

Capacity Builders Capital Investment Programme 2008-2011 South West Forum Briefing

Capacity Builders have just launched their Capital Investment Programme for Developing third sector resource centres. They want the programme to increase the access that third sector organisations have to high quality, relevant and affordable shared facilities and services offered by local resource centres across England.

They have defined third sector local resource centres as a building or area within a building which is used as a base for providing development and support services to frontline organisations within a local area and specifically:

- Offers accommodation or shared services and facilities to frontline third sector organisations within the area
- Offers services accessible to all frontline third sector organisations within a local area

There are 3 strands to the programme:

Strand A: 2008 – 2009 – Smaller grants for premises improvement

There is up to £30,000 available for small-scale improvements to existing centres by offering additional meeting, office or storage space, better IT, telephony or access to resources. There is a rolling application process with a **final deadline for applications being 31st January 2009**.

This is an open programme with applications welcome from existing local resource centres. Applicants will need to demonstrate that projects are in an advanced stage of planning, with any necessary permissions granted, and that they can be completed by 31st March 2009.

N.B. Applications will be assessed for this strand on a monthly basis so early applications are more likely to succeed.

Strand B: April 2009- March 2011- Investment grants for significant refurbishment

This strand has a 2 stage application process with amounts of £50,000 - £200,000 available with the opportunity to bid for two elements of revenue funding to support project development and delivery. They intend to make a range of grants for **significant refurbishment** and the development of existing premises. Projects will need to show how they increase access to accommodation, shared services and facilities for organisations in their area. It is anticipated that they will make up to 25 grants under this strand.

Deadline for expression of interest is 31st January 2009

Strand C: 2009 – 2011

This is for Flagship Projects the intention is to fund 5 Flagship Projects to develop or significantly expand local third sector resource centres. Grants of between £200,000 - £500,000 will be available but will need 50% match funding. Any project will need a significant emphasis on shared services for co-located organisations.

This is a 2 stage application process with a **deadline for expressions of interest being 31st March 2009**.

Further details on this programme are available at <http://www.capacitybuilders.org.uk/capital>