

Newsletter for the Trust Funds administered by Charis Grants Ltd July 2006

STOP PRESS.....
Organisational Grant Funding
Available from AWTF



2006 Organisational Grant Funding Available

Applications for funding are invited for projects which provide debt and/or money advice services and/or provide education in the prevention of debt.

Who can apply?

Registered charities, not for profit organisations, and voluntary sector organisations within the Anglian Water and Hartlepool Water regions.

How long can projects last?

Trustees will consider projects of one or two years in length.

How much can I apply for?

Applications for funding in the region of £5,000 per annum will be considered.

Deadline for receipt of applications

5 p.m., Monday 31 July 2006.

Guidance notes on the 2006 Organisational Grant Round and application forms are available on the website www.awtf.org.uk or can be requested via the email address awtf@charisgrants.com or by telephoning 01733 421021.

The British Gas energy trust

The Scottish Gas energy trust

Authorised Agency Scheme

BGET has now adopted the same Authorised Agency Scheme as the EDFET. This allows approved agencies to submit applications to the Trust without having to send in documentary evidence of client's income, provided they are in receipt of one or more of certain benefits. More info on Page 2.

£1 million awarded!!!

The Trust is proud to have awarded over £1 million to individuals so far. This was reached with an award to Ms Wilson, a single mother working part-time who received grants to pay her gas and electricity arrears, and also to help furnish her child's bedroom. "I feel like a huge weight has been lifted off my shoulders" she wrote. Ms Wilson now works full-time for a community organisation that this year will run Open Days at which the Trust will be publicised, and hopes that this will help others learn about and benefit from the Trust.

Funds still available!

We still have thousands of pounds available to help individuals —so please send us your applications.

Organisational Grants

The Trust is delighted to have made the following awards for 2 year funding:

Angus CAB
Dundee CAB
Gorgie and Dalry CAB
Granton Information Centre
South Kirklees CAB
Burley Lodge Centre, Sheffield
Blackfriars Advice Centre
Centre 70
Greenwich CAB

EDF ENERGY TRUST

New Treasurer

The Trust would like to thank Crispin Blazeby for his hard work over the last three years as Treasurer and to introduce Bob Jackson as new Treasurer. Bob, who retired in 2005 has previously held several senior positions within the energy industry.

Funding granted to agencies to provide on- going support to clients

In May 2006 funding was awarded to the following agencies to allow them to provide additional money advice and guidance, where appropriate, to clients they have previously helped with an EDF Energy Trust application: Bideford & District CAB; East Devon CAB; Hastings & Rother CAB; Kensington CAB; Brighton & Hove CAB; Bristol Debt Advice Centre, Direct Debt Line, and Blackfriars Advice Centre.

Free Energy Efficiency Advice

The EDF Energy Trust are working in partnership with Cornwall Energy Efficiency Advice Centre (EEAC), Kent/South West London EEAC and South East London EEAC to provide free home visits to applicants of the Trust. If your clients are within geographic coverage of these EEACs they could benefit from this service. We hope that you are able to recommend your clients to take up this offer as a way of saving energy in their homes.

Annual Report

The Trust's second year annual report is available to view on the Trust's website or by request at edfet@charisgrants.com



Who is eligible to apply?

Customers of the following water companies are eligible to apply:

- Bournemouth and West Hampshire Water
- Folkestone and Dover Water
- Mid Kent Water
- Portsmouth Water
- South East Water
- Tendring Hundred Water

Grants are available to vulnerable customers in a condition of need, poverty, hardship or other distress to help clear their water debt and can sometimes help with other essential household bills or costs.

Message on behalf of grant recipient

'Thank you on behalf of my client for your assistance in clearing her water debt. This will relieve both my client's current situation and enable her to make a new start with regard to managing her financial situation. She is already responding effectively to the budgeting advice she has been given. The impact upon the welfare and security of the family as a whole will be considerable in my view.'

Application submitted on behalf of 29 year old client living with her partner and 3 children. Awarded £637.37 to clear water arrears.

