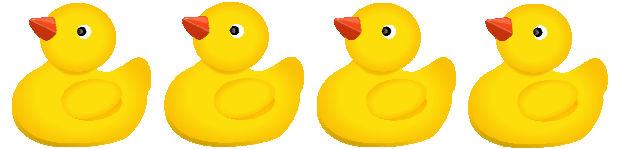


Four golden rules of funding applications



- **Get all your ducks in a row.** Is your organisation funding ready? Is everything that a funder would expect to see in place? Preparation is one of the main keys to success and certainly plays a vital part in securing funding for your group. See the sheet, 'A few helpful tips on funding' for more information.



- **Are you going to the right funder for your project?** Most funders produce guidance on their funding streams. They want to make sure that they see eligible and appropriate funding applications that meet their criteria. They don't want to waste your time or theirs with applications that they cannot fund. Read their guidance and if possible, have a chat with them about your funding application. Some will welcome talking through your project idea with you. This might seem obvious, but this is the single most common reason for applications being rejected.
- **Budgets - where do you start?** Groups often struggle with budgets, but actually it's simply a case of preparation and planning and is one of those times when involving others from your group can pay dividends. Remember your budget needs to add up, 'feel' reasonable and represent good value for money. For more information please see the sheet, 'A few helpful tips on developing a budget for your project'.
- **Do your homework** - can you show evidence that your project is needed in your community? Have you checked whether anyone else is delivering something similar locally? Have you consulted with your community to ask them what they think is needed? (this can be a simple one page survey). Groups who do not show evidence of need, duplicate other projects locally, or fail to consult with their community are likely to fall at the first hurdle.

