

## **Grassroots Grants – funding for small community groups**

If you are involved in a small group that works with people living in Hampshire then read on! You may be able to apply for funding from Grassroots Grants. This is a Government-funded grant scheme which is being run in Hampshire by the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Community Foundation and Community Action Hampshire, with support from Rushmoor Voluntary Services for groups based in the Rushmoor area. Here are the key facts:

- Grassroots Grants is aimed at small, volunteer-led groups – annual income (averaged over the last 3 years) must be below £20,000.
- The group must have been active in their local community (this could be informally) since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007 at the latest, in order to be eligible for the first year of the scheme.
- Grants can be given to enable groups to continue or expand their work including advocacy, community voice and service provision for local people. This means that almost any activity aimed at meeting a local community need can be funded.
- The maximum grant available is £5,000, and this is the maximum sum that any one group will be able to receive from Grassroots Grants over the whole lifetime of the scheme (which is through to March 2011).
- Groups should get a decision on their application within 8 weeks of a completed application form being received.
- For grants of up to £900 there is an ‘express’ form and procedure. Small applications like this will usually receive a decision within two weeks.

Recently, a Grassroots Grants panel approved awards to a concert band for new uniforms, to a bereavement service for the training of volunteer counsellors, to a group that will train local children and youth to produce a DVD on bullying, for operational costs for an organisation providing assistance for the unemployed, and to a rent deposit scheme that assists needy people.

Please contact Kevin Sawers, the Hampshire Co-ordinator at Community Action Hampshire, to discuss your ideas first. He can make sure that your group is eligible and then get an application pack out to you. Rushmoor Voluntary Services will be also be able to advise you on completing your application and doing any work needed on your group’s policies. All the details on how to apply and what activities can be funded are in the application pack. We look forward to hearing from you!

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