

# East Midlands Oral History Archive

Information Sheet  
#13

## Funding Oral History Projects

This sheet will  
explain:

- What to think about before you apply for money.
- Possible sources of funding for your project.

# East Midlands Oral History Archive

Centre for Urban History  
University of Leicester  
Leicester  
LE1 7RH

Phone: 0116 252 5065  
Fax: 0116 252 5062  
Email: [emoha@le.ac.uk](mailto:emoha@le.ac.uk)  
[www.le.ac.uk/emoha](http://www.le.ac.uk/emoha)

# How can I get funding for my oral history project?

There are a vast number of organisations, including major charities, that provide funding for projects, from a few pounds to hundreds of thousands of pounds. The difficulty is to find the level and type of funding that is right for your project. Funding organisations also have their own set of criteria which can change from year to year – it is therefore important that you are quite clear of the objective of your own project.

The main priority is therefore to give time and thought to a number of areas such as:

*WHAT* is the purpose of your project? What end result are you aiming to achieve? What is the potential impact of your project on your local community?

*HOW* does your project tie in with any local initiatives – community/social/environmental?

*WHO* will be involved in your project? Will it be an individual or small group or will the wider community be involved? Is the group an existing one? Do you need to formalise it - for example with a constitution and a bank account? Who do you need in your group?

*DO* these people already have the required skills, or is one of the project's aims to teach new skills or enhance existing ones? There are many award schemes that provide **both** funding and training.

There are many possible areas of available funding, all of which have their own specific criteria. **DON'T BE PUT OFF IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED.** There are a huge number of award schemes. A few are listed below with contact details. (All the contact numbers have people who are there to help you succeed.) Talk to them at the very beginning of the planning stage. Also shown are a number of websites that provide a wealth of information.

### General Sources of Funding

For an idea about grant-giving organisations, a good place to start is <http://www.funderfinder.org.uk/funding.php>. The East Midlands Funders Forum also enables you to search for funding under thematic areas including Arts & Culture, Community Development, and Heritage. See <http://www.fundersindex.co.uk/> for details. Directories of such organisations can also be consulted in libraries.



*People won't be giving money away in the street very often. But, there are a lot of opportunities for different types of funding for oral history projects.*

### **Awards For All**

These are grants of between £300 and £10,000 for people to take part in art, sport, heritage and community activities, and projects that promote education, the environment and health in the local community. Applications can be made at any time, and you will be notified of the decision within eight weeks. See <http://www.awardsforall.org.uk/england/index.html> for details of the scheme in England.

### **Your Heritage Programme**

Grants of £5,000 - £50,000 are available for projects that conserve or enhance our heritage, or encourage communities to identify, care for and celebrate their heritage. Projects should also increase opportunities for learning about heritage, and provide wider access to heritage resources and sites. They can include involving people in exploring local cultures, traditions, languages and ways of life. For details of the application process, see <http://www.hlf.org.uk/English/HowToApply/OurGrantGivingProgrammes/YourHeritage>.

### **Young Roots**

An HLF programme designed to promote the involvement of young people (13-20 years of age) in their heritage. Grants of between £5,000—25,000 are available. For more information, visit the HLF website at <http://www.hlf.org.uk/English/HowToApply/OurGrantGivingProgrammes/YoungRoots/>, or contact the East Midlands office at Heritage Lottery Fund, Chiltern House, St Nicholas Court, 25-27 Castle Gate, Nottingham, NG1 7AR. Tel. 0115 9349050.

### **The Coalfields Regeneration Trust**

The Coalfields Regeneration Trust awards grants across coalfield areas in Britain. Projects must fit into one or more of the following themes: Supporting communities; Learning communities; Enterprising communities; and Supporting people into work. 'Bridging the Gap' offers £500 - £10,000, while the main grants programme covers requests between £10,000 and £300,000. See <http://www.coalfields-regen.org.uk/> for links to regional contacts.

### **Rural Community Council (Leics. and Rutland)**

The RCC provides a range of services including help and advice in developing community projects. It can signpost the way to organisations that can provide expertise, funding and other means of support. It publishes a very comprehensive Funding Information Pack which can be accessed direct at <http://www.ruralcc.org.uk/fundinginformation.html>. Tel: 0116 2662905 or visit the website <http://www.ruralcc.org.uk/> for more details

This sheet offers a sample of funding available. If none of the above apply to your particular project try a general website such as <http://www.cimg.org.uk/funding/contacts.html> or contact us at EMOHA and we will endeavour to point you in the right direction.

Above all be creative in your use of Oral History. Good luck!