Please remember that all 4 Trusts are part of a shared programme. So completion of one application form potentially allows assessment for grants from all Trusts. All relevant information will of course need to be provided for assessment under each trust.

Authorised Agency Scheme—more info

Agencies already approved by EDFET will have automatic approval by BGET. Other agencies are invited to sign up to become an EDFET and BGET 'Authorised Money Advice Agency'. To qualify agencies must be able to demonstrate a high quality standard in advice (for example the LSC generalist or specialist money advice quality mark). This will allow the organisation to submit applications to BGET and/or EDFET without having to send in documentary evidence of clients' income proof, provided the clients are in receipt of one or more of certain benefits. For details and an application form visit either Trust website.

www.britishgasenergytrust.org.uk www.edfenergytrust.org.uk

Applications for bankruptcy deposits

If your client is applying for a bankruptcy deposit **they need to provide a full list of debts and a signed declaration from a money advisor stating clearly that the applicant has been fully advised on all the implications of bankruptcy before their application will be considered.** The declaration can either be a separate letter, or simply written on page 9 of the application form, but must be signed by the advisor.

The application cannot be considered without this information.

Case Study of a Trust funded agency

Hastings & Rother Citizens Advice Bureau has recently received continuation funding for a further year from the **EDF Energy Trust** to employ a money advice worker.

Dina Christodoulou's role includes training community based workers in dealing with debts including fuel debts, raising awareness of the EDF Energy Trust by promotion to local agencies and undertaking seminars, and helping individuals and agencies complete applications to the Trust.

Most of the people Dina has assisted have fallen into debt due to a change in their circumstances through ill-health, unemployment and relationship breakdown. The bureau are beginning to see more people with mental-health problems who have become caught up in the system and have no idea how to sort out their problems.

Dina feels that one of the unique things about the Trust is the fact that as well as clearing energy debts it allows individuals to apply for bankruptcy fees. Many people's indebtedness has grown to such an extent that bankruptcy is often the best option but raising the fee has always been a problem.

Through Dina's work the bureau has helped over 100 of their clients apply to the Trust for financial assistance.

Trust contact details

Write to: Anglian Water Trust Fund / British Gas Energy Trust / EDF Energy Trust / Eos Foundation,
P.O. Box 42, Peterborough PE3 8XH

or Email: awtf@charisgrants.com
bget@charisgrants.com
edfet@charisgrants.com
eos@charisgrants.com

or via the Websites: www.awtf.org.uk
www.britishgasenergytrust.org.uk
www.edfenergytrust.org.uk
www.eosfoundation.org.uk

Application forms can be printed off from each website.

BGET Annual Report

The 2005 Annual Report is now available from the website.

Meter readings—we really need them!

If your client is applying for help with gas and/or electricity arrears please emphasise to them that **we need an accurate and up-to date meter reading.** If this is not provided on the application form we will have to write to request the information which will lead to delays with the assessment of the application.

Can you help?

We want everyone who can benefit from our Trusts to know about us, and we'd be grateful for your help!

Please let us know what helped your organisation become better known - the best places to advertise or to place posters/leaflets, and any groups or websites that we could link with to raise awareness of what we do, and how we can help people.

If you would be happy to host links to our Trusts on your website, please let us know.

If you have any good ideas to help us spread the word, we'd love to hear them!

Conferences/Open Days

This year we will have stands at the following events:

Institute of Money Advisors

5—7 July, Bristol

Notting Hill Housing Trust Open Day

13 July, London

Citizens Advice Scotland

16—17 August, Edinburgh

If you are attending any of these events please come and visit us on our stand.

Please send us your email

We hope to use email as much as possible in the future to distribute newsletters such as this and other information.

To allow us to correspond with you by email, please send your email address to **grantsunit@charisgrants.com**

The Grants Unit also aim to use email more proactively during assessment of applications. They can be emailed at the same address

grantsunit@charisgrants.com