



Grants

Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly

May 2019

EU Structural & Investment Funds Growth Programme

Largescale grants through the EU programme are being administered centrally. There are currently four live calls for projects funded through the European Social Fund :

- £2.2m European Funding Call: Community Grants projects;
- £5.5m European Funding Call: Skills for Growth-Business Clusters project;
- £2.2m European Funding available for Skills for Young People;
- £1.5m European funding available for Access to Higher Skills.

www.cornwallislesofscillygrowthprogramme.org.uk/active-calls

Community Led Local Development (CLLD)

CLLD is investing EU funding into the most deprived areas of Cornwall, enhancing the local economy in core neighbourhoods. This geographically based fund is looking for innovative projects that will strengthen opportunities for people and enable businesses to grow. The grant funding will strengthen local availability of employment, skills and training, and develop the ability of local residents to access these. There are four ways to apply. The small grant schemes provide a quicker application process:

1. The main scheme: excess of £10,000 grant (no maximum) - 45% to 80% depending on the project. Two stage application process;
2. Enterprise small grants up to £9,999 towards capital expenditure items and business support up to 72%;
3. Community small grants up to £9,999 to deliver training for unemployed or economically inactive people up to 80%;
4. Calls for applicants - to provide targeted project each of the four LAGs (Local Action Groups) issue calls for specific projects. Atlantic and Moor LAG currently have 3 live calls and South and East LAG have 5 live calls. The calls are for varied pots of funding and have varied deadlines.

communityledcornwall.co.uk

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 max 50% for both capital and revenue costs in the following five areas; proof of market, proof of concept, prototyping, IP protection, and next product or service generation.

aticornwallinnovation.co.uk

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%. tevi.co.uk

Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Investment Fund

A partnership between the CloSLEP and British Business Bank, the £40m fund provides provides commercially focussed finance through a Debt and Equity Fund, rather than grants, where barriers exist for SMEs and seek to address an equity gap in start-up, early stage and development capital. www.ciosif.co.uk

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. www.agritechcornwall.co.uk

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 £2k to £150k). www.marine-i.co.uk

Propel Cornwall

A 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. propelcornwall.co.uk

Aerospace Cornwall

Generating opportunities to invest in Cornwall's aerospace and space sectors three types of support are on offer:

1. R&D funding - Businesses can benefit from collaborative R&D funding for projects with a typical consortia project receiving an average of £125K (although there may be exceptions to this).
2. Innovation Vouchers - Up to £5k for SMEs to develop a product or service through R&D, reach new markets, or simply get ahead of the competition.

3. Support for aerospace and space supply chains

aerospacecornwall.co.uk

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. cultivatorcornwall.org.uk

Arts Council National Lottery Project Grants

Grants of between £1k & £100k up to 90% available. Two application processes - quicker for £15k and under and over £15k.

www.artscouncil.org.uk/projectgrants

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.

www.centrica.com/innovation/cornwall-local-energy-market

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). Support is mainly on offer, but some grants are available. www.export4growth.co.uk

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. There are two levels of grant available: Feasibility grants of up to £5k & product/service development grants from £5k to £100k.

Business Investment for Growth 3 (BIG3)

Business Investment for Growth 2 is closed. News on BIG3 is expected by July. BIG2 provided grants to support co-investments in high growth SMEs. If BIG3 is launched the grants will focus on increasing productivity, creating jobs at Level 4 (HNC/BTEC Professional award Certificate or Diploma) or above and creating new office space.

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 vary, usually 50% grants for 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.

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 dedicated specialist advice & resources to help growth & 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.

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.

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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