

press release

14 August 2006

New funding announced for capacity building of marginalised groups.

Capacitybuilders announced today the details of a new funding programme which aims to improve the way in which infrastructure organisations work with a range of marginalised groups.

The new 'Improving Reach programme' is a pilot programme which will continue to March 2008 and will build on the strategic investment in infrastructure made by ChangeUp to date.

Capacitybuilders has responsibility for the management and delivery of the ChangeUp programme as a whole. The aim of this new programme, '**Improving Reach**' is to enhance the access to capacity building and support for front-line organisations through infrastructure support that may not have been reached in previous ChangeUp programmes.

In particular, the initiative is aimed at:

- Black and minority ethnic groups
- Refugee and migrant groups
- Faith groups
- Isolated rural groups.

Over £6 million will be allocated for financial year 2006/07 and further allocations will be available in 2007/08.

Ed Miliband, Minister for the Third Sector, said: "The benefits of this investment are targeted directly at the frontline of the third sector - organisations working with disadvantaged and marginalised communities. The Improving Reach programme will ensure these organisations receive more generous support to help them shape services, get involved in delivery and reach out to the excluded."

Capacitybuilders Chief Executive Simon Hebditch went on to comment; "This is a pilot programme which will run until March 2008. Capacitybuilders hope to extend the scope of the programme and build on its success in future years."

Organisations interested in applying for the funding should visit the Capacitybuilders website – www.capacitybuilders.org.uk – for further details on eligibility criteria and to download an application pack.

Competition for funds is likely be high and Capacitybuilders will only make a relatively small number of awards, probably around 50-80 across England. The closing date for applications is 10 October 2006.

ENDS

Editor's note - the following pictures are available:

- Ed Miliband
- Simon Hedbitch.

Capacitybuilders is a new agency with responsibility to manage initially the £70million ChangeUp programme for the financial years 2006/07 and 2007/08. Capacitybuilders will work in partnership with government and other bodies to help voluntary and community organisations work more effectively.

For further information about Capacitybuilders contact Jane Fewkes,
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www.capacitybuilders.org.uk.