these are managed by a third party such as a Community Trust Fund or a local Community Council or a national body such as Foundation Scotland

- Local geographically-specific funding sources such as Common Good Funds, Bequests and Community Trusts. Local Councils generally hold a list of these, and some are actually administered by Councils. Seek out the right funding sources by looking at funders' criteria (e.g. no point in applying to some funders if you're not a registered charity with a Scottish Charity Number.) and check deadlines and timescales for decision-making.

Useful Resources for Fundraising

There's a lot of good web-based resources for fundraising. Here are some...

- **SCVO** (The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations) (scvo.org.uk) is the national membership organisation for the voluntary sector. Its website has a lot of free resources, including a 6-point step-by-step guide on fundraising.
- **Funding Scotland** (fundingscotland.com) is operated by SCVO and the Basic Package is a FREE and easy-to-use online search of over 1,300 vital funding opportunities for voluntary sector organisations in Scotland. (Premium Package requires payment of a fee).
- **Third Sector Interfaces** (TSIs) provide a single point of access for support and advice (including funding) for the third sector and community organisations within local areas. There is a TSI in each local authority area in Scotland. [Websites, telephone numbers, email addresses and postal addresses for Scotland's Third Sector Interfaces](#) are held on the Scottish Government's Publications page.
- **SportScotland** (sportscotland.org.uk) have a dedicated funding information page on their website with a useful tool for identifying local, regional and opportunities for clubs.