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£2 million flexibility and innovation fund invites bids	1	Ecominds has announced that due to the large number of applications received to date, the closing date for Small Grants has been brought forward to 12 noon, Friday 30 April 2010. Through the small grants programme, Ecominds will fund a range of community and voluntary groups who want to encourage people with experience of mental distress to get involved in environmental projects, such as: Improving open spaces and wildlife habitats; Designing public art; and recycling. Ecominds, which is run by Mind as an award partner of the Big Lottery Fund, is looking to fund smaller projects with grants of up to £20,000. To be eligible for funding projects must have: Both a mental health and environmental perspective; Involve people with direct experience of mental distress; Encourage community access, collaboration, and improve the environment and environmental sustainability; Have a budget of under £250,000. The amount of funding currently available for Small Grants is limited and prospective applicants are encouraged to consider carefully before applying.	
BBC children in need	1		BBC CHILDREN IN NEED GRANTS
Young people with mental health problems	2		BBC Children in Need provides grants for up to three years to properly constituted not for profit organisations working with disadvantaged young people aged 18 or under. Funding is available to organisations (including schools) that work with young people who are suffering from illness, distress, abuse or neglect, are disabled, have behavioural or psychological difficulties and / or are living in poverty or situations of deprivation. Last year the programme made grants of £33 million to over 1,500 organisations. Examples of projects that recently received funding are: 27A Access Artspace Ltd (£21, 690) - the project will provide drama sessions for children and young people with a disability and their siblings. Relate Northamptonshire (£58, 589) - the project will provide counselling for disadvantaged children and young people in six schools in Northamptonshire, who have experienced domestic abuse, drug and alcohol abuse and family break up. Bushbury Nursery School in Wolverhampton (£67,645) - the project will develop and provide a series of Stay and Play sessions, a Toy library, and outreach work for children and their parents in the Bushbury area. The next closing date 15th April 2010.
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Launch of the 2010 Lord Stafford Awards	3	The Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS) has announced that it is seeking applications through its £2 million Flexibility and Innovation Fund. Further education and skills providers and provider representative bodies are invited to submit bids, for up to £90,000, for innovative projects leading to activities with the potential to secure significant improvements in sector practice or performance. In particular LSIS are looking to support applications that are innovative in terms of current sector practice; are aligned to priorities set out in the new National Improvement Strategy for the learning and skills sector; and has the potential to secure significant improvements in sector practice or performance, ie, the anticipated learning from the project is transferable to other organisations across the sector; etc. There are two further deadlines remaining. These are the 19th February 2010 and the 18th June 2010.	
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YOUNG PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS

This programme aims to provide support to organisations that work with young people with mental health problems aged 11-25. There are two strands to the programme. Services for young people which funds a range of services and approaches to help young people experiencing mental health problems make positive changes in their lives; and Training which will also fund work that ensures those working with young people with mental health problems, especially in general youth work settings, have access to good quality training to improve their skill base and confidence levels. Funding is available to organisations providing general counselling and therapeutic interventions, as well as specialist projects focused on particular issues such as eating disorders or bi-polar conditions. Grants available vary between £25,000 and £40,000 per year for up to three years. Previous projects supported include a £90,000 grant over three years to help fund a help line for young muslims with mental health problems who are often stigmatised; and Step Forward (Tower Hamlets) which received a grant of £60,000 over three years to provide help to young people who self harm or have eating disorders. The next closing date for applications is the 21st May 2010. http://www.comicrelief.com/apply_for_a_grant/uk/young_mental_health

FUNDING FOR IT PROJECTS SUPPORTING DISADVANTAGED GROUPS

The Nominet Trust, which was created in January 2008, with the declared aim of funding innovative Internet projects that make a positive difference to the lives of disadvantaged and vulnerable people, primarily in terms of education, safety and inclusion, has announced that it has made its first grants. Organisations that have been funded include: The British Computer Society of the Blind Cambridge Global Grid for Learning; Cambridge Library Learning Services; Childnet; Internet Society; Youthnet. The Trust was initially awarded £5 million from Nominet, the Internet registry for UK domains and will provide grants to organisations that can show that their innovative IT-related projects can make a positive difference to disadvantaged and vulnerable groups - in the UK, developing countries and around the world. Organisations wishing to apply need initially to complete an online eligibility questionnaire. Those organisations deemed successful will be

provided with a link to a more detailed application form. Grant application will be considered by the board of trustees. They meet in May, August and November. Applicants will hear from the Trust in the month following each meeting. <http://www.nominettrust.org.uk/index.php>

