



Grants

Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly

2019

EU Structural & Investment Funds Growth Programme

Largescale grants though the EU programme are being administered centrally. Probably the last calls through the programme have been issued: <http://www.cornwallislesofscillygrowthprogramme.org.uk/active-calls/>

Community Led Local Development (CLLD)

CLLD aims to provide pathways to better economic opportunities for people and businesses in the most deprived areas of Cornwall, strengthening local availability of employment, skills and training, and developing the ability of local residents to access these. It is aimed at specific geographical eligible areas. For smaller projects and a quicker application process there is a small grants scheme with grants up to £9,999.

Acceleration Through Innovation Fund (ATI)

Applicants must have a genuine desire to innovate, do something new & be ready to engage with the ATI Team to help frame the project. Grants typically range from £2.5k to £10k at 50% & fund costs such as Proof of Market/Wider Feasibility Issues; Proof of Concept; Prototyping & IP protection.

Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Investment Fund

A partnership between the CloSLEP and British Business Bank, the £40m fund will provide loans and equity investments, rather than grants, where barriers exist for SMEs and seek to address an equity gap in start-up, early stage and development capital.

AgriTech

Agri-tech is a £10m initiative to drive research, development & innovation in the agricultural sector. Available for SMEs to develop innovations to improve efficiency, profitability & resilience through help with research, development & application of new technologies assisted by project partners, research projects, innovation grants & graduate placements.

Marine-i & Marine Challenge Fund

Marine-i, is a £9.3m collaboration between the Universities of Exeter & Plymouth, Cornwall College, Cornwall Marine Network, Cornwall Development Company & the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult, bringing together key infrastructure & expertise to enable innovation in the marine sector. They offer a Rapid Innovation Grant (100% grants up to £2,000 to help accelerate innovation) and a Marine Challenge Fund (av. 70% grants from £2k to £150k).

European Maritime Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

EMFF funding for the fishing sector covers 6 categories: Fishing vessel energy improvements; Investments on board vessels; Improvements to shore based facilities; Partnerships and information sharing; Seafood processing & investments in fisheries management & aquaculture, animal health & inland fishing. Grant rates & size of grants vary, but 50% grants are usually available to the private sector.

Innovate UK

Innovate UK regularly launches funding competitions for innovative projects covering industry sectors such as: emerging & enabling

technologies; infrastructure systems; health & life sciences; & manufacturing & materials.

Aerospace Cornwall

Innovation Vouchers available - Up to £5000 for SMEs to work with universities and research centres across the country. Support for aerospace and space supply chains

Export for Growth

There are two Export for Growth schemes: Export Essentials (for businesses new to export) & Extend Your Global Reach (aimed at helping businesses already trading in established global economies to sell into high growth & emerging markets). The programme mainly offers support, but some grants are available.

Isles of Scilly Voucher Scheme

This fund is currently closed but a decision is expected soon on when it should reopen. In the previous scheme there were business grants on offer from £1k to a max £100k, with some match funding required depending on the project plans & programme requirements.

Business Investment for Growth 2 (BIG2)

This fund is currently closed but a decision is expected soon on when it should reopen. In the previous scheme funding was available to support co-investments in high growth or potential high growth SMEs. Grant ranged from £2.5k - £75k (anticipated av. investment £18k) at 45%. Projects supported led to business growth, improving competitive advantage, & leading to skilled job creation.

Superfast Business Cornwall (SFBC)

This fund is closing at the end of February, but a decision is expected soon on when it should reopen. Until then they are offering free website reviews. This service is for SMEs to boost business competitiveness through increased understanding & exploitation of digital technology and the provision of high quality information, advice & digital skills development.

Arts Council National Lottery Project Grants

Grants of between £1k & £100k up to 90% are available for eligible individuals & organisations (incl. Ltd companies).

Propel Cornwall

A new business support scheme for marine SMEs delivered by the Cornwall Marine Network. The scheme has a broad remit to support marine businesses by improving productivity & efficiency in their products, services & processes. There is also a small grant element to the scheme, to offset the costs of specific agreed investment plans that will improve productivity.

