

Overall Guidance Notes for Our Awards

These guidance notes refer to both the Social Entrepreneurs Fund and the UnLtd Millennium Awards Programme. The awards have been drawn together into one joint programme focused on supporting social entrepreneurs across Scotland. You apply to the Fund and we determine which pot of money your award comes from.

These notes should be read in conjunction with the application form.

Programme partners

Firstport

Firstport is funded by Scottish Government to support new and emerging social entrepreneurs across Scotland. We provide business support and advice and as part of this will also be delivering the Social Entrepreneurs Fund. We also have a contract with UnLtd to manage the day to day operations of the UnLtd awards scheme in Scotland through Scotland UnLtd.

Firstport was formed in November 2006 as the “first port of call” for new and emerging social entrepreneurs in Scotland.

We will invest in ideas which contribute to the achievement of one or more of the 15 National Outcomes which describe what the Scottish Government wish to achieve over the next 10 years. The 15 National Outcomes can be found here:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/11/13092240/9>

UnLtd

UnLtd supports people who want to create a positive change in their communities. We call these people ‘Social Entrepreneurs’: social because they are interested in their community or society, and entrepreneur because they make things happen.

Our awards are made to a wide range of individuals. These people have vision, drive, commitment and passion and they want to change the world for the better

We help them by providing advice, training, cash awards and other types of support that they may need to run their project.

UnLtd was formed through a unique partnership between seven leading non-profit organisations that work with Social Entrepreneurs across the UK. (For further information on our founding partners, visit our website at www.unltd.org.uk. Scotland UnLtd is part of the UnLtd programme.

In December 2002 UnLtd was awarded the Millennium Commission’s £100 million Legacy Endowment Fund, to set up and run the UnLtd Millennium Awards Scheme. UnLtd concentrates on funding.

1. What are our Awards?

Our awards offer start up cash plus support to help you turn your ideas into a reality. We will provide advice, training, encouragement and other support services for all our Award Winners, to give their initiatives the best chance of success.

Our Awards Scheme has 3 levels:

- Level 0 awards are for up to £500 and are made primarily through referrals.
- Level 1 Awards from £500 to £5,000 are to help make new ideas into real projects.
- Level 2 Awards from £5,000 to £20,000 are to support projects that are already developed or to pay for the living expenses of Award Winners to give them more time for their project.

Level 1 Awards are distributed ten times per year. You will need to complete an application form for these awards which will then be assessed by our Development Managers.

Level 2 Awards are distributed 4 times a year with calls placed for application through the submission of a business plan.

Our focus is on making awards to **individuals**. Informal groups may apply for an award. Formally constituted groups will not be eligible: a group is considered formally constituted if it has previously developed a constitution and has been in operation in the past. The maximum group size that we will consider for Award is 2-3 group members

2. Who and what the awards are for?

Our awards are for individuals:

- over the age of 16
- living in the UK
- an individual or part of an informal group (no larger than 2-3 applicants)

Who want develop initiatives:

- that benefit the public or a community in the UK
- that need an award to ensure their success
- that offer a learning opportunity for the applicant(s)
- that are a new initiative

*Ideas are **not** eligible for an award if they:*

- are part of your paid employment
- involve political or religious campaigning
- involve activities outside the law or against public policy; or anything that encourages ethnic, religious or commercial disharmony
- involve employing people, to carry out most of the development work
- are to fund living expenses (unless at Level 2)

For an applicant to be given an award through the Social Entrepreneurs Fund they will need to be developing an initiative that meets the national outcomes for Scotland as discussed under the section on Firstport. Applicants cannot be insolvent or facing insolvency.