

The Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) Grants Unit

The Greater Manchester Grants Scheme

The ten Greater Manchester district authorities established a Greater Manchester Grants Scheme in 1986. The Scheme allows district authorities to give grants to non-statutory organisations which provide services that impact on a number of districts.

The Grants Scheme has two major priorities, at least one of which a funded organisation must meet. They are:

- To contribute to the recognition of Greater Manchester locally, nationally and internationally as a creative and vibrant County helping to create the conditions necessary to attract potential investment
- To contribute to an improved quality of life for all its residents through its first priority above and by supporting agencies which assist those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged

In addition, the Statutory Functions Committee's policy is to place emphasis on organisations which:

- Attract significant revenue from other sources
- Provide a countywide service or form part of a countywide service or contribute to an issue of countywide concern
- Provide coverage over at least the majority of the ten districts which make up the County of Greater Manchester

The ten districts are:

- Bolton
- Bury
- Manchester
- Oldham
- Rochdale
- Salford
- Stockport
- Tameside
- Trafford
- Wigan

The scope of the Scheme covers the following areas of activity:

- Culture (in its broadest sense)
- social and community cohesion

- education and young people
- economic development
- job creation

AGMA seeks to invest its funding in those areas which have the most strategic impact countywide.

The Scheme has a budget of approximately £3.5 million, most of which is committed to revenue clients. However, there is some One-Off Project funding available (approximately £100,000) for pump priming or supporting developing initiatives against which applications can be made.

Management and Administration of the Scheme

The Grants Scheme is overseen by the AGMA Statutory Functions Committee (formerly the Grants Committee) on which each of the ten districts is represented by one local councillor. The Committee makes decisions on both revenue and One-off funding. The Scheme's revenue budget is currently fully committed but One-off funding is available.

The Grants Scheme is administered by the AGMA Grants Unit which is based at Manchester City Council, the lead authority for the Scheme.

The Grants Unit provides the following services:

- Information, advice, support and grant aid to the Greater Manchester voluntary sector
- Monitoring and evaluation of funded schemes and projects
- Policy development on strategic issues
- Negotiation of partner funding arrangements
- Countywide co-ordination and support for strategic initiatives

One-off Funding

The AGMA Statutory Functions Committee will consider applications up to a maximum of £10,000 via the One-off grants scheme for projects which meet its priorities.

Organisations applying for One-off funding will need to complete a One-off application form. This is available to download in Microsoft Word format and must be signed before submission to the AGMA Grants Unit.

To be eligible to apply for One-off Funding, organisations need to be:

- Properly constituted and operate on a not-for-profit basis. Individuals are not eligible to apply.
- Able to demonstrate that their activities will benefit either the whole of Greater Manchester or any part of it extending beyond the area of any particular district.

You should aim to cover the majority of the ten districts.

One-Off Funding Application Deadlines

Applications for One-off funding are considered four times during the year; deadlines are as follows:

Application Deadline	Date to be Considered by Committee
End of January	May
End of April	August
End of July	November
End of October	February

Before submitting the application form, please refer to the Policy Guide for consideration of One-off applications, which provides essential information on the Committee's policy for One-off funding, including what is excluded. The Policy Guide is available to download in Microsoft Word format.

Processing of Applications

Upon receipt, applications are evaluated within the AGMA Grants Unit and subjected to a detailed consultation process, involving circulation for comment to all of the ten districts within the County, before being submitted to the AGMA Statutory Functions Committee for determination.

Application forms will not normally be acknowledged. If you would like an acknowledgement please enclose with your completed application form a stamped self-addressed envelope marked clearly **acknowledgement**.

Please contact a Grants Officer if you wish to discuss:

- Whether your organisation/project is eligible for funding from the AGMA Grants Scheme

- The timetable for submission of your application and resource availability, and
- Your application in more detail before submission.

For more detailed information on the AGMA Grants Scheme, e.g. the range of organisations supported (both revenue and One-off), achievements in the previous year, resource allocation and future development, please consult the AGMA Grants Scheme's Annual Report. This is available to download in PDF format.

Further Information

Address: AGMA Grants Scheme
Chief Executive's Department
PO Box 532
Town Hall
Albert Square
Manchester
M60 2LA

Tel: 0161 234 3364
Fax: 0161 234 4270
Email: agma.grants@manchester.gov.uk