



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAMME

APPLICATION FOR A SMALL GRANT OF UNDER £25,000

(July 2017)

Please read the Community Facilities Programme Guidance before completing this form. Including photographs with your application will help to illustrate the need for your project.

Please return your completed application form signed by two (unrelated) signatories to the address below.

Community Facilities Programme
Communities Division
Welsh Government
Rhyd-y-car
Merthyr Tydfil
CF48 1UZ

Applications must be accompanied by a copy of your organisation's latest annual accounts*. These can be submitted as a hard copy; however, we encourage applicants to submit supporting documents electronically where possible. These can be sent by e-mail to:

CommunityFacilitiesproghelp@gov.wales

*Where annual accounts are not available please include a copy of your business plan and or up to date financial projections.

ABOUT YOUR ORGANISATION

In order to apply for the Community Facilities Programme, the lead organisation must be a community and voluntary (third) sector organisation. This includes social enterprises. Local authorities may apply in exceptional circumstances i.e. when the project is in a former Communities First cluster and there is no suitable community group to lead the application.

NAME OF ORGANISATION:

Kidz R Us

TYPE OF ORGANISATION e.g. Charity, Company Limited by Guarantee, Community Interest Company, etc.:

CIC

COMPANY OR CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER IF APPROPRIATE:

05853117

PLEASE INDICATE WHICH LANGUAGE YOU WOULD PREFER TO BE CONTACTED IN:

WELSH or ENGLISH or EITHER

NAME OF PROJECT:

Building Repair and Refurbishment

ADDRESS OF PROJECT (INCLUDING POSTCODE):

Park Place, Tredegar, NP22 4LD

IS THE PROJECT LOCATED IN A FORMER COMMUNITIES FIRST CLUSTER?

YES or NO

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE (IF DIFFERENT):

CONTACT NAME(S) WITHIN YOUR ORGANISATION:

Helen Evans, Volunteer

Diane Dann, Creative Director

TELEPHONE NUMBER(S):

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

ABOUT YOUR PROJECT

Tell us about your project. How would you use a community facilities programme grant? What changes do you intend to make to your community facility? How will you avoid duplication with other community facilities in your area? Please use no more than **500 words**.

We would like to use this grant to improve and renovate our building which is an invaluable asset to the community. We have a three-story building, which desperately needs new guttering, downpipes, drainage, outside plastering and window sealing. The state of poor repair is causing severe damp and mould growth, which is travelling around the venue, and has already started to disfigure and damage the building.

Around 15 or so years ago, we received a grant from yourselves, which we used to refurbish our building, in this space of time the building has suffered great wear and tear. As a result of this, the building needs renovation. Certain areas need drastic repair.

Kidz R Us provide a wide range of weekly classes for the local community. These classes include - dance, drama, singing, yoga, kick boxing, choir, ballet and tap dance, singing lessons and pensioner's sewing classes. We also hold various fitness classes available for anyone in the community. This is important at the moment with there being a growing obesity issue in the UK and it disproportionately affects those in poverty the worst

The children/members own our own building, through a mortgage with NatWest, within which is a large room with a dismountable stage. This room allows us to regularly produce shows for our members to perform to the public. Bringing much enjoyment to the classes and the community. We also run regular themed evenings, seasonal parties and fetes which bring together the community far and wide. Our events are open to people of all types of mobility because we are fully wheelchair adapted, with lifts and ramps, making us a very inclusive venue for all people.

Our building is also used for a holiday club for our young members. For a small fee we provide entertainment, learning skills and daily activities or outings. This helps keeps young people occupied and developing, as well somewhere to go in the school holidays instead of potentially wandering the streets. This service also supports working and single parents and takes the pressure off of them that the school holidays may create.

We like to open our building up to external groups. So, as well as the activities we provide, our building is regularly used by the local community, Schools, Theatres and even the Local Authority. Examples of events that take place are seasonal activities such as "Breakfast with Santa," school performances as well as their annual prom, a youth club run by the LA and many other exciting activities.

