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Education, Skills & Children's Services
Department

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www.cne-siar.gov.uk/grants/index.asp

APPLICATION FOR A PERFORMANCE GRANT

Assistance for Community Centre & Village Halls under the Grants to Voluntary Organisations

Notes for Guidance

The Council operates a scheme of assistance for community centre, village halls and eligible church halls which are operated by local voluntary organisations in the Western Isles.

The scheme is based upon Remission of Non-Domestic Rates, Performance-Based Grants and Grants in support of Specific Projects.

1. REMISSION OF NON-DOMESTIC RATES

The Council grants 100% remission of Non-Domestic Rates to voluntary organisations which have been recognised by the Inland Revenues as Charities in terms of the Income and Corporation Tax Acts, and which hold Certificates of exemption in respect of Income and Corporation tax. Remission of Rates is granted by the Council through its powers under the Local Government (Financial Provisions etc) (Scotland) Act 1962.

Rates remission does NOT extend to Water and Sewerage Rates.

2. PERFORMANCE-BASED GRANTS

The Council makes revenue grants towards the operating costs of local voluntary organisations which own or manage community centre, village halls or eligible church halls in the Western Isles. Any such organisation is eligible to apply, and the following Conditions apply to these Grants:-

- the applicant body's Constitution must be acceptable to the Council;
- the applicant must satisfy the criteria which apply in respect of Capital Grants (e.g. from the Scottish Office Education Department);
- the applicant must submit suitably audited Accounts annually for inspection by the Council;

Assistance will NOT be given for closed or inactive buildings, or for Church halls which are not open for social, cultural or recreational use to all members of the Community.

3. PAYMENT OF PERFORMANCE-BASED GRANTS

Performance-based grants will be awarded at a base rate for each qualifying facility with enhancements of grant to reflect the levels of use of facilities from week to week, to encourage managements to develop more activities. Enhancements will be given on a sessional basis to reflect morning and afternoon usage as well as evening events. The enhancements possible are shown on the Table below. Events such as commercial vending by itinerant traders will NOT qualify for grant enhancements.

Centres are graded according to their size as determined from the Rateable Value. Type A (the largest), Type B (medium size) and Type C (smallest). The scales of grant are below:

TYPE	BASE	ANNUAL INCREASE BASED ON WEEKLY USE	
		5-8 SESSIONS	9+ SESSIONS
A	£550	£50	£150
B	£200	£50	£150
C	£100	£50	£150

Using the formula above, centres used to the maximum each week could receive support as follows: Type A up to £700; Type B up to £350; Type C up to £250.

4. GRANTS FOR SPECIFIC PROJECTS

The third element of the scheme of assistance is Grant Aid for Specific Plans or Projects. This is already available to managements within the current limits of the Council's provision for Revenue and Capital Grants to voluntary groups.

5. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Please complete a Grant to Voluntary Organisations application form, including the Activities Sheet and return to the address above.

6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any further information or advice on the scheme of Performance Grants which may be required is available from the

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