NATIONWIDE FOUNDATION SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

Through the small grants programme, the Nationwide Foundation makes grants of up to £5,000 to registered charities with incomes of under £500,000, which fit the Nationwide Foundations's funding guidelines. Under its small Grants programme the Foundation currently makes grants in the following areas. These are: Money Matters - which aims to tackle financial exclusion affecting disadvantaged groups across the UK. In particular the Foundation seeks to support survivors of domestic abuse to build their financial capability in order to help them live independently and achieve improved quality of life; and older people who face financial exclusion in order to help them achieve improved quality of life. Home Matters - which aims to address housing issues and homelessness among vulnerable groups in the UK? In particular support survivors of domestic abuse to live independently and achieve improved quality of life; and to support older people with their housing needs..Applications to the Small Grants Programme can be made at any time. <http://www.nationwidefoundation.org.uk/grants.asp#a2l>

CRACKING THE CODE

Cracking the Code is a bursary Scheme from the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) to improve governance within Third Sector infrastructure organisations. The scheme offers up to £500 to improve the way that community and voluntary organisation are led and governed. The type of activities that could be funded include: Organising a Board away day; Attend training on the latest legal updates or the roles and responsibilities of board members; improving an organisation's recruitment and induction systems;

Holding a stakeholder forum to improve strategic planning; Carrying out a governance review. In return for the bursary the NCVO will ask organisations to write a case study and develop a method to share the knowledge and experiences with other in the local area. The deadline for applications is the 31st March 2010. <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/crackingthecode>

THE LINKS FOUNDATION

The Links Foundation, which was formed by 'Working Links', an organisation that delivers services to tackle social exclusion and poverty by helping disadvantaged individuals and communities, provides grants to disadvantaged communities. Since its launch in 2003 it has distributed over £3 million in grants to over 40 projects. The type of activities that the Foundation seeks to support include projects that advance people's education; reduce significant disadvantage; assist those in conditions of poverty, need or distress ; and provide for recreational or other leisure time occupation. The Foundation can fund new or existing projects and can help meet costs such as salary, rent and stationery as well as capital costs. The average grant per project is about £20,000. Previously funded activities include arts, crafts and drama facilities for residents on a deprived estate; funding part-time caseworker to support vulnerable and disadvantaged young people; and supporting people with disabilities to become self-employed. The Board meets every four months. The closing date for applications is four weeks before the Board meeting. <http://www.linksfoundation.org/Default.aspx>

ONE PLANET LIVING GRANT SCHEME

Through the One Planet Living (OPL) Grant scheme, schools, community groups and charitable organisations can apply to their local B&Q store for funding to support a local community project. Projects must support at least one of the following themes; conserve nature; save energy; grow your own; and local culture and heritage. The scheme provides £50 to £250 (at retail cost) of B&Q materials, for example, pond liners, plants, peat-free compost for projects such as a pond/wildlife garden or paints labelled low or minimal VOC for redecoration projects. It is important that the project is sustainable. Thus, the materials and methods used should not cause environmental damage in the short or long-term. The final result should have a long-lasting benefit to the community. OPL Grants do not cover maintenance, so the project should be designed for easy care. Projects must be local to a store and pupils must be involved in school projects. To apply for a grant, applicants will need to contact the environmental champion or store manager at their local B&Q store to discuss project details. Projects can apply for funding between 1 February 2010 and 30 September 2010 and successful projects must collect their materials no later than 31 October 2010..

http://www.diy.com/diy/jsp/corporate/content/environment_ethics/ethics/community/grants.jsp

