The Big Lottery Fund is the largest community funder in the UK, and one of twelve distributors of money raised by National Lottery Players.

Last year in England, we awarded £509.6m across 8,704 grants. Overall, the Big Lottery Fund awarded £712.7m across 13,814 grants.

Most of our grants go to local charities, run by volunteers, and whether the grant is for £500, or £5m, our funding is used by communities to support amazing projects led by local people.
Our Vision: People in the Lead

We believe people should be in the lead in improving their lives and communities. Our approach will focus on the skills, assets and energy that people can draw upon and the potential in their ideas.

We feel that strong, vibrant communities can be built and renewed by the people living in them, making them ready for anything in the face of future opportunities and challenges.

People in the Lead

What does this mean for you?

Ideas

We’re interested in the origin of your ideas - who have you spoken to and what conversations have you had? How are you addressing local needs and why are you well placed to implement your idea?

Design & Development

We’re interested in how your idea has been developed - who have you involved and how have you facilitated this? How are you approaching the issue, and why, and what expertise and experience can you bring?

Influence

We’re also interested in how you will collect feedback from people involved in the idea - will this be formal or informal? How will you use this to improve or develop what you do?
People in the Lead
What does this look like for us?

Confidence, not control
We trust in people’s ability to make great things happen

Simple processes, good judgements
We use simple, proportionate processes which help us to make good judgements

The strengths people bring
We start with what people can contribute, and the potential in their idea

A catalyst for others
We listen to, learn from, act on and facilitate the things that matter to people, communities and our partners

Shared direction, diverse approaches
We value the diversity of communities we work with across the UK, are consistent in the quality and opportunities we offer, and support people to tackle inequalities

Using resources well
We make informed choices about the resources given to us by National Lottery players: with knowledge, with people and with money, and in an environmentally sustainable way
What we’re funding in England

We will enable people across England to take the lead by using their local knowledge to test and grow ideas that matter most to them.

We will support people to share learning about “what went well”, and “what didn’t” so that many more can benefit.

Our funding priorities

**Stronger relationships**
We support ideas that bring people together, strengthening relationships in and across communities.

**Shared and sustainable places and spaces**
We support people to shape and sustain the places that matter to them, like a park, community centre or online network.

**Early action to prevent problems and tackle disadvantage**
We support activity that empowers people to fulfil their potential, working to address problems at the earliest possible stage.
Our funding priorities

Our funding priorities are also interconnected:

— Positive relationships between diverse groups of people in the community are formed and strengthened when there are places to meet, organise and share stories

— Places and spaces are valuable and meaningful to the community because of the social activities which happen, and the relationships which are formed

— Where there are strong relationships within communities and places to meet, people have a support network during difficult times, making it easier to spot and resolve problems at the earliest stage

How we’re funding in England

— We will listen to people’s ideas, so we won’t just talk about projects

— We will ensure our processes are simpler, more responsive and proportionate

— We will make good judgements using our knowledge about the local and national context

www.biglotteryfund.org.uk
Our funding in England

**National Lottery Awards for All**
This is our most popular funding stream. We award grants of £10,000 or under. Last year, we made more than 12,352 grants, reaching over 6m people across every local authority in the UK (7,786 in England).

**Reaching Communities**
This stream provides longer-term funding, with awards upwards of £10,000. Last year in England, we made 434 successful awards, with an average award size of £340,000.

**Partnerships**
Funding for joint action that goes beyond what any single organisation can achieve alone. Supporting ideas that address long terms issues in a place or with a theme.

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Changes to our ways of working

What we’ve done:

- Developed new initiatives such as ‘Women and Girls’ where we spoke with applicants first and our decision-making was supported by sector leaders and women supported by similar organisations

- Designed simpler guidance and application forms for Reaching Communities

- Worked collaboratively with others to increase the impact of our funding, for example, the Youth Investment Fund, #iwill Fund and Suffolk Community Foundation
Changes to our ways of working
What can you expect?

— We are launching our new National Lottery Awards for All programme in the summer, followed by a new online portal this autumn

— More collaborative working and supporting local partnerships to tackle social problems together, ensuring we continue to share learning at every stage

— Local, more flexible ways of working so that we find the best ideas in communities, and create partnerships

Find out more

Talk to your local Funding Officer

Visit our website

Call our BIG Advice Line: 03454 102030