

*Briefing by Rob Squires for Manchester's Food and Well-being
Group, 27/08/08.*

Summary of grant

£3M available over three years from 2008. Typical grant size £50K.

The aim of the Food strand is to promote an understanding of the role of food in enhancing quality of life. It will prioritise the enjoyment and experience of food rather than its production and it seeks to enable as many people in the UK as possible to access, prepare and eat nutritious, sustainable food.

Esmee Fairbairn are interested in work that influences policy and practice across a range of food-related areas. They are supporting a mix of practical projects that have wide significance, and some research and policy based work. They support work which enhances quality of life, including the following:

1. Improving access to appropriate, diverse and sustainable food in areas where availability is limited
2. Exploring or enhancing understanding of the impact of food on wider well-being
3. Demonstrating the positive role of food in a social context or how food can contribute to community cohesion
4. Developing leadership in food policy and/or enabling greater connection among currently diverse food-related interests
5. Scaling up effective local or regional practice that deserves a wider platform
6. Strategic or exceptional work that supports the development of sustainable food systems.

Application process

A simple one page first stage application form, along with up to two pages project description. First stage applicants will be informed within one month of their success.

Recommendations

- Develop a first stage application for the Food and Wellbeing Network, for approximately £50, to support the development of the Food and Wellbeing Network.
- Focussing on objectives 2, 3 and 4 above:
 - enhancing understanding of the impact of food on well-being
 - demonstrating how food can contribute to social cohesion
 - developing leadership in food policy and enabling greater connection amongst diverse food-related interests.
- Finding a way to make the application count as match funding towards the Food Futures Local Food Fund bid to support the community and voluntary sector.

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