

**Sources of funding that DPOs might consider applying for**

**1 Grants and Foundations** Some grants and foundations have proven their understanding of the opportunities that DPOs offer their local Disabled communities. The ones listed below, whilst not guaranteed to fund your DPO might prove to be a good starting point when developing your funding plan/pipeline.

* [Bernard Sunley](https://bernardsunley.org/) for support on capital costs
* [Wolfson Foundation](https://www.wolfson.org.uk/) are a useful capital funder for DPOs to apply for if they are wanting to purchase or refurbish a capital asset for long term benefit of Disabled people.
* [The National Lottery Community Fund](https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/) which is made up of the [Reaching Communities Fund](https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/reaching-communities-england) (up to £500,000 over 5 years) and [Awards for All](https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all-england) (up to £20,000 over 2 years) are an important Full Cost Recovery Funder.
* [British Deaf Association](https://bda.org.uk/) (BDA) sometimes give out grants and awards to promote Deaf culture.
* [Children in Need](https://www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/grants/) provide grants for organisations to support children which includes Disabled children. They understand the importance of a user led approach and wider learning and campaigning flowing from local project work.
* [Clare Milne](https://www.claremilnetrust.com/about-the-trust) is a Grant Giving Trust that gives funding to SW Disability Charities.
* [Heritage Lottery Fund](https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/) is part of The National Lottery Community Fund family of grant givers. They understand the importance of Disabled-led organisations. They have previously funded work to celebrate Deaf culture. Access to heritage for Disabled people is another area they will fund if DPOs partner with Heritage charities to put in a collaborative bid.
* Local County-wide [Active Partnerships](https://www.activepartnerships.org/) (e.g Active Devon) sometimes provide grants to ensure local people from harder to reach groups (including people with disabilities and from the Deaf community) to participate in sport and activity.
* Local County-wide Rural Councils sometimes provide grants for Disabled people to better access services in rural areas, maybe through setting up micro-organisaitons.
* [Ninevah Trust](https://ninevehtrust.org.uk/) provides mainly capital grants.
* [Peter Harrison Foundation](https://www.peterharrisonfoundation.org/) provides grants for Disabled and Deaf people to get involved in sport and activity. It was set up by a Disabled man whose life was transformed by sport.
* [Sport England](https://www.sportengland.org/funds-and-campaigns/our-funds) sometimes give grants to ensure everyone (including people with disabilities) have the opportunity to participate in Sport and activity
* [Steven Bloch](http://thestevenblochimageofdisabilitycharitabletrust.com/) is a small grant giving Trust set up by Steven’s family who give grants to represent Disabled people in a more positive way.
* Waitrose, Tesco, Morrisons, Co-op, Sainsbury’s and other large supermarkets have set up Charitable Trusts who donate funds to local charities, often using a voting system by shoppers.

**2 Public Sector contracts and grants** Every local authority and District Council and local NHS commissioners decide on their approach to commissioning DPO’s.

* Nationally NHS England sometimes puts out calls for evidence and research which DPOs might be well placed to express an interest.
* Some LA have some kind of Equality Reference Group and DPOs are ideally placed to apply to sit on these groups on behalf of Disabled people alongside the LGBTQ+ and BAME representatives
* Engagement and involvement work should be funded by the local authorities and DPOs are perfectly placed to arrange these focus groups and administer surveys to establish what Disabled people need from the public sector services.
* Experts By Experience are sometimes commissioned by local authorities, NHS England and the Care Quality Commission (CQC)
* Independent Advocacy is a statutory requirement and some DPOS have held these contracts for many years. **Top Tip** Talk to your local commissioners to find out when the next advocacy contract is due for renewal.
* Victims of Crime might be something a DPO might be able to deliver but not all Police and Crime Commissioners commission this service externally.
* Direct Payment Support is commissioned by Local Authorities and an area that many DPOs have traditionally tendered successfully over the years.

**3 Charity of the Year and similar** Many Mayors have a charity of the year as do local football and rugby clubs, shopping centers, classic car events, universities and lots more. They can be very lucrative for the charity but do take time and capacity. Funding some kind of ‘gimmick’ increases the fundraising potential getting a local garage to donate a car to raffle (which they sometimes will if you ask them!). **Top Tip** Do the sums carefully first or you could find you spending a lot of money on these opportunities.

**4 Commercial Activities** Whilst every DPO and the context in which they work is very different, some DPO CEOs have done cost/benefit analysis and concluded the following:

* Charity shops can be good to raise a DPOs profile within their local town or city, however you will be competing against the larger charities which is not easy as they have vast marketing and capital reserves to set their shops up which many DPOs do not have. The more successful and viable charity shops are those that deal in larger items, i.e., furniture because that provides a greater return per donated article, that say children’s clothes. But that takes larger, more expensive premises. **Top Tip** Keep an eye on the VAT thresholds as you might want to keep below them to avoid having to charge VAT on your services.
* Room and office space hire has proven a good source of sustainable funding for many DPOs whose Unique Selling Point (USP) is accessible support for other Disabled people and charities. COVID was the exception, when this income stream, along with many others ceased during lock down. **Top Tip** Hire out to other organisations with aligned strategic aims-ie equalities, disability etc.
* Disability awareness training and Access Auditing by Disabled and Deaf people has proved a good source of income and a way of enabling services to become more accessible. It also empowers local Disabled people to gain employment. **Top Tip** You will need Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance for these services.

**4 Legacies and individual giving** sounds attractive, however, the investment required in marketing and comms might outweigh the benefits. Also, it is impossible to predict when people might leave money in their will or whether they will be likely to offer the charity a donation. The WI, Lions, Rotary Club, Masonic lodges and other local philanthropic organisations will often give donations, often in return for a talk about the charity. Sometimes these can be quite sizeable (upwards of £5,000) **Top Tip** There is lots of legislation around this issue so read up on the processes required or you could put your charity’s reputation at risk.

**5 Digital Giving Platforms** have become big business in recent years. There are many of them which charities find useful when people offer to run a marathon to raise funds for the charity. These platforms enable people to sponsor events and individuals for the benefit of DPOs