

WELSH GOVERNMENT – RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Rural Community Development Fund has been set up to enable small-scale infrastructure projects to improve community cohesion in rural areas of Wales.

The Fund is intended to support:

- Improvement or expansion of local basic services.
- Community transport and connectivity.
- Renewable energy projects.
- Village renewal and public amenities.

support for

- drawing up **development plans and protection and management plans**
- investments in the creation, improvement or expansion of all types of **small scale infrastructure, including investments in renewable energy and energy saving**
- broadband infrastructure, including its creation, improvement and expansion, passive broadband infrastructure and provision of access to broadband and public e-government
- investments in the setting-up, improvement or expansion of **local basic services for the rural population including leisure and culture**, and the related infrastructure
- investments for public use in **recreational infrastructure, tourist information and small scale tourism infrastructure**
- studies and investments for maintenance, restoration and upgrading of **cultural and natural heritage** (min. grant £400; 50% eligible costs)
- investments targeting the relocation of **activities of buildings or other facilities located inside or close to rural settlements**, with a view to improving the quality of life or increasing the environmental performance of the settlement

Unless specified a minimum limit of grant of £2,400 will apply to no more than 80% of total costs. For small scale infrastructure investments a maximum grant per project is £128,000 towards a total project cost of £160,000.

Businesses, public and voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector organisations in rural areas of Wales may be eligible to apply

The first deadline for Expressions of Interest is 31 January 2016.

Further details together with Guidance Notes and Application Form are available at –

<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/cap/ruraldevelopment/wales-rural-development-programme-2014-2020/rural-community-development-fund/?lang=en>