



Applicant Workshop

21st January 2010

Question and answer session

Q. Does match funding have to be revenue or can it also be capital?

Match funding can be either revenue and/or capital, but not "in-kind" contributions.

Q. Is an organisation only permitted to submit one application per funding round?

Yes, organisations are only permitted to submit one application per funding round. In previous rounds there was no limit to the number of project applications an organisation could submit. As funds are limited and demand is high, for Round 3 and subsequent calls we request that organisations only submit one application per funding round. However, this does not preclude organisations from being partners in more than one project, so long as they are the lead applicant for only one.

Q. Can projects span more than one theme?

Although projects *can* span more than one thematic strand, applicant organisations must specify which one of the specifications (Financial Exclusion; Mergers or Equality of economic opportunity) that they wish their application for funding to be assessed against.

Q. During Round 1 there were suggestions that match funding could be flexible – is this still the case?

Yes. There is an overall programme target for the Third Sector Capacity Fund to achieve a 35% leverage from matched funding. As some applicant organisations/projects will bring more than 35% (some considerably more), this provides the requisite scope to be flexible with projects that cannot provide that level of funding.

Q. Do project beneficiaries have to be residents in the North East?

Yes, the fund will only support projects within the North East and which benefit the people of the region. So, for example, an application from a third sector based in the North East, but which involves support or benefit to people *outside* the region will *not* be supported.

Q. In light of the upcoming General Election and the uncertainty surrounding the future of Regional Development Agencies, is the Third Sector Capacity Fund safeguarded?

Should a Funding Allocation Letter (FAL) be offered to a project this will be honoured as a contractual obligation by ONE, including projects in round 3 which we hope to see start up by the summer of 2010. However, like all the RDAs, ONE is currently only guaranteed its funding under the current financial settlement with Government which covers the period 2008-11 and which included funding for the Third Sector Capacity Fund. ONE's commitment to continue to run funding rounds beyond March 2011 will be dependent as much on the outcome of the next Comprehensive Spending Review in 2010/11, as well as the findings of a mid-programme evaluation which will be undertaken later this year.

Q. Are the regional bases of national organisations excluded from applying?

Regional bases of national Third Sector organisations *are* permitted to apply to the Fund so long as the project is based and delivered in the region and it benefits the North East and its residents.

Q. Can Third Sector organisations call Rocket Science for advice?

Whilst Rocket Science would like to offer individual support to all projects, at the EOI stage we do not have the resources to do this. We request that all questions about the fund and the application process are sent to us by email (info@thirdsector.org.uk) or via the website (www.thirdsectorfund.org.uk). In the interests of transparency and fairness to all applicants, the response will be emailed to the sender in addition to being posted on the website for all interested organisations to review.

Q. Will funding be drawn down quarterly in arrears?

One North East's standard payment schedule is for projects to invoice quarterly in arrears. There are provisions for invoicing monthly in arrears or a certain amount of funding 'up-front', however, requests for these arrangements, which take into account the challenges some organisations face in managing their cash flow, will be assessed on an individual case-by-case basis.