



Improving support for
a stronger third sector



Real help now

Real Help for Communities: Modernisation Fund Grants Programme Delivered by Capacitybuilders

West Midlands briefing
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Modernisation Fund Grants strand

Phase 1 - Know your needs

- £1,000 bursaries to frontline organisations to enable them to receive initial diagnostic support around their business including whether collaboration or merger might be right

Phase 2 - Grow together

- £10,000 grants to cover professional fees needed to make collaboration or merger happen.

Eligibility

- Organisations will have an annual income of between £150k and £750k
- Wholly or primarily engaged in one or more of the following areas:
 - Theme 1 - Wellbeing and Health
 - Theme 2 - Advice Information and Guidance
 - Theme 3 - Loss of Income, Training and Skills



Eligibility (cont)

Theme 1 - Wellbeing and Health

mental health substance abuse
domestic abuse family support services
homelessness supporting social cohesion
crime prevention and victim support

Theme 2 - Advice Information and Guidance

Advice on debt, housing, legal, finance

Theme 3 - Loss of Income, Training and Skills

Unemployment Training
Poverty alleviation

Delivery – Phase 1; know your needs £1,000 bursaries

- Simple application via www.modernisationfund.org.uk
- Online resources available to everyone, e.g. toolkit
- **Local delivery agents key to success :**
 - local intelligence, low bureaucracy, fast turnaround
 - local promotion, including reaching groups working with excluded communities and equalities groups
 - will run local seminars to help organisations respond to recession
 - will draw up list of advisers and match bursary holders with advisers

Delivery – Phase 2; grow together

£10,000 grants

- Phase 1 will give organisations a report and clear recommendations
- Phase 2 funding available if phase 1 shows that collaboration and merger may be right for you
 - not an open grants programme
 - progression from Phase 1 to Phase 2
- Phase 2 funding to cover :
 - legal, professional and other support costs critical to making a collaboration or merger happen
 - rather than hard costs of aligning people and processes.

Timeline

- April** www.modernisationfund.org.uk live;
organisations able to register interest;
signposting direct to Futurebuilders for loans
- May - June** Local promotion including local seminars
- June - July** Online application for Phase 1
- September** Phase 1 activity completed
- October** Phase 2 applications

Is the Grants Programme for you?

- Are you delivering recession-related services?
- Could you increase your impact and reach by working more closely with other organisations?
- Could you reduce costs by collaborating or merging?
- Would you benefit from FREE advice to help you explore whether collaboration or merger is right for your organisation?

Real help now

The Government's £16.5 million 'Real Help for Communities' Modernisation Fund will help *third sector* organisations be more resilient to the impact of the economic downturn. It is focused on helping organisations providing services to those worst hit by the recession.

The funding will help in two main ways:

- ➔ Bursaries of £1k for organisations to pay for initial advice on how they can become more resilient and work more closely with others to increase their impact, and grants of up to £10k to help pay costs involved in moving towards collaboration or merger.
- ➔ Interest-free loans of between £30K and £500K for third sector organisations with existing plans for mergers and collaboration or other activities to help them prepare for difficult times.

[Read more about the fund](#)

Bursaries of £1K & grants of £10K

Do you want a grant to explore how your organisation can become more resilient and work more closely with others? Your annual turnover should be between £150k and £750k.



[Find out more about Grants](#)

Interest-free loans £30k to £500k

Do you want an interest-free loan? You must be delivering services that benefit people or communities that are affected by the recession.



[Find out more about Loans](#)