

**Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway**  
**Church IN Society Action Network - Guidance Notes**

**Background and purpose**

The Church IN Society Action Network has been established to encourage local churches to work with others for the benefit of the whole community – and to take risks in living and sharing the Gospel in relevant ways.

Local churches are already involved in a wide range of activity, and in response to this, small grants are available from the Diocese and Province to help develop these initiatives. The Church & Society Action Network wants to help local churches develop partnerships, networks and engagement with other agencies and charities that seek to respond to the needs of the local community.

**What will the Church IN Society grant support?**

The grant will support proposals which relate to the above purpose and specifically to the following 5 categories:

- (i) Welfare or Care for specific individuals or groups in the local community.
- (ii) The Elderly;
- (iii) The Homeless;
- (iv) Family & Child Support;
- (v) Youth

Proposals that relate to overseas issues or work that supports a national charity rather than in partnership will not be considered.

We want local churches to...

- ...make a positive difference in the lives of people in greatest need in the community...
- ...demonstrate imagination and creativity, offering encouragement and hope to both church and society in challenging injustice and discovering new ways of working...
- ...be inclusive and collaborative, committed to the formation of partnerships and the building up of trust and positive relationships...
- ...affirm and involve local people, helping them develop their skills and confidence.

**Who can apply?**

Scottish Episcopal Churches within the Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway.

**In all cases, applications will require to be supported by their Vestry and congregation serving the community in question.**

**What support is available?**

- The limited financial resources will be distributed according to the level of need in each case. Financial support is available from the Province with the support of the Diocesan Action Network. **Grants will only be a proportion of the cost of the project.** Grants will be awarded on a one-off basis, though further applications for the same project may be considered on merit. **Grants will only be available once a year, and applications should be submitted by the 30<sup>th</sup> November\* so that they may be processed and passed on to the Province for consideration.**
- Non-financial support, advice and training may be available through the Diocese, or the Provincial Church in Society Committee.

**\* for this year only, applications submitted by 7<sup>th</sup> April 2006, will also be considered.**

The Church IN Society Action Network aims to encourage local churches to begin a journey of discovery and the group have a particular interest in supporting the development of new or recently established work.

If a project is well established and has benefited from the support of the wider church and other organisations, it is **less** likely that the Church IN Society Action Network will support a grant application. This does not mean that it considers such work to be of less value than new projects, but simply reflects a policy on allocating the limited resources as fairly and justly as possible.

### **What is the application procedure?**

- Applicants should contact the **Convener** of the Action Network for informal discussion of ideas and proposals as early as possible.
- Applicants may be offered the opportunity to meet together with other groups in a similar or different situation, to share ideas and learn from each other as proposals are being developed.
- Before proceeding with a full and detailed application, applicants must submit a brief proposal in writing (no more than one side of A4) to check that this meets the basic criteria for a grant.
- When ready to proceed, applicants should submit their proposal on the appropriate form, ( preferably electronically) together with any other information required.
- Applications are considered once a year and closing date for submission is
- **30<sup>th</sup> November**
- Applications will be screened by the Diocesan Action Network before being forwarded to the Provincial committee. The outcome should be known and communicated by the **end of the following May**.
- After an application has been received, representatives of the Church IN Society Action Network will contact the applicant to formally assess the proposals.
- A recommendation will be made by the Action Network to the Provincial committee which will decide the final outcome of the application.

### **If a grant is agreed:**

- The Vestry will require to comply with any conditions attached to the grant, some of which will concern following good practice and meeting statutory responsibilities on different matters, depending on the nature of the work involved.
- Appropriate procedures for the payment of the grant will be put in place.
- The Vestry will comply with appropriate monitoring procedures and report on the progress and development of their work.
- The Vestry will be encouraged to join occasionally with others in a mutual sharing of stories, knowledge and experience. It is hoped this will promote the ongoing process of learning and reform throughout the Diocese and national church.

### **If a grant is not agreed:**

- An explanation will be given about the reason(s) for this.
- Applicants will be encouraged to continue to reflect on their proposals and to draw on other non-financial support, which may be available with the help of the Action Network, from the Diocese, Province, or other agencies.
- Where appropriate, applicants may wish to resubmit the proposal at a future date, if the points raised in the initial feedback have been adequately addressed. Applicants should bear in mind, however, that re-submitted applications might not necessarily be successful.

**For further information please contact the Convener the Reverend Ian Barcroft**  
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