

## Community Seedcorn Fund

### Fund aims

The Community Seedcorn Fund directly supports the delivery of the Scottish Forestry Strategy outcomes and objectives including:

#### Outcome:

- Improved health and well-being of people and their communities

#### Objectives:

- Assist community participation
- Enhance opportunities for health and enjoyment
- Contribute to growth in learning and skills

The funding aims to support groups and organisations to encourage and support greater use of woods by people to derive health, well-being and community benefits.

Other FCS initiatives the fund supports include:

- Working with communities: our commitment ([www.forestry.gov.uk/communitiesscotland](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/communitiesscotland))
- Woods In and Around Towns ([www.forestry.gov.uk/wiat](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/wiat))
- Woods for health ([www.forestry.gov.uk/woodsforhealth](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/woodsforhealth))

### Applicant eligibility

Eligible applicants include community groups, voluntary groups, development trusts, social enterprises, charities, local authorities etc., with objectives supporting the above outcome and objectives. The Community Seedcorn Fund is not available to private individuals.

The minimum requirement is that the applicant has a bank account, and for community-based groups, a basic constitution (further information on model constitutions can be accessed at: [www.scvo.org.uk/information/organisational-structures/setting-up-a-voluntary-association/](http://www.scvo.org.uk/information/organisational-structures/setting-up-a-voluntary-association/))

## Eligible activities

These include:

- Schemes that promote physical activity e.g. walking schemes, safe routes to school, natural play and adventure play.
- Developing materials that promote the health and well-being benefits of using woodlands.
- Facilitation of volunteering for skills training, health improvement and community development.
- Establishment of volunteer groups and the induction of volunteers.
- Providing resources to involve communities in the decision making process of managing their local woodland.
- Costs associated with developing National Forest Land Scheme applications e.g. feasibility studies, valuation, ballots etc.

This is not an exhaustive list. This funding is not suitable for land based expenditure i.e. paths, signage etc. Funding cannot be used to fund existing staff that work for public sector organisations e.g. Local Authorities, or as capital funding for the acquisition of assets. Funding can support activities on the National Forest Estate.

For those projects with an education element please take note of the following:

1. Forest Education Initiative Cluster groups should apply to the FEI Partnership Fund;
2. If the project is not from a FEI Cluster Group and has more than 50% of a formal education element to it (formal education includes primary and secondary schools and colleges) please contact Bonnie Maggio FEI Co-ordinator in the first instance: [bonnie.maggio@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:bonnie.maggio@forestry.gsi.gov.uk); and
3. If the project is not from a FEI Cluster Group and has less than 50% of a formal education element to it then it may be eligible under the Community Seedcorn Fund.

Full details of the FEI Partnership Fund can be found at:

[www.foresteducation.org/local\\_cluster\\_groups/the\\_fei\\_partnership\\_fund/](http://www.foresteducation.org/local_cluster_groups/the_fei_partnership_fund/)

## Application

There are two separate application processes:

- i) for applications up to £1,000 (via an application letter); and
- ii) for applications above £1,000 (via an application form)

The relevant information and application form (over £1,000) is available from your local FCS Conservancy office. Details of your local office can be downloaded from: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/HCOU-4U4J23>. The level of information required will be proportionate to the level of funding required.

## Payment rate and match funding

**Funding is only available for activities delivered before the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2013.**

The level of funding will be on a sliding scale as follows:

- 100% for projects up to a total cost of £5000
- Up to 90% for projects with a total cost of between £5001- £20,000
- Up to 75% for projects with a total cost exceeding £20,000

## Approval

Approval will be on continuous basis. Funding will be allocated on a first come first served basis. The FCS representative administering your application will inform you on the timing of a decision (usually within 28 working days of the date the application is registered).

## Project monitoring

For all applicants to the Fund completion of the CSF monitoring form is a condition of funding. This form should be completed and submitted along with the invoice required to claim funding. For projects above £5,000 a more comprehensive monitoring approach should be developed - the costs of which are eligible under this fund.

## Further information

If you require an application form, have any queries, are unsure about any of the above, or want to discuss a potential application you should contact your local Conservancy Office. Contact details for each office are available at <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/HCOU-4U4J23>