

Understanding Barriers to Grants for BAME Communities

Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)



Overview

Making sure that Lottery money is distributed fairly is a key goal for Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), however monitoring data highlights that HLF receive disproportionately fewer applications from black and asian minority ethnic (BAME) community groups and therefore less money goes to BAME communities.

Engagement with BAME community representatives was commissioned by the Yorkshire and Humber HLF team to identify:

- Barriers to BAME enquiries and applications.
- Preferred approaches to customer engagement and communication.
- Improvement ideas around inclusion and diversity.

What we did

Telephone interviews were conducted with a variety of grant applicants at different points in the application process.

Findings were presented in both a Summary and Full report, detailing:

- Experiences of the enquiry & application process, for BAME communities.
- Funding barriers and understanding of need.
- Engagement and communication recommendations.

Outcomes & added value

Feedback relating to improving BAME community engagement and communication includes:

- The widespread view that HLF staff need to “come out more”. Almost all interviewees felt that more time ‘on site’ would help develop two-way learning.
- The importance of one-to-one personalised support is mentioned by a majority of interviewees. This would overcome some of the perceived communication barriers.
- Capacity and a lack of time for bidding were seen as other key barriers to funding, particularly for smaller scale BAME groups.

A 2018/19 BAME engagement event is being planned, that would include learning from various regional initiatives, including:

- Lessons from the Greater Manchester BAME Network and other northern initiatives.
- Learning from an evaluation of microgrant funding, undertaken with voluntary sector partners across Cheshire in 2017.
- Early findings from a HLF microgrant initiative presently being undertaken in Barrow.

The proposed event would also enable face-to-face review and assessment of:

- BAME community need and requirements associated with the new HLF Strategic Framework.
- Mapping and gap analysis of local BAME communities by BAME representatives.
- Exploration of demand and appetite for a BAME Network group to be run by members of the Yorkshire and Humber BAME community.



“What you are doing (feedback interviewing) is so important because you can get the issues from people – this improves trust and records their problems”
BAME interviewee

More information

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