

Assessment Scores - *What do they actually mean?*

The assessors who participated in the September 2005 training day produced the following examples. They took into account the different assessment headings of competence, strength of need for service and impact.

The examples provide a useful guide to using the assessment scores.

1	Unsatisfactory – The application has not met this criterion in any way, or is very weak in this area
	Exclusive group/cliq
	Private use of equipment
	Unclear aims or objectives
	Doesn't meet criteria
	'Cut & paste' applications

2	Weak - The application has some good in this area, but is basically weak.
	Poor constitution/fewer than expected members
	Deficits and no recovery plan, financial insecurity
	No clear social benefit
	Referee/contact unaware of application
	Lack of user consultation

3	Good - The application is of routine standard and meets the criterion.
	Strong management committee
	Good accounts/planning
	Exploring new areas / development
	Efficient use of volunteers
	Sound information on usage/users

4	Excellent - The application is strong in this area and meets the criterion fully.
	Well supported & trained volunteers
	Strong evidence of need
	Responding to feedback
	Good financial planning, not reliant on one source of funding
	Evidence of competence or successes

5	Exemplary - The application is extremely strong in this area and exceeds expectation.
	Innovative
	Is it an example of best practice?
	Extensive service user consultation
	Major community impact/meets an unmet need
	Outstanding achievements

Minimum for Impact

Due to the heavy demands on our funds, the Grants Committee often awards grants at a reduced level in order to be able to support more projects. However, the Committee is concerned to only do this when the reduced grant will still have an impact and assist the applicant group to achieve their aims.

Assessors are therefore asked to consider this for all applications and potentially to discuss it with applicants.

The 'minimum for impact' is always identified, and is the lowest level of grant which would have an impact.

The minimum for impact could relate to the potential to reduce costs by measures such as:

- Running a project for a shorter length of time or for fewer participants
- Purchasing only the essential equipment from the applicant's 'wish list'
- Reducing the budget per head for a meal/outing
- Increasing the charge to participants

Another way for a reduced grant to make an impact would be if the applicant could potentially apply elsewhere for some of the money requested from SCF or raise it themselves through local fundraising or from reserves.

IMPORTANT – Note that assessors do not have to recommend that the group receives the minimum for impact. They can state a minimum for impact but still recommend that a higher amount or the full amount requested be awarded.