

The **co-operative** foundation

Invitation to Apply for Funding

Truth about Youth is the new grants programme of The Co-operative Foundation. The Trustees of the Foundation want to nurture and support young people in making a positive contribution in local communities.

We are committed to involving young people in the practical processes of the new grants programme, and are working with YouthBank to ensure that the Foundation is delivering what young people really need. We will also measure the success of the funded projects in the short, medium and long term, and evaluate the grants programme to ensure best practice.

We are looking to support one registered charity, working with young people across the Bristol area, over a two-year period. The following information will help you to decide if your charity could benefit from this funding.

Aim of the programme

To challenge and change negative perceptions about young people, by supporting projects which enable them to work with adults, the media and the wider community.

Objectives of the programme

1. To support young people to deal positively with the challenge of growing up in a culture which has a widespread negative perception of youth.
2. To increase levels of interaction between young people and adults to develop projects in which they all have an interest and for those projects to have a lasting benefit.
3. To engage young people in identifying and setting up their own co-operative projects which address their needs and demonstrate young people's value to society.

4. To successfully communicate the outputs and outcomes of the projects to as wide an audience as possible.

Delivery

In order to receive support, a charity must:

1. Actively engage young people in the development and running of its projects
2. Present a positive vision of young people and youth-led projects
3. Work collaboratively and build relationships with the media and wider community
4. Be able to demonstrate living examples of co-operative values and principles throughout its work (see appendix 1 for more details)
5. Be willing to regularly participate in the evaluation of its own projects and the grants programme
6. Be able to manage a grant of this size

The projects this charity runs must:

1. Identify:
 - a. **the negative perceptions which are held about the young people it works with** (e.g. do people believe that they are troublemakers? Disrespectful? Inconsiderate? Perpetrators of anti-social behaviour? That they are engaged in crime or substance misuse, and carry knives?)
 - b. **who holds these negative perceptions** (e.g. is it parents? Teachers? Other adults? Sections of the media? The wider community?)
 - c. **how these negative perceptions can be challenged and changed** (e.g. is it through work that focuses on bringing the generations together? Significant partnership projects with the media? Projects which aim to communicate a more balanced representation of young people? Community work which fosters better relations between young people and adults?)
2. Have a long-lasting, positive impact on negative perceptions
3. Develop young people's self-esteem and mutual respect

Support Available

We are seeking to support one registered charity, working in Bristol, which can deliver these objectives. There is up to £140k per year, for two years (£280k in total) available.

Exclusions

Please see appendix 2 for a list of those groups and projects for which we are unable to provide support.

Submitting your Expression of Interest

At this stage, we want to find out what kind of an organisation you are, rather than the sort of projects you might run if you were to receive this grant.

If you think your charity reflects our values and principles and is able to help us achieve our objectives, please send us no more than TWO pages of A4, outlining the following information in the order it appears below.

1. Briefly describe your charity – its purpose, aims, objectives, staff numbers etc.
2. Last year's turnover
3. Operating area
4. How young people are engaged in shaping the vision and direction of your work
5. A brief summary of some of the major projects you've run over the last two years
6. What your plans are for the next 2-3 years
7. How your charity demonstrates co-operative values and principles (see appendix 1)
8. How you work with/have worked with local/regional media
9. Names and addresses of two independent referees

Please also include a copy of your most recent audited accounts and business plan when you submit your expression of interest.

Next Steps

- The deadline to submit your expression of interest is Friday 5 March 2010.
- From the expressions of interest, we will create a shortlist of four groups and notify those groups by Tuesday 9 March.
- These four groups will attend a one-day event on Wednesday 24 March, in Bristol, and present their ideas to a panel made up of representatives from the Co-operative Foundation and YouthBank.
- On that day, two groups will be selected to present to the Trustees on Wednesday 28 April 2010, in Manchester.

NB - if you are applying, please ensure that you are available on both Wednesday 24 March 2010 and Wednesday 28 April 2010.

Expressions of interest should be sent to:

Truth about Youth Application
The Co-operative Foundation
6th Floor, New Century House
Corporation Street
Manchester
M60 4ES

For any enquiries please contact Sarah Robinson, Foundation Manager on 0161 246 3039 or srobinson@co-operative.coop

Appendix 1 – Co-operative Values and Principles

Because we are a co-operative, our objective is to support groups which show elements of co-operation in their approach. In order to find out whether your group can demonstrate any of these elements, please give us one or two examples of how your charity demonstrates some of the values listed below. For example if your organisation is being run by a committee where all members have one vote, then it is democratic. If your group follows a policy which ensures it is open to all people, regardless of their background, then it is practising equality.

Our Co-operative values

Self help – we help people help themselves

Self-responsibility – we take responsibility and answer for our actions

Democracy – we give our members a say in the way we run our business

Equality – no matter how much money a member invests in their share account, they still have one vote

Equity – we carry out our business in a way that is fair and unbiased

Solidarity – we share interests and common purposes with our members and other

Co-operatives

Appendix 2 - Exclusions

The following groups and projects are not eligible to apply for funding to the Co-operative Foundation's *Truth about Youth* programme.

Groups

- x Any organisation which is not a registered charity
- x Charities that have large, unrestricted reserves
- x The Scout movement, including Guides, Cubs, Brownies, Beavers and Rainbows
- x Sea Cadets
- x Schools, including PTAs
- x Charities not able to demonstrate they practice co-operative values and principles

Projects

- x Projects being delivered outside of the Bristol area
- x Replacement of statutory funding
- x Activities that are the responsibility of local or central government
- x Projects which are deemed to promote a particular religious group or activity
- x Applications for retrospective projects
- x Grants for outstanding debts or down payments for loans