The Big lottery Fund - an overview

Tri Borough Funding Fair

17th Jun 2015

Awarding funds from
The National Lottery®

Aims of today's talk

To give a brief overview of BIG

To highlight some of the funding streams most relevant to you
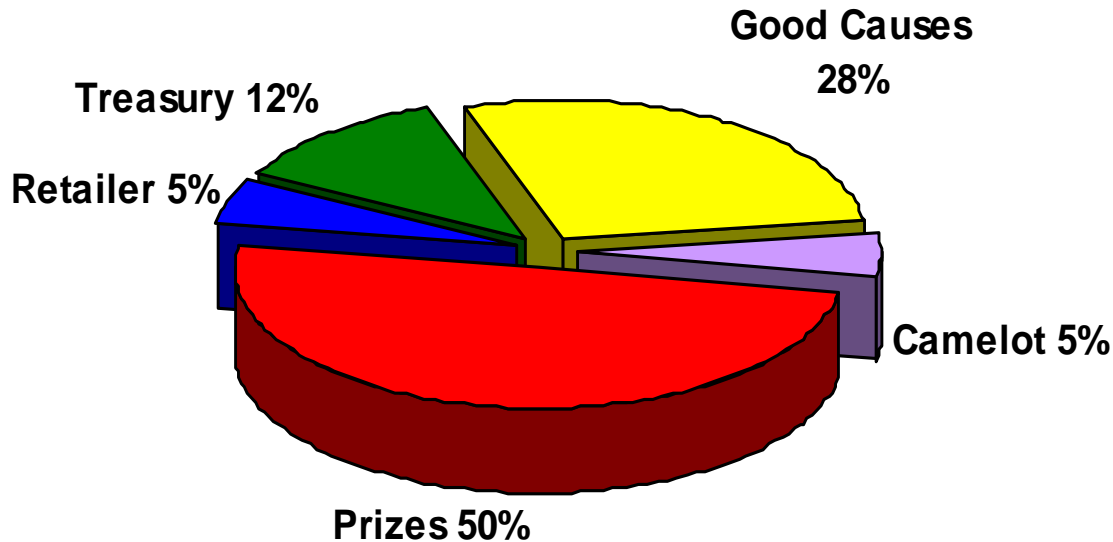
To give a few hints on writing a successful bid

About BIG

BIG distributes 'good cause' money raised from National Lottery ticket sales.

We award around £500 million a year in grants, mainly to organisations working in the VCS sector.

Last year almost 90% of our funding across the UK went directly to the voluntary and community sector

How the lottery pound is spent

BIG is responsible for delivering 40 per cent of all funds raised for good causes - about 11 pence of every pound spent on a Lottery Ticket

www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

Big Lottery Fund Mission

'The Big Lottery Fund is committed to bringing real improvement to communities and to the lives of people most in need'

BIG is an outcomes funder

Your project must meet at least one of these four outcomes:

Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4
People having better chances in life, with better access to training and development to improve their life skills	Stronger communities, with more active citizens, working together to tackle their problems	Improved rural and urban environments, which communities are better able to access and enjoy	Healthier and more active people and communities

What does outcomes mean

- **What changes** do we want to make to the lives of the people we want to help

- **How** will those **changes** help to achieve one or more of the four Big lottery Fund outcomes

Which Lottery grants scheme

Each of the 4 lottery providers have their own funding programmes with their own priorities

- **BIG Lottery Fund ('BIG')**

- Arts Council

- Heritage Lottery Fund

- Sports England

Awards for All Programme

➢ **Small grants scheme awarding £300 - £10,000**

➢ **Six week turn around time for applications***

➢ **Applications open to community and voluntary groups, schools, health bodies and parish / town councils**

➢ **Single stage application process**

➢ **Project must be complete within 12 months of award**

➢ **Repeat funding available for groups with an annual income of £30K or less**

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Reaching Communities Programme

➢ **Larger grants scheme awarding £10,000 upwards**

➢ **Main programme:**

- o Revenue projects funding from £10,000 upwards
- o Smaller capital projects funding from £10,000-£100,000

— Buildings programme:
- o Larger capital projects funding from £100,000 upwards
- o Geographically targeted at most deprived areas
- o Also includes revenue funding