Our building is regularly used for private parties, weddings and other occasions. We offer room hire at a very reasonable rate which is crucial to the community, as we live in a deprived area with a high level of poverty. We offer fairy-tale weddings and parties, affordable to those with low budgets, please see 'weddings' section on website www.kidz-r-us.co.uk. We can keep our costings low as we make all table linen etc. ourselves.

During our Saturday classes we also open the downstairs room as a small café. Parents can enjoy refreshments and meals whilst waiting for their children. This helps to raise some funds but more importantly encourages parents to socialise and make friends, and also to support us. Many great ideas have been suggested by parents who stay in the building during Saturday classes

HOW IS YOUR COMMUNITY INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION OF YOUR FACILITY

How have you engaged the users of your facility in the development of your project? How will they stay involved in the future? How do you manage volunteers? How many volunteers does your facility have and what do they do? Please use no more than **500 words**.

We welcome feedback from the community often and are constantly looking for ways to improve our events. We engage with all our members and their families on a regular basis. Some of our parents have set up a committee amongst themselves (Parentz R Us) and regularly get together to discuss what is needed within the building and how we can achieve this. We also encourage feedback from non- members who have attended events within the building.

We have incredible volunteers here at Kidz R Us, from our local community, who work tirelessly every day to ensure we bring happiness and warmth to the children and locals of our Blaenau Gwent. They supervise our students at Half Term Cubs, Chaperone during our shows and provide a safe haven for our young individuals to learn, grow and adapt to changes and/or new opportunities in their lives. They organize fundraising events including, fetes, family nights and car boot sales, along with successfully running some of our social media pages and websites. i.e. Parents R Us.

We have volunteers of all ages, [REDACTED] He strives to become a member of our backstage crew and helps out with our productions and is an avid member of our organization. We also have our eldest volunteer [REDACTED], who runs our pensioners sewing club and helps out backstage with our productions, integrating all generations into working together. As a whole we have over 40 volunteers who help in some aspect of the organisation's running. Our volunteers also advertise our activities both online and to the general public, through the use of posters, newsletters, group chats, and many more methods of communication. They also organize group theatre trips, so our young trainees and teachers can excel in their teaching standards, by observing professional dance and drama. Many of our volunteers also cater for our venue, during weddings, functions and our dance classes on a Saturday, as well as helping out with general repairs and maintenance on our building, i.e. painting, gardening and decorating.

Not only have our volunteers helped the children who already attend Kidz R Us, they have also brought in many new children through the use of their advertising, which is constantly lowering the crime percentage of crime caused by youths in Tredegar. Each of our incredible volunteers bring something new with them, whether that be sewing skills, to mend our fabulous costumes for our shows, or whether it's the ability to brighten up our lighting. Our volunteers are mainly parents which means they will stay involved long term

PLEASE TELL US ABOUT THE COSTS OF YOUR PROJECT? HAVE YOU SECURED MATCH FUNDING?

Applications which have secured match funding for their projects will score more highly against the funding criteria. Please check the programme guidance for more information on match funding.

WHAT IS THE ESTIMATED TOTAL COST OF YOUR PROJECT?

£25,000.00

HOW HAS THIS COST BEEN CALCULATED?

Discussion with local builder

HOW MUCH COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAMME FUNDING ARE YOU SEEKING?

£25,000.00

HAVE YOU SECURED MATCH FUNDING? YES or NO

IF YES, WHERE FROM?

**IF NO, WHERE DO YOU INTEND TO APPLY FOR MATCH FUNDING AND WHAT IS THE
TIMESCALE?**

We intend to apply for -
£5000 from the Screwfix Foundation
£5000 from the Coalfiends regeneration trust

**PLEASE TELL US ABOUT THE TIMESCALE FOR YOUR PROJECT. WHEN DO YOU EXPECT
THE WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT?**

By the end of 2020

ABOUT YOUR PARTNERS

The Welsh Government is seeking to fund improvements to community facilities which are used by and useful to the communities they serve. We want applications from organisations working in partnership with others. Partners can be from the private, public or third sectors. We believe that telling us about the organisations you are working with will allow your application to demonstrate that the project is both of strategic value and sustainable for the next three to five years. Please tell us about your partners. Please check the Community Facilities Programme Guidance for more information on what we mean by partners.

