



Moidart Trust - Enterprise Grants Information for Applicants

Introduction

The aim of *Moidart Trust – Enterprise Grants* is to promote rural regeneration and generate economic prosperity in North-West Scotland, principally by supporting enterprise and/or employment opportunities for local people.

The Moidart Trust is providing one-off grants for local businesses or social enterprises that can demonstrate a real benefit to the local community. **If you run, or plan to run, a local enterprise you could be eligible to apply for a grant of up to £10,000.** By local enterprise we mean an income-generating activity led by a locally-based individual or group.

Administered through the Scottish Community Foundation, the Moidart Trust is interested in providing grants to kick-start, diversify or expand local enterprises. These could be in any sector, e.g. tourism, agriculture, fishing, arts & crafts, renewable energy or conservation. Examples of the kinds of project we are looking to support might include:

- Start-up costs for a new enterprise: e.g. purchasing or leasing equipment or vehicles, training, marketing
- Supporting an established business to expand, diversify or reach new markets: e.g. purchasing new premises/equipment, training, marketing
- Improving business systems and skills development: Developing business administration systems, quality assurance/accreditation, apprenticeships and trainee schemes

This is a pilot programme and the Foundation expects to award some £40,000 in total by 31 March 2009, and expects to award between six and 12 grants. If the programme proves a success the Foundation would aim to repeat it during 2009/10.

The programme will run on a first come, first served basis: if the programme is oversubscribed then the website will indicate that it is currently closed.

Eligibility & Outline Proposal Process

The focus will be on individuals running local businesses that can demonstrate a real benefit to the local community through creating employment and sustaining livelihoods. Your business must either be based in or provide direct economic benefit to the local authority regions of Highland Council or Eilean Siar.

Application Process

There is a limited amount of funding, and to apply, you must first telephone the Scottish Community Foundation to check that the programme is currently accepting applications. Please contact Rachel Searle-Mbullu on 0141 225 6665 or email rachel@scottishcf.org

You will then be sent an application form which invites you to provide information about your business, why you are seeking funding, and what the funding will allow you to achieve.

On submission, we will email you to let you know it has been received. If you have not heard from us within seven days of submission, please contact Rachel as above.

Within four weeks of acknowledging your application, we will inform you whether it has been short-listed or not. If your application is not short-listed, you will not be able to re-apply for another year unless you are making an application for another business/enterprise with which you are involved.

Applicants who are short-listed will be contacted by the Scottish Community Foundation. It is likely that an assessor will visit and discuss your proposal in more detail. If you are shortlisted, we aim to tell you whether they have been successful within eight weeks of the date we wrote to you acknowledging your application.

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