



Department of Education Community Relations Core Funding Scheme 2007-2010

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Department of Education, through its community relations policy and strategy, aims to ensure that everyone in Northern Ireland, from the age of 3 to 25 in the education and youth sectors, should grow into adulthood to:

- . be confident in their ability to relate to others from different cultures;
- . be skilled at sharing resources, engaging constructively in sensitive conversations, articulating their own views and beliefs and listening to others;
- . be knowledgeable about their own cultural background and that of others in Northern Ireland;
- . recognise the rights of all as equal citizens;
- . be prepared for a changing and diverse society in which confident adults engage, learn from and trust one another as members together of a shared society.

1.2 To help promote this policy and strategy the Department is launching a new round of the Community Relations Core Funding Scheme (the Scheme) for voluntary organisations. This round, which will run from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2010, is designed to attract organisations that will help the Department progress these aims. **Please see Guide for Applicants regarding the Zero Based Spending Review.**

2. PURPOSE OF THE SCHEME

2.1 The purpose of the Scheme is to support the development of community relations work in Northern Ireland by establishing and addressing the real needs of young people to ensure that they are given every opportunity to prepare for a life in a diverse society.

2.2 The Department acknowledges that voluntary organisations are well placed to develop focused community relations work. In addition to being more directly involved with teachers, youth workers and other adults working with the young people, these organisations are in a position to encourage and demonstrate how to

take the lead in developing community relations strategies which reflect a “whole-school” approach and the needs within local communities.

2.3 For the purposes of the Scheme, the term ‘Community Relations’ is used to describe purposeful activity, and in particular, meaningful interaction, on a cross-community basis, between the two main traditions in Northern Ireland. Good ‘Community Relations’ contributes, in a progressive way, to the promotion of mutual understanding, respect for all cultures and traditions and develops an understanding and appreciation of equity, diversity and interdependence.

2.4 The Department recognises that there are many ways in which voluntary organisations may choose to do focused community relations work. However, it considers that the two main areas are through the Schools Community Relations Programme and the Youth Service Community Relations Support Scheme. Therefore, the Application Form has been designed to highlight these two Schemes in particular but also provides scope for voluntary organisations to identify other areas. Applicants may choose to work in more than one area.

3. CORE OBJECTIVES

- . To support the development of programmes designed for the improvement of community relations, on a cross-community basis, in Northern Ireland through formal and informal education.
- . To enable schools and organisations involved with young people to explore and address issues of identity in Northern Ireland.
- . To provide programmes to increase the confidence and capacity of teachers and other practitioners towards the improvement of community relations on a cross-community basis.
- . To encourage the development of greater skill sharing, commitment and ownership of community relations programmes by and within the formal and informal education systems.
- . To contribute to the exploration and understanding of cultural heritage, cultural traditions and respect for cultural diversity, on a cross-community basis.

4. TYPES OF ORGANISATIONS ELIGIBLE

4.1 The Scheme is aimed at voluntary and non-profit-making organisations, with an operational base in Northern Ireland who can demonstrate how their proposed projects can contribute to the improvement of community relations, on a cross-community basis, between young people in Northern Ireland in accordance with the Scheme’s objectives. Proposals within a partnership arrangement and those designed to promote good relations on a cross-border or inter-island basis that have a direct impact on community relations in Northern Ireland, will be considered provided they meet the Scheme’s objectives.

5. EXCLUSIONS

5.1 The Department will not accept applications from individuals or commercial organisations or from organisations applying for:

- . Capital Expenditure, such as building material and/or refurbishment
- . Transport
- . Political Activities
- . Individual Beneficiaries

6. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

6.1 The Freedom of Information Act 2000 gives members of the public the right to request information that we hold. This includes information received from third parties, such as, although not limited to grant applicants, grant holders, contractors and people making a complaint.

6.2 If information is requested under the Freedom of Information Act we will release it, subject to exemptions. We may consult with you first.

7. CHILD PROTECTION

7.1 It is the responsibility of each organisation to ensure that anyone who comes in contact with children or young people through a project is cleared to work with children or young people. As a minimum each organisation must have a policy that explains how this is ensured and that the policy is put into practice. Please refer to the Department of Education Circular Number 2006/06 "Child Protection: Recruitment of People to Work with Children and Young People in Educational Settings" which is available at www.deni.gov.uk The document includes information on pre-employment checks and the Department's UP List (Unsuitable Person's List).

Please note that your organisation's Child Protection Policy must comply with current legislation.

8. DATA PROTECTION

8.1 The Department will use the information you give us on the application form and during the lifetime of the grant (if awarded) to administer and analyse grants and for our own research purposes.

8.2 The Department may give copies of all or some of this information to individuals or organisations that we consult with when assessing applications and when monitoring grants and evaluating funding processes and impacts. These organisations may include other funders, Government Departments, Agencies, the Education and Library Boards, external evaluators, Internal Audit and other organisation or groups involved in delivering the project.

8.3 The Department recognises the need to maintain confidentiality of vulnerable groups and their details will not be made public in any way, except as required by law.

9. CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS

9.1 Organisations successful in obtaining funding will be expected to enter into a contractual arrangement with the Department. Such organisations will be obliged to have documentation proving they have:

- a. a Northern Ireland bank or building society account requiring at least two unrelated signatories; and
- b. sufficient insurance cover for the organisation, project activities, assets and equipment.

10. ELIGIBLE COSTS

10.1 The Scheme is designed to support the recurrent costs of organisations in respect of specified community relations activities and not general appeals for assistance. Funding is available for salary and associated running costs.

11. INELIGIBLE COSTS

11.1 Ineligible costs are those not associated with the running of the community relations project such as capital expenditure, assets, hospitality and bank charges.

12. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

12.1 Each offer of assistance will be subject to regular monitoring and evaluation throughout the funding cycle to measure progress towards the Scheme's objectives. This will be based upon measures and indicators established for each objective by mutual agreement between the Department and the individual organisation. Organisations will be required to submit bi-annual progress reports and schedules of activities to the Department.

13. HOW TO APPLY

13.1 Application forms are available on the Department's website **www.deni.gov.uk** or from Mrs Kym Cairns at the address/telephone number shown below:

13.2 The deadline for Application forms is 3.00 pm, on Friday 22 September. Late applications will not be accepted. Completed applications should be addressed to:

CRCFS Application
Mrs Kym Cairns
Community Relations Branch
Department of Education
Rathgael House
Balloo Road
BANGOR
Co Down
BT19 7PR

Tel: (028 91279747)