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ALCOHOL PROGRAMME

This programme aims to provide support for young people aged 11-25 who are drinking excessively. Comic Relief will fund services that aim to reduce the levels of young people's drinking, create greater awareness of the dangers of harmful drinking and provide direct support to young drinkers at the greatest risk - those drinking excessively and dangerously. This could include individual or group work sessions, or both. Applications can be made by voluntary and community organisations working with the specified target group. Comic Relief want in particular to encourage joint applications from young people's agencies and alcohol agencies where expertise can be shared, innovative approaches developed and where the added value of working together can be

shown. Grants available vary between £25,000 and £40,000 per year for up to three years. The next closing date for applications is the 21st May 2010....

http://www.comicrelief.com/apply_for_a_grant/uk/alcohol

FUNDING TO ENGAGE PEOPLE WITH SCIENCE (UK)

The Wellcome Trust is inviting organisations and individuals to apply for funding through its Arts Awards. The Arts Awards support projects that engage the public with biomedical science through the arts including dance, drama, performance arts, visual arts, music, film, craft, photography, creative writing or digital media. Applications are invited for projects up to £30,000. The aim of the awards is to support arts projects that reach new audiences which may not traditionally be interested in science and provide new ways of thinking about the social, cultural and ethical issues around contemporary science. The scheme is open to a wide range of people including, among others, artists, scientists, curators, filmmakers, writers, producers, directors, academics, science communicators, teachers, arts workers and education officers. For medium sized projects up to £30,000 the next closing date for applications is the 30th April 2010.

<http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/node2580.htm>

FUNDING FOR SPORTS PROJECTS THAT PROMOTE POSITIVE COMMUNITY CHANGE

Comic Relief have announced that the next closing date for its "Sport for Change" programme is the 21st May 2010. The aim of the programme will be to understand more about how sport can play a part in delivering positive change within the lives of individuals and communities. Comic Relief will welcome applications from community groups and organisations using sport as part of a broader programme of work to bring about change at an individual and /or community level. Comic Relief are happy to receive applications from consortia of agencies as long as there is a lead community-based organisation. Applicants will also need to; demonstrate how they are using sport as part of a broader programme to achieve a measurable social change or impact; show how the work is based in community development principles; and have monitoring and evaluation systems in place to track the impact of the work. The maximum grant size in this programme is £100,000 in total.

http://www.comicrelief.com/apply_for_a_grant/uk/sport

LAUNCH OF THE 2010 LORD STAFFORD AWARDS

Following the success of last year's programme, the Lord Stafford Awards are now open to applications for the 2010 round, with a prize of £5,000 available for the winners. The awards recognise and encourage the development of collaborative relationships between businesses and universities, highlighting the value and importance of such partnerships. The objective is to generate increased competitiveness, knowledge, support, growth and economic prosperity. Winning an award can provide businesses with extra drive and opportunities to expand. The £5,000 cash prize is awarded alongside a commemorative trophy. The winners also receive associated publicity to help their businesses reach potential new customers. The individual award categories are Innovation in Development, Innovation Achieved; and Innovation for Sustainability. Private sector businesses, or clearly identifiable business divisions of larger organisations, may apply. They must have collaborated on a defined project with one or more of the East Midlands' universities or higher education institutions. The closing date for entries is 29 April 2010.

<http://www.thelordstaffordawards.co.uk/>
PLAYGROUND PARTNERSHIPS AWARDS

The Kids Trust has announced that schools within the UK that wish to improve their play spaces have the opportunity to apply for funding through the Playground Partnerships Awards. The First prize is a grant of £10,000 and there are 10 runners up prizes of £250. Schools wishing to apply will initially have to register with the Award Scheme to access further information and the application pack. To be considered for an award, schools need to submit a folder of work (Design Portfolios) and completed application form . Applicants are encouraged to develop a pupil-led approach; involve the whole school; encourage input from the wider school community and include pupils with special educational needs. The closing date for applications is the 19th March 2010..

<http://www.playgroundpartnerships.org/index.php?ID=488>

FREE COMPUTER AND BROADBAND FOR LOW INCOME PARENTS

The Government has announced the national roll out of a new programme that will provide 270,000 low income families a free computer and free broadband access. The aim of the £300 million Home Access programme is to close the digital and educational divide between rich and poor and will help make England one of the first countries in the world to ensure that young people can use a computer and the internet at home for their education. The initiative will also get parents better involved in and understand more about what their child does at school. Families with children in years 3 - 9 (approximately age 7 - 14), who are entitled to free schools meals or are on certain benefits, will be able to apply for a grant to buy a computer and broadband connection from an approved supplier. Looked after children up to the age of 18 will also receive laptops, and the scheme will offer bespoke packages to provide more support for children with special educational needs. The programme is being rolled out nationally after successful pilots in Oldham and Suffolk showed a positive impact on both the pupils and their parents. For more information how parents can apply for a Home Access Grant call 0333 200 1004 or visit www.homeaccess.org.uk to get more information and request an application form..

