

## **Funding Guidelines**

### **What is Community Education?**

The Department of Education & Skills guidelines for Community Education Services define community education as being 'outside the formal education sector, with the aims of enhancing learning, fostering empowerment and contributing to civic society. It is located in communities which can be area-based or issue based, or around some other value. (Department of Education & Skills Operational Guidelines for Community Education 2012).

### **Values**

- Learner Centred
- Working in consultation with non-profit local community and voluntary groups
- Recognising & Accommodating Diversity
- Encouraging broad participation
- Promoting a high quality of learning and teaching
- Encouraging innovation

### **How we work**

1. Working on a continuum from Personal Development to Community Development to Active Citizenship
2. Increasing participation in learning by adults experiencing educational and social disadvantage
3. Building confidence for those with low skills or a negative experience of formal education
4. Focusing on critical thinking and learning to learn skills
5. Supporting non-profit community education groups to address the needs of their community
6. Supporting learners to overcome barriers to participation.
7. Outreaching to groups
8. Group work
9. Valuing non formal and informal learning
10. Promoting a developmental approach
11. Developing collective action for social development.
12. Linking groups together
13. Mainly unaccredited with participants being referred to Basic Education/BTEI for accredited courses.
14. Working in partnership with groups, agencies and other government departments.
15. Developing progression pathways
16. Sourcing tutors
17. Offering critical professional development for groups and tutors.

### **Benefits**

- Personal development
- Health and Wellbeing
- Strengthening family and community
- Educational progression and employment

### **Target Groups**

1. Adults over 16 who have left full time education
2. The unemployed especially long term unemployed and their dependents
3. One parent families and families in need of support.

4. Travellers
5. Ethnic Minorities
6. Older people
7. People with a disability or mental health difficulty.
8. Disadvantaged women and men, particularly those living in rural isolation or RAPID areas
9. Homeless
10. Ex-offenders
11. Substance misusers and their families
12. Groups with strong links to civil society and community development work
13. Issue-based groups e.g. environmental groups
14. LGBT groups
15. Young people 16-25 not in education

**When funding projects priority is given to:**

- Groups not receiving support from national organisations
- Groups that address economic, social and educational disadvantage
- Supporting a model of community education outlined above
- Establishing new community education groups/responding to gaps in provision
- Level of innovation
- Relevance to target group
- Capacity of community group to implement the project
- Previous allocations to the group

**Application for Funding Process**

Groups are invited to apply for this funding twice each year in Spring and Autumn

The stages are:

1. If your group has an idea for a project, contact us so that we can assess if it meets our funding criteria. We will support you to develop the project and complete the application form. If it does not meet our funding criteria, we will suggest other sources of funding
2. The application then goes through an assessment process.
3. If the application is successful the group will be notified of the funding approved, as well as any specific conditions.
4. Groups will also be notified if they are unsuccessful.
5. In most cases a group should know whether they have been successful within 3-4 weeks.
6. Funding can be given in two ways. Pay - where a tutor is allocated to the group and paid directly by KWETB or Other Expenses – for materials, rent etc. Most funding is given in the form of payment of tutors.
7. A short evaluation of the project is carried out at the end of the project.
8. All participants must complete an enrolment form.