WHO ARE YOUR PARTNERS? At least one partner should be a strategic or key partner e.g. local authority, housing association, Welsh Government anti-poverty programme or similar. We will use this information to contact your partners about the project.

PLEASE PROVIDE NAMES, TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND E-MAIL ADDRESSES FOR YOUR CONTACTS WITHIN PARTNER ORGANISATION:

ORGANISATION	GAVO
NAME	Huw Lewis
TEL NUMBER	
E-MAIL	
ORGANISATION	BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
NAME	Alyson Tippins
TEL NUMBER	
E-MAIL	
ORGANISATION	
NAME	
TEL NUMBER	
E-MAIL	

OTHER THAN THOSE PARTNERS MENTIONED ABOVE, ARE YOU WORKING WITH OTHER GROUPS OR ORGANISATIONS? IF SO, PLEASE TELL US ABOUT THESE.

PLEASE TELL US HOW YOU WORK IN COLLABORATION WITH YOUR PARTNERS

Do they help you to deliver your project? Do they contribute to the running costs of your facility? Do they provide help and support in running the facility? How have they been involved in the development of your project? Please use no more than **500 words**.

Blaenau Gwent Council use our building to host their youth club.

HOW IS YOUR PROJECT HELPING TO TACKLE INEQUALITY AND IMPROVE OPPORTUNITY IN YOUR COMMUNITY? HOW WILL YOUR COMMUNITY BENEFIT FROM YOUR PROJECT?

The main focus of the Community Facilities Programme is to increase opportunity, creating prosperity for all and developing resilient communities where people are involved, engaged and empowered. How will local people get involved? Will you provide opportunities for people to learn, volunteer, socialise, exercise, seek help or advice? How will the community benefit over the long term? Please use no more than **500 words**.

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We live in a disadvantaged area. There is a high level of crime and anti- social behaviour especially amongst young people. There is also a high level of poverty and poor transport links. The unemployment rate is so bad at the current moment, that we want to give more children the skills to go out into the world and make something of themselves.

These are challenging times, with the recession and the youth are witnessing older siblings and parents who are struggling to survive the current economic climate. There is a lack in basic skills and aspiration, therefore it is understandable that the youths are turning to drugs and alcohol.

We are socially inclusive and have children and members of ethnic minorities, other countries and special needs. We treat every individual as a valued member of our organisation. In the past 30 years, there have been a number of facilities closing. We are the biggest venue of its

kind in the borough and are very successful at engaging youth and integrating them with older generations and a mix of social groups.

Our aim is to bring more children into the building, to get the youths off the streets and through our doors. We don't just specialize in performance-based activities, we also run, Yoga, boxing clubs and are constantly looking for new members to join our technical team.

In the 17 years we have been established, the crime rate of young adults in Tredegar, has declined by 40%, while running our Youth Club. We strive to give children skills that they can take away with them, with some past members now working as doctors, architects, west end performers, social workers, teachers, nurses and some run their own businesses. If there is any way to keep children off the street, our building will accommodate.

We support our community in a variety of ways, through affordable classes, venue hire and costume hire. This makes it possible for those who are much more disadvantaged engage with the community.

The skills that are taught at our facilities by ourselves and our partners improve opportunities for our entire community. Volunteers can feel empowered and a part of something rewarding whilst being able to develop work skills and socialise. Those participating in our activities such as children, develop their confidence, social and life skills. For those young people in our community who have little aspirations and hope, we provide a focus and motivation as well as support, which enhances their emotional well-being

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES OF THE CHANGES YOU INTEND TO MAKE AND HOW WILL THESE BE MEASURED?