<http://www.homeaccess.org.uk/>

OLD POSSUM'S PRACTICAL TRUST

Old Possum's Practical Trust aims to increase the knowledge and appreciation of any matters of historic, artistic, architectural, aesthetic, literary, musical or theatrical interest, by supporting organisations with grants of between £500 and £5,000. Priority will be given to projects that involve children or young people, disabled or disadvantaged people, communities, and which enhance the lives of others, rather than the well-being of the applicants themselves. Applications can be submitted at any time.

<http://www.old-possums-practical-trust.org.uk/page.cfm?pageid=300#>

LEGACY TRUST UK'S COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

Legacy Trust UK has announced that it is making up to £4 million available to provide opportunities for communities across the UK, to link with other cities, regions and festivals to host large scale outdoor celebrations building up to 2012, the year of the UK celebrating London staging the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Trust is looking to give five grants of £750,000 that will allow communities to come together to host 'large scale' outdoor celebrations at moments of real local significance. This could mean celebrating moments of national importance, media relevance, Olympic inspired or of sporting or cultural significance. They should also relate to celebrations/festivals around regional, local or community interest. The intention is that these five projects, after premiering in their home cities, will be given the opportunity to make their way, along with their many participants, to the five London Host Boroughs in July 2012 to create a spectacular event which will involve thousands of people from the five Host Borough communities and from around the UK. There is a two stage process for this programme. The deadline for expression of interest is the 5th March 2010. Organisations that are then shortlisted will require to complete stage two proposals. The deadline for the second stage is the 28th May 2010..

<http://www.legacytrustuk.org/national-programmes/community-celebrations/>

THE SKINNERS' COMPANY LADY NEVILLE CHARITY

The Skinners' Company Lady Neville Charity invites applications from registered charities and not-for-profit organisations working in the areas of disability, local heritage, local community and performing and visual arts. The Foundation offers grants of up to £1,000 to support activities which provide opportunities to people of any age with physical or mental disabilities; projects which help local groups to conserve and restore their landmark, landscape, traditions and culture; projects which are involved in improving the facilities or quality of life for people in a deprived neighbourhood; groups involved in undertaking a particular activity in any field of performing and visual arts. This year's deadlines for applications are mid-March and mid-September.

<http://www.skinnershall.co.uk/charities/lady-neville-charity.htm>

GET CONNECTED OPENS FOR APPLICATIONS

Registered providers of adult social care in England and independent sector organisations supporting personalisation in adult social care have the opportunity to apply for grants of up to £20,000 to enhance the use of ICT for the benefit of people who use adult social care services, family carers and/or staff. The funding available is for capital expenditure such as IT equipment. There is a total of £12 million available which will be distributed through four investment cycles. The level of grants available is dependent on the size of the applicant organisation. A registered care provider with 250 or more full-time equivalent staff is not eligible for investment in this cycle, but may be eligible in Cycle 3 or Cycle 4. Micro and small organisations (employing up to 49 full-time equivalent staff) or domiciliary care agencies with 1-3 branches can apply for grants of up to a value of £20,000 to improve access to ICT in order to enhance quality of life and/or skills or a grant of £2,000 to purchase essential equipment associated with ICT work. Medium-sized organisations (employing 50-249 full-time equivalent staff) or domiciliary care agencies with 4-20 branches can apply for a grant of £20,000 to improve access to ICT in order to enhance quality of life and/or skills. This is subject to matched funding being identified by the organisation making the bid. There will be three further investment cycles later in 2010. Potential applicants will need to provide basic details to indicate their wish to apply to the fund by the 19th February. The deadline for submitting full applications is the 16th April 2010.

<http://www.scie.org.uk/workforce/getconnected/index.asp>