

Fair Shares for Black and Ethnic Communities ?
Summary of a Workshop on the structure of grant schemes
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1. The application process

- 1.1 Too complicated and demanding
- 1.2 Decision process is often too long
- 1.3 No developmental officers who act as the human interface
- 1.4 Decide simply not to apply

Ways forward

- 1.5 Make application forms and the application process simpler
- 1.6 Two main stages - Expression of Interest , Second Stage full application
- 1.7 Face to face assessment
- 1.8 Break down budget items into the simplest direct form
- 1.9 Resist using the application process as a means of gathering general information
- 1.10 Supporting development
 - Application seminars
 - Providing developmental / advisory funding officers.
 - Funding feasibility studies, and project outline development
- 1.11 Development costs are critical
- 1.12 Local networks of translators and interpreters

2. Supporting ethnic minority project development and sustainability

- 2.1 Commitment in the short term and the challenge to small developing organisations with providing an exit strategy
- 2.2 Concentration on project funding
- 2.3 The funding of core strategic development, and support for continual development are absent essentials

Ways Forward

- 2.4 Engage ethnic groups in exploring ways of investing in their long term sustainability
- 2.5 Identify and support new initiatives
- 2.6 Building into their funding structures ways of helping projects extend into the future. Core services, strategic development and continuation projects are essentials
- 2.7 Funding schemes which enable monitoring and evaluation
- 2.9 Honesty between funders and fundraisers

3. The relationship between ethnic minority grant recipients and funders

- 3.1 Their way of implementing projects and evaluating their own significance is seen as suspect by funders
- 3.2 What they feel is important is dismissed
- 3.3 Cash flow is a big problem
- 3.4 Too much time is spent reporting and gathering information instead of doing the actual work
- 3.5 Funders do not consult them
- 3.6 Lack of trust

Ways forward

- 3.7 Develop and maintain a relationship with ethnic communities
- 3.8 Actively consult ethnic communities or trusted representatives
- 3.9 Reflect the diversity
- 3.10 Meetings with funders should occur more often
- 3.11 Monitoring of projects and grants can meet funders' needs and be short and simple at the same time
- 3.12 Establish the amount of monitoring time
- 3.13 Costs of monitoring should be met by the funders
- 3.14 Payments in advance

4. Criteria and competition

- 4.1 Established organisations alongside emerging developmental projects
- 4.2 Inappropriate criteria
- 4.3 Demands for research / evidence
- 4.4 Unrealistic demands for hard outputs
- 4.5 The cultural and social significance of ethnic community projects
- 4.6 General inflexibility
- 4.7 Not competing on a level playing field

- 4.8 Different criteria, measures and outputs should be applied to fundamentally different project scenarios
- 4.9 Qualitative measures needed as much as quantitative
- 4.10 Structures should be in place so that emerging developmental projects should not be competing with projects with established themes
- 4.11 Funders should set themselves targets which meet their commitment to funding and assisting the developing of ethnic groups
- 4.12 Funders' criteria need to reflect ethnic community needs through consultation
- 4.13 Funders should work in partnership with organisations which can nurture and support newcomers

This is a Summary of workshop given by Judy Ling Wong OBE at the Lottery Monitor 6th Annual Conference 2002

Further reading

“Funding Issues affecting ethnic communities” - Updated version of the BEN Discussion paper prepared by Judy Ling Wong OBE, Henry Adomako, and Nitin Thakrar.

This paper and other related resources are available in the Resources Section of the BEN website.
www.ben-network.org.uk