Building capabilities funding available up to £15,000

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Reaching Communities Programme

— Very competitive programme – success rate one in ten

— Applications from community & voluntary groups, charities, statutory bodies, social enterprises, not-for-profit companies

— Two-stage application process to identify fundable projects

— BIG gives decision typically within 6-8 months of application

— Project can take up to 5 years to complete

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Improving your chances of gaining funding from BIG

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Improving your chances

- **Start by reading the guidelines carefully and thoroughly**

- **EVIDENCE – you will need to clearly define the need your project is seeking to address**

- **Ensure that your proposed activities are clearly linked to your outcomes**

- **Ensure that you directly consult your beneficiaries and involve them at all stages of the project**

- **Prove that your project will make a difference**

Why we expect you to evidence need?

High demand for limited resources

Prove your project will **make a difference**

Prove that you haven't **presumed** what the community needs

Prove that your project is **the best way of addressing the need** identified – what are the alternatives?

Prove that you **understand** the community and their needs

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Defining the need for your project

— *Go back to basics* – assume the Funding Officers assessing your application know nothing about the needs of the people you are trying to help

— *Quote your sources* - make sure all sources of evidence are listed and dated, and all the information is up to date and relevant to your project

— *Build a strong case* – use a broad range of information and if in doubt add more rather than less

How much evidence do you need to provide?

Depends on:

— The scale of the problem

— What capacity you have

— How much funding you are

applying for

.... *the important thing is to make a strong case*

Sources of evidence

'Soft' Information

Consultations

Focus groups

Questionnaires

Letters of support

Interviews

'Before and after' data

Waiting lists

'Hard' Information

Local statistics

Census

Strategies and policies

Local & national priorities

Research reports

Deprivation Index

Office for National Statistics

Sources of evidence – cont'd

- **National or London specific surveys that make mention of your Local authority e.g. Census, London poverty profile, JSNA and others**

- **Local government strategy documents**

- **Surveys or reports from special interest organisations e.g. Age UK, Mind**

- **Findings from pilot projects run by your own or similar organisations**

- **Local consultation documents**

- **Findings from video diaries**

- **Other sources that you can think of**

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Evaluations of existing projects

- **Background: project summary and aims**
- Where, when and why the project took place
- What you did: activities/services delivered
- Who was involved, number of users/uptake

- **Methodology: How you measured impact**
- Who did you speak with and how did you collate information?

- **Findings: what difference you made**
- Ideas for improvement, satisfaction levels, impact (case studies can help illustrate this)
- What worked well and why
- Lessons learnt

What impact will more funding make?

