

Democracy Matters Community Engagement Fund

Voluntary Action Fund (VAF) is inviting applications from third sector organisations and community groups. The application deadline is Wednesday 31st October.

About the funding

VAF is managing this fund on behalf of the Scottish Government Public Bodies and Public Service Reform Division.

The aim of this fund is to:

Support community and third sector organisations to engage with the Scottish Government Democracy Matters Conversation: Your Community, Your Ideas, Your Future.

Who can apply?

This is an open and competitive fund for:

- Third sector organisations and community groups
- Organisations do not need to be registered charities, although their constitution/set of rules should make clear that funds will only be spent on purposes established in the constitution, and not distributed amongst members
- Organisations with an annual income below £100,000 in the last financial year (excluding any income for capital items such as buildings and equipment)
- Organisations with a bank account in the name of the group with 2 signatories
- Organisations who are able to hold an event by 16th November and provide feedback by 30th November

Note: Groups without a constitution or bank account can still apply for funding, but the application must be made by another eligible organisation submitting on their behalf. If successful the applicant body will receive the grant and it is responsible for how it is spent.

How much can organisations apply for?

1. The minimum grant is £100
2. The maximum grant is £300.
3. In exceptional circumstances, applicants can apply for up to £500.
These circumstances are, for example:
 - The event/conversation will involve a greater number of people
 - There are inclusive communications costs which will enable people to participate.

Eligible Activity

The fund will support meetings/events held before 16 November to gather views on local governance.

There are few restrictions on what can be applied for. However, costs should relate to holding an event for five or more people to discuss their views on how to create a better democracy in Scotland.

An organisation or group can apply for more than one grant if the event or engagement activity involves different people.

More information including the online application form will be available on the VAF website (below) from Thursday 24th May. **Please email enquiries to democracymatters@vaf.org.uk**

About Voluntary Action Fund

Voluntary Action Fund (www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk) is a long-established, independent fund manager in Scotland. VAF distributes over £10 million annually to over 500 organisations in Scotland.