

Funding Sources for Local or Small Groups

A few ideas to get you started, or keep you going

Local Authority Grants - Most local authorities have a community grants scheme. For small groups, these typically range from a few hundred pounds to a few thousand pounds. Larger sums may be available for commissioned work (i.e. a contract with the local authority to deliver services). Local Authorities usually have a person or team whose role is to liaise with community groups. It's worth finding out who they are and building a relationship with them. They can let you know of upcoming grants or commissions and facilitate partnership working with other groups. A quick web search or call to your Local Authority's main switchboard will usually identify who this is. Your local Community and Voluntary Sector infrastructure organisation should also be able to put you in touch. If you deliver health-related services, it's worth contacting your local Clinical Commissioning Group. Offer to share your understanding of local LGBT health needs and ask if they want to partner with you on reaching LGBT communities.

Community Foundations - Have you applied to your local Community Foundation? Community Foundations fundraise from locally-based wealthy individuals and companies and then distribute the funds to local groups via a grants scheme. Grants are typically up to £5,000, but in time you may be able to secure a larger sum by building a relationship with the Grants Officers and explaining your need. A list of UK-based Community Foundations can be found here: <https://www.ukcommunityfoundations.org/our-network>

Police and Crime Commissioners - Police and Crime Commissioners in England, Wales and Northern Ireland run funding schemes that support local projects aiming to prevent crime and the fear of crime. We know that LGBT groups have successfully bid for funds to deliver community safety initiatives, promote hate crime reporting, raise awareness of domestic and sexual violence, and other projects of relevance to LGBT communities. Find your local PCC here: <http://www.apccs.police.uk/find-your-pcc/>

Awards for All - Awards for All is a popular way for local groups to raise up to £10,000 for their project. The grant enables a group to deliver a project for up to one year – including pilot projects if you want to try out something new. The grant will pay for sessional workers, volunteer costs, room hire, materials and other project costs. It will not cover the salaries of employed staff or your group's running costs. Awards for All supports local projects that will have a positive impact on a relatively large number of people. Successful bids typically provide a clear and compelling outline of what they plan to do and why their project is needed, including sound evidence of local need. There are Awards for All schemes for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Supermarkets - Supermarkets are a good source of local funding. Most of the big supermarket chains have Community Champions based in each store to support local groups in various ways. Partnering with a supermarket can increase your group's visibility in the local community, which some groups may find positive and others problematic. This is something to discuss and decide on within your group. Supermarket support includes: Food & drink for events, support groups, raffle prizes etc. Store Managers are typically authorised to give out products or vouchers for around £25 each time. **Token schemes.** Some supermarkets have schemes in which shoppers collect and use special tokens to 'vote' for local causes. Pop into your nearest store and fill in a nomination form - be specific about how you will use the money. **Cash collections.** Most supermarkets allow community groups to collect in their local store. If your group is ok with this kind of visibility, borrow some charity collection tins or buckets, get plenty of volunteers together and draw up a rota. **Grants.** Supermarket chains also give grants to local groups. Ask in the store or do a web search.

Charitable trusts. Many trusts operate locally, preferring to give money to community groups. You can do an online search for charitable trusts based in your area. You may also be able to obtain a list of local trusts from your local Community and Voluntary Sector infrastructure organisation, local Community Foundation, or your local authority's communities or grants person. These organisations should also be able to advise you of which local trusts give to LGBT causes. Local libraries usually have trust directories you can search through. Many national trusts also give locally. Have a look at the Consortium's Funder Finder for examples.

Local businesses. Local companies are often willing to support community groups. Start with your local LGBT venues. They may donate space for an event, hold a fundraiser for you, allow you to put collection tins on their counter, or give a financial donation. Next on your list should be businesses you know as LGBT friendly. Ask your volunteers and trustees if you can approach the companies that they work for. Larger businesses may fundraise for you – a couple of months before Pride is a good time to ask. They may also offer volunteer time and skills. Smaller businesses may enter staff into local races or other events to help you raise funds. Shops may be willing to have a collection pot on their counter. When you approach companies, inspire them with the work you do and tell them how they can really make a difference to their local community by helping you. If they are a local branch of a bigger organisation you could ask if their HQ has a charity giving scheme. Also try the local branches of bigger retail chains, as they often have community schemes e.g. If you have a LUSH branch close to you, it's worth approaching them as they support 'human rights' causes including LGBT groups. They collect via their 'Charity Pot' scheme, donate raffle prizes, volunteer at community events, and usually have other suggestions of how they can help.

Good luck!