

The scope of our grants

We will have made over 6,000 grants worth £14million from ninety different funds to individuals and community / voluntary groups predominantly living and working in County Durham and Darlington by the end of 2008/09. A small proportion of funding has been awarded outside these areas.

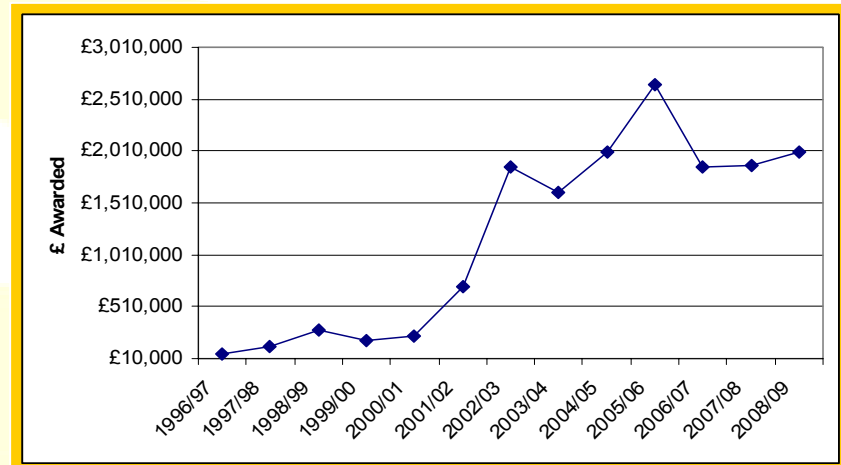
The largest grant we have given is £250,000 and our smallest grant is £10. Our average size grant is £1,600 and we achieve a success rate of 68% - or more than one-in-two applicants are successful. We boost this rate by encouraging people and groups to talk to us before they submit an application form and by giving advice and referring them to local voluntary sector support organisations.

We distribute grants from both public and private sources, our private funders play a vital and complementary role in our programmes and the Foundation's continuing development as:

- They are often willing to support more innovative grants.
- Their criteria for funding is often more targeted geographically or by focus / theme but without the restrictions that government funds have, such as matching key indicators or fitting with other priorities or targets.
- They have the ability to commit longer-term through endowed funds whereas many of the other programmes we administer are time limited or geared towards the electoral cycle.
- Their grants can be used as matched funding for other grant schemes.
- They are often directly involved in their grant-making and therefore have more direct connection to the projects / people they support.

Our grants often contain contributions from more than one fund (both private and public) and we mix-and-match behind the scenes. Most applicants apply on our standard application form, but we also use bespoke forms for some partnership or more specialist fund holders.

The following graph maps the foundations growth in terms of grant distribution (£) since 1996.



Grants Awarded (£) 1996-2008

"Individuals, families and groups can be said to be in poverty if they lack the resources to obtain the types of diet, participate in the activities and have the living conditions and amenities which are customary, or at least widely encouraged or approved in the societies to which they belong."
(Townsend, 1979, p31)