

Grant Funding for Nottingham Rising Stars Girls' Football Team

Objective:

To secure grant funding to establish and launch the Nottingham Rising Stars Girls' Football Team, which will provide a safe, inclusive environment for young girls from economically disadvantaged backgrounds in Nottingham.

1. Research Potential Grant Opportunities

Action Steps:

1. Identify Relevant Grants:

- Research local, regional, and national grant opportunities specifically focused on sports, youth development, social inclusion, and community projects.
- Key sources to explore:
 - **Nottingham City Council:** Explore grants aimed at community development, youth programs, and sports initiatives.
 - **Sport England:** Check for grants under the Community Asset Fund, Small Grants, or other relevant programs.
 - **National Lottery Community Fund:** Look for funding under programs such as Awards for All or Reaching Communities.
 - **Local Charities and Trusts:** Identify local foundations like The Robin Hood Fund, Boots Charitable Trust, and Nottinghamshire Community Foundation.
 - **UK Government Grants:** Explore broader UK government funding options, particularly those supporting youth and sports.

2. Set a Timeline for Applications:

- Create a timeline that maps out the application deadlines for each grant.
- Prioritize grants with the nearest deadlines and those offering the highest funding amounts.

3. Assess Eligibility Criteria:

- Review the eligibility requirements for each grant to ensure the Nottingham Rising Stars project aligns with the criteria.
- Document the specific requirements, including documentation, proposal structure, and any prerequisite activities (e.g., community consultation).

Deadline: Week 1-2

2. Develop a Comprehensive Grant Proposal

Action Steps:

1. Draft the Proposal:

- **Executive Summary:** Briefly describe the Nottingham Rising Stars project, its mission, objectives, and the community need it addresses.
- **Project Description:**
 - Outline the structure of the football team, including age groups, training schedules, and planned activities.
 - Explain the social impact, including how the project will benefit the community, improve participants' well-being, and foster social inclusion.
- **Implementation Plan:**
 - Provide a detailed plan for launching and operating the football team, including timelines, milestones, and key activities.
- **Budget Breakdown:**
 - Clearly outline the budget, including start-up costs (e.g., equipment, facility rentals, marketing) and ongoing operational costs.
 - Specify the amount of funding requested and how the grant will be allocated across different budget items.
- **Evaluation and Sustainability:**
 - Describe how the project's impact will be measured, including key performance indicators (KPIs) and evaluation methods.
 - Explain the long-term sustainability of the project, including plans for continued funding and community engagement.

2. Tailor Proposals to Specific Grants:

- Customize each proposal to meet the specific focus and criteria of the targeted grant, emphasizing aspects of the project that align with the funder's priorities.

3. Gather Supporting Documents:

- Prepare necessary documents, such as financial statements, project timelines, letters of support from community partners, and details about the legal structure (Community Interest Company status).

Deadline: Week 3-4

3. Build Partnerships and Secure Letters of Support

Action Steps:

1. Identify Key Partners:

- Identify local schools, community organizations, and businesses that could support the Nottingham Rising Stars project.
- Engage with universities (e.g., University of Nottingham, Nottingham Trent University) for volunteer recruitment and potential collaboration.

2. Request Letters of Support:

- Approach identified partners and request letters of support that highlight their commitment to the project and the anticipated community impact.
- Ensure letters are specific to the grant application and emphasize the partner's role in the project's success.

3. Include Support Letters in Grant Applications:

- Attach the letters of support to the grant applications to strengthen the proposal and demonstrate community backing.

Deadline: Week 4-5

4. Finalize and Submit Grant Applications

Action Steps:

1. Review and Edit Applications:

- Proofread the entire proposal to ensure clarity, consistency, and alignment with the grant criteria.
- Review budget figures and ensure all required documents and attachments are included.

2. Submit Applications:

- Submit the grant applications through the appropriate channels (online portal, email, or post) before the specified deadlines.
- Ensure receipt confirmation is obtained for each submission.

3. Follow-Up:

- Track the status of each application and note any follow-up requirements (e.g., additional information or interviews).
- Set reminders for any required updates or progress reports if the grant application is successful.

Deadline: Week 5-6

5. Prepare for Grant Outcomes

Action Steps:

1. Plan for Potential Funding Scenarios:

- Develop contingency plans in case of partial or no funding, including scaling the project or identifying alternative funding sources.
- Prepare a list of potential adjustments to the project scope that could be made without compromising its core objectives.

2. Engage with Funders Post-Submission:

- If successful, promptly acknowledge the grant award and begin fulfilling any funder requirements (e.g., reporting, public acknowledgment).
- If unsuccessful, request feedback from the funder to improve future applications.

3. Implement Project Upon Funding:

- Once funding is secured, begin the project according to the implementation plan, ensuring compliance with the grant agreement.

Deadline: Ongoing, based on funding outcomes

6. Explore Additional Funding and Sustainability Options

Action Steps:

1. Apply for Additional Grants:

- Continue researching and applying for other relevant grants to supplement the initial funding, focusing on long-term sustainability.

2. Develop Alternative Revenue Streams:

- Consider additional funding sources such as sponsorships, fundraising events, or membership fees (with provisions for low-income participants).

3. Build a Donor and Supporter Base:

- Launch a community fundraising campaign to engage local residents and businesses in supporting the Nottingham Rising Stars project.

Deadline: Ongoing

Conclusion

By following this action plan, Nottingham Rising Stars Girls' Football Team will effectively secure the necessary grant funding to launch and sustain its operations. The plan leverages local resources, engages the community, and strategically targets funding opportunities to ensure the success and impact of the football team in empowering young girls from economically disadvantaged backgrounds in Nottingham.