Cultivator – Support for the Creative Sector

Tailored support for freelancers, sole traders, partnership or limited companies including: internship programme; specialist mentoring (up to £1k); sector specific knowledge exchange & peer support programme; creative investment grants (up to 80% of eligible costs up to a max of £5k per business); bespoke support for creative

graduate start-ups; skills development; collaborative projects & RIO innovation labs.

Tevi

An exciting project seeking to innovatively integrate 'ecosystem services' and 'circular economics' approaches to drive business innovation, resource efficiency, and contribute to Cornwall's long-term environmental growth assisted by project partners, research projects, grants & graduate placements. Grants are on offer from £1k to £7k+ with an intervention rate of up to 80%.

EPIC (eHealth Productivity & Innovation in C&IoS)

Led by the University of Plymouth, in partnership with Creative England, the project aims to improve the use of technology in both health & social care hoping to improve health & wellbeing of people & improve the Cornish economy in this sector. There are two levels of grant available: Feasibility grants of up to £5k & product/service development grants from £5k to £100k.

Cornwall Local Energy Market

Centrica are inviting Cornish businesses to apply for grants of up to £1k for energy monitoring equipment to help reduce energy bills.

Countryside Productivity Scheme

Currently closed - new grants will be announced later this year.

South West Manufacturing Advisory Service (SWMAS) - High Value Manufacturing Investment Programme (HVMIP)

HVMIP supports hi-tech & innovative manufacturing SMEs & start-ups with a dedicated Manufacturing Specialist offering advice &

resources to help businesses grow & launch new products including: free business review & diagnostic; business strategy & new product development; innovative technologies; & grants.

SWMAS - Local Manufacturing Advisory Programme (LMAP)

LMAP supports established manufacturing SMEs in the SW to understand & develop their capability to improve & grow. The programme offers a dedicated team of Manufacturing Specialists. Support includes: A free business review & diagnostic; business strategy; operational efficiency; new product development; supply chain engagement; funding for consultancy & capital investment; workshops & events.

Crowdfunder

Use the crowd to fund small amounts of money from a large number of people by offering a reward or seeking donations.

SWIG Finance – Loans

Growing SME companies can access loans of £25k to £100k to invest in their business growth. There are also Start Up Loans (trading up to 24 months) available up to £25k for a max 5 year term.

Skills development: The **Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Skills Hub** is a good place to start as there is a lot of free or subsidised training available.

Business Support programmes

Not always offering grants there are many Business Support programmes on offer for both start-ups & existing business growth e.g. Unlocking Potential offer Breakthrough for Business Start-Ups.

FIVE TOP TIPS TO HELP MAXIMISE YOUR GRANT SUCCESS

Looking for and securing a grant can be daunting. Many different organisations offer grant and funding opportunities, but they all come with their own requirements to secure the funds.

Here are five top tips for businesses to help maximise your grant success.

1. Does your project fit? Are you eligible?

Not all projects or businesses are eligible for funding, so very early on it's best to find out whether your project fits the funding criteria.

2. Have you already started your project? Do you need the funding?

Most grants are not available to projects that have already started and retrospective funding is rarely accepted. A business is usually asked to make a strong case for the need for funds, so starting your project before you have grant approval would jeopardise this.

3. Identify how much you need.

Very rarely do grants fund a project 100%. Funds available are more likely to provide 30-50% towards your project costs. Depending on the details, you will have to have "match funding" for your project in place either from reserves, cash flow or loan.

4. What will you be offering in return for the grant?

Grants aren't just free money, the grant funders are usually looking for something in return. Normally outputs that provide economic benefit to the local area are required such as creating and protecting jobs, improving staff skills and wage levels, increasing export markets as well as increasing productivity and improving profitability. Many grant funders are also now looking at the environmental impact, social diversity and introduction of innovative products and processes.

5. Get your house in order.

When approaching a grant funder be ready with up-to-date management information, market and customer data, costs and project benefits or if possible, a business plan. Once you are confident you are eligible, you will need to submit a full application which will require a business plan and financial forecasts including a description of your business, market, customers, competitors, products, project summary and rationale, and benefits as a result of your investment.

If you would like to find out more about Grant Services and how we at RRL can assist, please contact our Grants Specialist, Alison Elvey

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