

Updates on Public, Legacies, Corporate, Trusts and Public Sector Funding

Funding Bulletin No. 20 March 2022

Welcome to the March funding bulletin. This edition includes an update on the Government's Dormant Assets Scheme and the further benefit it may offer local communities, and details of Age UK's new Digital Inclusion grants funding programme.

Please do remind your colleagues that they can receive this bulletin on Signpost - you can sign up [here](#).

The Fundraising Team

1. Update on Dormant Assets Scheme - measures to release a further £880 million from dormant assets to boost communities across England

We wanted to provide a further update regarding the Westminster Government's Dormant Assets Scheme. At the beginning of 2021 the Government was proposing that legislation would be brought forward in the coming year when parliamentary time allowed, in order to expand the Dormant Assets Scheme which has been running since 2011. Since 2011, £800million has been distributed to local communities through the National Lottery Community Fund, with funding mostly focused on supporting young people in the most deprived parts of England.

On 24 February 2022 the Government provided an update on the Scheme including the news that a further £880 million could be made available to support good causes and to help 'level-up' opportunities for young people and communities. The Dormant Assets Act 2022 was duly passed by Parliament on 1 March enabling the Scheme to be expanded to include the insurance, pensions, investments and wealth management, and securities sectors, in addition to the banks and building societies already involved.

The next steps for the Scheme will be a public consultation to be launched this summer to consider the good causes to benefit from the additional funds. Proposals in the consultation will include boosting investment in youth programmes, social enterprises, and money management support - options include supporting young people following the Government's recently announced '[National Youth Guarantee](#)', helping the national drive to support people struggling to manage their money, growing the social investment market, and addressing long-term funding to improve social infrastructure through community wealth funds.

Age UK will continue to monitor developments including the opportunity to respond to the consultation.

Further information the Dormant Assets Scheme can be found [here](#).

2. Office for Health Improvement & Disparities (OHID)

We have received advanced notice of a new £3million innovation fund to be set up by the Office for Health Improvement & Disparities (OHID - formerly Public Health England) with the aim of getting people active again ('re-conditioned'), with a focus on strength and balance and sharing best practice. The fund is expected to be mostly available for local authorities to access. We will be keeping in touch with OHID and will report back further on this fund when more information is available.

3. New grant funding opportunities for local Age UKs

Age UK's Digital Inclusion Funding Opportunity - applications for grants now open

[Area of coverage: England and Wales]

We recently messaged the network to announce a new funding opportunity to take part in our upcoming **Digital Champion** programme. We are pleased to announce that this funding opportunity is now live until **12pm on 4 May 2022**. The Digital Champion programme will support local brand partners to deliver digital inclusion services in areas of high digital exclusion across England and Wales, and to transform the delivery of digital skills support so that we can reach and support those people that need it most.

Although the number of older people who are digitally connected continues to rise, there are still around 5 million people over the age of 55 who are not. We live in an increasingly online world, with many key services moving to become 'digital first', and while many older people have embraced digital technology, there are others who are less confident who are at risk of being left behind.

About the Programme

The Digital Champion programme will support local brand partners to deliver digital inclusion services with older people in areas of high digital exclusion across England and Wales, and to transform the delivery of digital skills support to ensure that we can reach and support those people that need it most. The programme will involve local brand partners recruiting and training volunteer Digital Champions; delivering awareness raising activities to motivate and inspire older people to get involved; provide technology on a loan basis to older people without access; and deliver skills support sessions to improve the confidence and skills of older people so that they can benefit from being online.

Supporting older people most at risk of digital exclusion

As part of this programme, we will also support local brand partners who want to focus their delivery on supporting a high-risk group to get online. Whilst the core elements of the programme

will largely remain the same, adaptations will likely need to be made to the programme model, and expectations will be amended to reflect the higher intensity support that will be required. By focusing some of the delivery of this programme on supporting high-risk groups, we will reach those older people most in need, and gain a better understanding about how the service works, and to guide service development to ensure it remains as impactful and accessible as possible.

Next Steps

The Digital Champion Programme will be delivered across two cohorts of 25 partners, with cohort 1 (this opportunity) commencing in **June 2022**, and cohort 2 in March 2024. Each partner will receive up to **£72,000 over 18 months** to deliver the programme in their local area, including set-up time.

Please note: the funding and delivery period remains the same for partners who apply to deliver the programme with older people generally, and for those who apply to focus their delivery on a high-risk group. Expected reach will differ accordingly.

For more information on this opportunity and to apply, please click the link below:

[Click here to get started!](#)

This funding opportunity will close at **12pm 4 May 2022**.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with servicesdigital@ageuk.org.uk. If you are having trouble accessing the link above, please contact theloop@ageuk.org.uk.

The Fore [Area of coverage: UK]

The Fore (describing itself as a seed investor for the charity sector) is a trust offering grants of up to £15,000 over 6 to 18 months to small organisations (with an annual income of less than £500,000) working with marginalised groups and led by people in the community that may have found it hard to access trust and foundation funding in the past. The main objective of the unrestricted grants is to help organisations become more sustainable, more efficient, and to grow significantly.

This opportunity may be of particular interest to the Age UK Friends Network.

Summer 2022 funding registration opens on 19 April at 10am, with an application deadline of 9 May and funding decisions to be made in July 2022.

Further details can be found [here](#).

4. Other grant programmes

The following grant programmes have featured in previous bulletins but remain open for grant applications.

Sport England - Queen's Platinum Jubilee Activity Fund [Area of coverage: England]

Sport England wants to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee year by supporting projects that provide opportunities for people who may be less physically active. The Fund aims to use sport and physical activity as a means of bringing a community together and tackling physical activity inequalities with awards of between £300 and £10,000 from a pot of £5 million of National Lottery funding.

Further details can be found [here](#).

The National Emergencies Trust - Local Action Fund [Area of coverage: UK]

The National Emergencies Trust (NET) and Crowdfunder have teamed up to launch a £1.2 million Local Action Fund as part of their Coronavirus Appeal. The fund is aimed at voluntary and community organisations which are recovering from the effects of the pandemic. It is seeking to support long-term sustainability and open up new avenues of income for brilliant local groups who are making a real difference to the people in their communities.

NET is particularly interested in reaching groups in the North of England and the Midlands, Scotland, and Wales.

Grants of up to £10,000 are available, which are required to be matched pound for pound by crowdfunded donations. The Fund is open on a rolling basis until all funding has been allocated.

You can find out more about the Local Action Fund [here](#).

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