|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **''** |  |

## **Third Sector Voter Registration Support Grant**

## **Guidance Notes and Application Form**

**Background**

The new Welsh Government’s ‘Programme for Government’ includes a commitment to reform local government elections to reduce the democratic deficit. The Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution made a statement on 29 July setting out the Government’s principles for electoral reform and its commitment to ensuring as many eligible voters as possible are able to register and vote in Welsh elections.

Ministers believe it is important to prioritise the maximisation of registration of voters newly enfranchised by the Local Government and Elections Act 2021, as they will be first time voters, and voters from under-registered groups.

To support registration, the Welsh Government is carrying out a range of activities including additional funding for local authority electoral services teams, and a national communications campaign. This funding is aimed at enabling a number of third sector organisations to encourage and support people in their stakeholder communities to register to vote in local government elections.

**Aims of the grant**

The Welsh Government is making £100,000 funding available to enable a number of third sector organisations to encourage and support people in their stakeholder communities to register to vote in local government elections.

We are looking for the funding to benefit as many people in our target groups as possible, and will be looking for evidence from applicants of a national or regional reach.

We recognise that there is not a one size fits all model of engagement and we are looking for stakeholder organisations to use their knowledge and experience of working with our target groups to determine how this funding will be best be used. However, we are not intending for the funding to be used to support communications campaign based activity.

We will look for applications to include a plan for how applicants will engage with their communities and how this engagement will meet the objective of increased voter registration.

We anticipate funding around 6 organisations with grants of around £15,000 although we will consider funding larger or smaller grants depending on the level and range of applications we receive.

We will be looking to fund a range of organisations to ensure that each of our target groups are reached, and will also be looking to ensure a geographic spread. The grant panel will consider for value for money in their decision making.

**Who can apply?**

Welsh based organisations that are registered with The Charity Commission.

We welcome applications that propose partnership and collaborative working, providing there is one lead applicant, who is registered with The Charity Commission who will act as the grant holder and data controller.

We will not accept applications from any organisation with a party political affiliation.

**Conditions of the grant**

Successful applicants will be expected to send a representative (usually the lead contact) to monthly meetings of the Welsh Local Government Registration Partnership.

Successful applicants will be expected to provide a short evaluation at the end of the grant term to Welsh Government officials.

**How to apply**

1. Complete the application form in this document. Supporting information can also be submitted with your application form e.g. Project plans, communication plans, organisational and relationship diagrams, and anything else you consider useful in support of your application.

2. Email your application to **Etholiadau.Elections@gov.wales**

We aim to run this process electronically as far as possible. If you need the application pack in an alternative format or to submit your completed application in hard copy, please call a member of the team on 03000 251463 so that we can agree a suitable arrangement.

3. Welsh Government will assess bids.Officials will write to the Grant Manager of each application regarding the outcome.

**Key dates**

* 1November 2021 – Grant application window opens
* 10 December 2021 – Grant application window closes
* 10 January 2022 – Outcome letters issued to bidders
* 21 January 2022 – Grant award letters issued
* 31 May 2022– Grant award must be spent in full

**Contact details and further information:** If need any further support with the application process, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the grant team by email at Etholiadau.Elections@gov.wales or by calling us on **03000 251463**.

**FAQs:**

Q1. I am a small community based organisation, without a national reach – can I still apply?

* Due to timing and administrative capability, we cannot fund a large number of organisations with this funding pot. We are looking to fund a smaller number of organisations with a regional/national reach to ensure as many people in our target groups as possible can benefit. However, we welcome collaborative bids providing there is a lead organisation that acts as grant holder and data controller, and that appropriate mechanisms are in place to ensure successful delivery against the objectives.

Q2. Our organisation ran some really successful activities in the build up to Senedd elections – can we use this funding to re-run them?

* As long as you can evidence the success of a previous approach, and that the focus of any future activity is registration for local government elections.

Q3. Will you provide any additional support for grant award holders?

* We want to work strategically with the organisations that we grant fund. We are currently working with local authorities enable the appointment of an officer specifically responsible for working with target groups to increase registration. We will be looking for these officers to work closely with third sector organisations that we fund through this grant. We are currently procuring a national communications campaign that will focus on registration ahead of Local Government elections. We will use this campaign to support and promote activities undertaken through this grant and will be providing stakeholders with a toolkit and other resources to support their engagement efforts.

Q4. What will happen at the end of the grant period?

* We will expect grant holders to write a short evaluation of activities at the end of the grant period. There is currently no provision for another scheme in future budgets. However, we are interested to see how this funding can be used to support engagement with typically under-registered groups and we will use the evidence gathered to inform future policy decisions.

Q5. Can I use the funding to purchase IT equipment?

* If you can clearly demonstrate how the IT equipment will increase voter registration with our target groups as part of your application it will be considered.

Q6. We are an umbrella organisation that would like apply for a grant to redistribute to our stakeholder organisations. Can we apply?

* Yes. The grant panel will be looking for applications that provide a national reach as well as value for money. If you intend to redistribute to stakeholder organisations, your application should demonstrate how you will do this in the available time, what role your organisation will play in the monitoring of the grant and how this offers value for money.

Q8. Will the funding be in advance or in arrears?

* Arrears.

**Application form**

**Name of organisation:**

**Charity number:**

**If this is a partnership/collaborative application, which organisations will you be working with to deliver the project/activities:**

**Lead contact name:**

**Lead contact email address:**

**Lead contact phone number:**

1. **What is the total (£) that you are applying for?**
2. **Which target group(s) do you directly engage with?**

***Please underline as appropriate***

* 16/17 year olds
* Qualifying foreign citizens
* People from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups
* Other (please state)
1. **Is your geographic reach national or regional? If regional – which region of Wales?**
2. **What is the reach of your organisation in terms of numbers and demographics? Please provide details (Max word count 100)**
3. **What activity do you propose to undertake to achieve the purposes of this grant? How will you ensure it increases the number of people on the electoral register? (Max word count 300)**
4. **Please provide a breakdown of costs associated with the delivery of your activity, detailing how the total (£) applied for will be spent (Max word count 100)**
5. **What are your expected outcomes and how would you measure these? (Max word count 100)**
6. **What networks do you already have established and what communication channels do you use? Please provide details (Max word count 100)**
7. **What engagement methods have you used to successfully communicate complex messages to your stakeholders to instigate action? (Max word count 150)**
8. **How does this grant funding/activity fit with the objectives of your organisation? (Max word count 100)**
9. **How will you ensure that you deliver bilingual activities whilst ensuring the language preferences of your audience is considered? (Max word count 100)**
10. **If this is a partnership bid what mechanisms will you put in place to ensure successful delivery? (Max word count 100)**