Will your project allow new activities to take place? Will new user groups use your facility? Will you be seeking new volunteers to help run the project? You need to identify a minimum of three measureable outcomes for your project. Please see the guidance for further information on this. Please use no more than 750 words.

1. Hosting skills based or other training which leads to a recognised qualification, work placements or volunteering opportunities which improve the job prospects of individuals

We take full advantage of any free local training, examples are – Fire safety, Food Hygiene, Coshh Training

2. Helping to create community resilience by providing a focus for community events; opportunities for community engagement or volunteering opportunities:

Our organisation is a positive and well utilised asset to the community. We run regular themed evenings, seasonal parties and fetes which bring together the community far and wide. Our events are open to people of all types of mobility because we are fully wheelchair adapted, with lifts and ramps, making us a very inclusive venue for all people.

Our organisation is run by volunteers. We provide volunteering opportunities for adults of all ages and abilities to help develop their skills and encourage their confidence whilst providing valuable work experience. We have also worked closely with the local authority on, 'job seekers training', which has resulted in one of our previous job seekers, working full time in our facility and another volunteering, consistently for the past three years.

We also train our young children to become dance and drama teachers, which benefits them by providing confidence building exercises and the ability to transfer their knowledge to the children they teach. (see website) www.kidz-r-us.co.uk (Where are they now? & Committee)

3. Hosting local health services such as exercise or healthy living activities including activities aimed at older people

As well as our range of dance classes, our building is used for several fitness classes, three times every week these are open to all ages. For older adults we have a sewing class. We also have yoga classes suitable for all ages.

Our holiday club involves lots of physical activities such as dodgeball, fitness and dance. We have recently applied for funding for basketball hoops and portable outdoor sports equipment so that we can spend more time outdoors getting exercise and fresh air.

We have recently secured grant funding for a new ballroom floor, and refurbishment to our disabled toilet including a fold down secure baby changing table. This will enable us to continue our current activities plus make plans for new ones i.e. mother and toddler play/dance group.

HOW WILL YOU MAKE SURE YOUR ORGANISATION CAN DELIVER YOUR PROJECT?

What experience does your organisation have in delivering similar projects? What relevant skills and experience does your management committee or board have? If you do not have relevant experience will you be supported by a partner organisation and if so how? Please use no more than **500 words**.

We have already discussed this with an experienced builder who knows the building and is able to provide accurate costs and professional advice.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your project? Please use no more than **500 words**.

Our organisation is a positive and well utilised asset to the communities' wellbeing and empowerment. It has been used nearly every day since 2002 when we opened our doors.

Our main concern is that if the repairs are not carried out in the near future, then parts of the building may become unsafe, which could potentially result in the closure of this facility. If the building becomes unsightly then it will result in reduced use from members of the public. This would have a massive impact, not only on our members but on the community as a whole, as the building would no longer be available for community use.

We have recently been recognised for our achievements by the High Sheriff of Gwent. We received the High Sheriff Award this year for Volunteering. At the Coalfield's regeneration seminar, regarding community asset transfers, the creative director spoke directly to two of your staff, who advised us to apply for this grant funding or the large grant. We are a proven entity that grant funding can be used professionally and for the benefit of the community and have sustained the building, jobs and reputation for almost two decades. This is thanks to the good start you gave us, with our initial refurbishment and renovation grant 15 years ago. Sadly, as time has moved on, through excessive use, we need your help again.

Please see our website for more information on the success of our past and present service users and volunteers, as well as our organisation aims. www.kidz-r-us.co.uk

SIGNATURES

I confirm the information contained in this application is true and complete.

Person submitting the application:

Signature:

To follow

Name in BLOCK LETTERS:

Helen Evans

Position in organisation:

Volunteer

Date:

25.01.20

Senior officer of the organisation (e.g. Chair, Chief Executive, Director, Treasurer):

Signature:

To follow

Name in BLOCK LETTERS:

Diane Dann

Position in organisation:

Creative Director

Date:

25.01.20