Why do you need to continue the service?
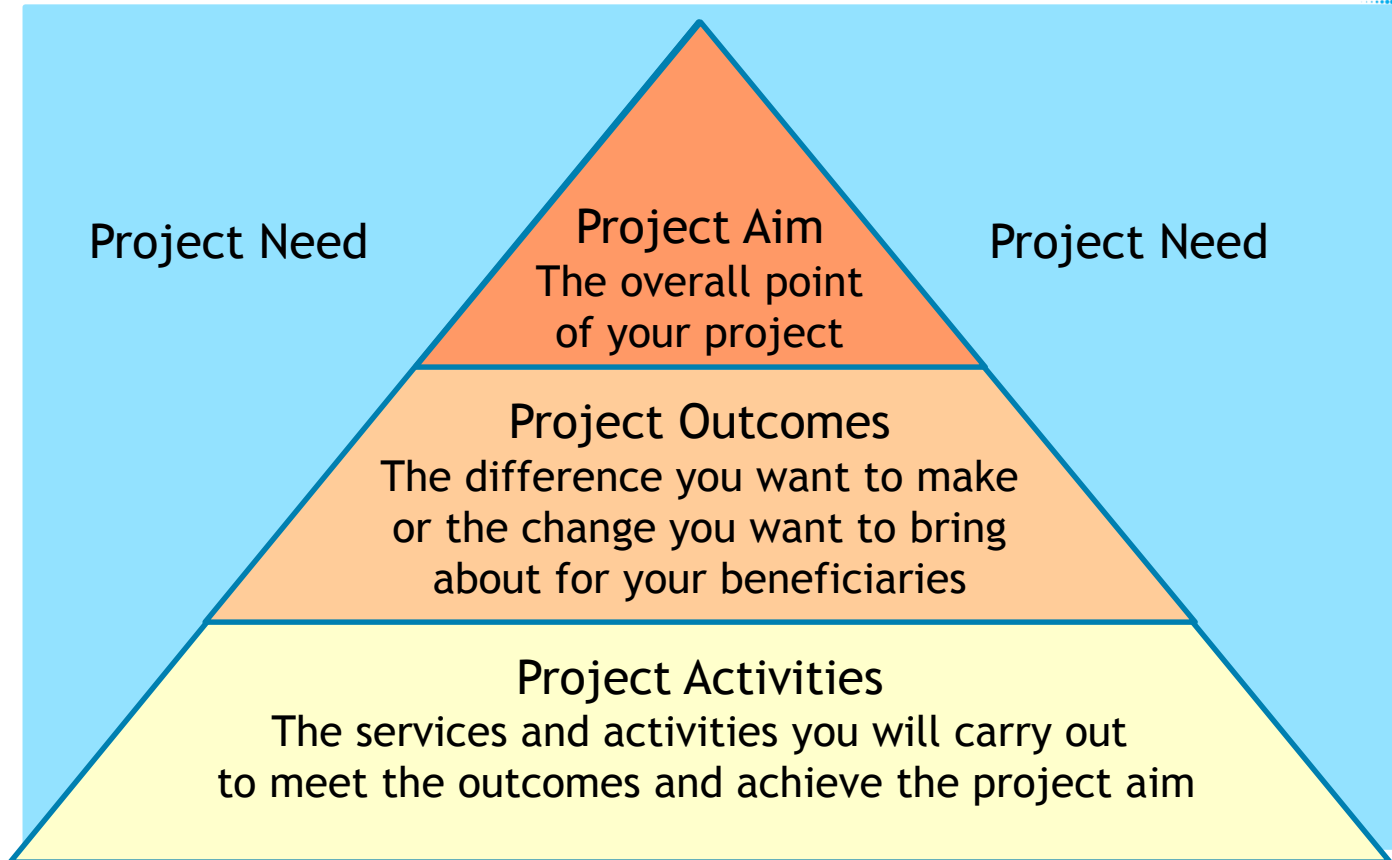
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Improving your chances -
Defining project aims, outcomes & activities

➤ **Project aim –** one simple sentence to closely reflect the need identified

➤ **Outcomes** – strong and clear points to explain the change you want to make for your beneficiaries

➤ **Project activities** – together should add up to show how the outcomes and aim will be met

Developing a strong application

Project Need

Project Aim
The overall point
of your project

Project Outcomes
The difference you want to make
or the change you want to bring
about for your beneficiaries

Project Activities
The services and activities you will carry out
to meet the outcomes and achieve the project aim

Project Need

Tips on completing your application

- Provide recent local **evidence** for the need for your project

- Avoid duplication – research similar services in your local area

- Be clear about the **outcomes** of your project

- Make sure your project's **activities** are closely linked to your outcomes

- Does your project support local priorities

Key points – completing your application

- Read the guidelines and use all other help available

- Leave plenty of time to do research regarding the need for your project.

- Re-read your application - ensure all parts of your application build on and support each other.

- Ask a 'critical friend' to read your application before submission

- *If not successful the first time, ask for feedback and try again.*

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BIG's New approach

- Working in close partnership

- Providing detailed feedback through one to one support.

- Being better targeted and looking to meet the real needs within your community.

Support and Guidance Available

— Programme Guidance Notes

— Getting Funding & Planning Successful Projects

— Good Practice Guides e.g. equalities, involving young people

— Case studies of successful projects

— BIG Advice Line: 0845 4 10 20 30

— Email enquiries: general.enquiries@biglotteryfund.org.uk

Support and Guidance Available

BIG Websites:

— BIG Lottery Fund website:

  http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

— Awards for All section:

  http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/awardsforall

— BIG Learning Zone:

  http://www.biglearningzone.org.uk

Questions and Comments?

www.biglotteryfund.org.uk