

## Building Change Research Award 2012

The Building Change Trust invites proposals for its 2012 Building Change Research Award.

### **Social Innovation in the Northern Ireland Community and Voluntary Sector; what needs to be done to support and develop it?**

#### **Targeted Research**

We are using the following definition of Social Innovation

***“innovative activities and services that are motivated by the goal of meeting a social need and that are predominantly developed and diffused through organisations whose primary purposes are social”<sup>1</sup>***

Essentially – new ideas that meet unmet needs.

The purpose of the research is to

- Develop a working understanding of Social Innovation in a Northern Ireland setting.
- Determine what is understood by the term ‘Social Innovation’ and demonstrate by way of case study (within NI and elsewhere) practical examples of innovative practice across a range of themes (which may include)
  - Health & Social Care
  - Youth development
  - Community Development
  - Environmental action
  - Co-commissioning, design and co-production of public services
  - Employment & Training
  - Arts
  - Volunteering & Active Citizenship
  - Participative Democracy
  - Social finance
  - A.N.Other
- Identify frameworks and existing structures that support Social Innovation in Northern Ireland.

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<sup>1</sup> I. Social Innovation. What it is, Why it matters and how it can be accelerated. Skoll Centre for Social Entrepreneurship, University of Oxford, Said Business School, 2007

- Consider barriers to Social Innovation in Northern Ireland.
- Consider lessons from elsewhere within the UK, Ireland and further afield.
- Make initial recommendations/suggest actions to be taken to support and develop Social Innovation in Northern Ireland.

The research must be

- Participative and inclusive of a range of stakeholders on a cross sectoral basis.

### **Required outputs**

1. Research report for publication and dissemination of between 10,000 and 15,000 words.
2. Summary report for publication and dissemination of not less than 2000 words.
4. Development of an 'Research Advisory Group'<sup>2</sup> (to meet minimum of 3 times) to support the research during its lifespan.
6. Participation by key member(s) of research team in 2 x dissemination seminars post publication. (The successful tenderer will be responsible for meeting the venue hire and catering costs of seminars the dates and venues and other details of which must be approved by the Trust ).
7. Attendance by key member(s) of research team at 1 briefing session and 1 x dissemination meeting with Building Change Trust Board.

### **Selection Criteria**

#### **Essential**

Researchers should have a proven background in participatory research and published research and analysis in an area demonstrably relevant to social development and innovation in community and voluntary practice.

The proposal should clearly demonstrate how it will fully address the research area identified.

The proposal will set out how the work will promote informed debate and be accessible to a wide target audience.

Researchers should be able to demonstrate critical distance from the research topic and groups involved.

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<sup>2</sup> To include nominees determined by the Trust and organised and co-ordinated with approval of the Trust

## **Tendering requirements**

In the first instance the Trust requires from applicants a proposal covering the following:

- Relevant experience and expertise of the researcher(s) who will undertake the work.
- A proposed time-scale and earliest start date.
- A detailed outline of the proposed methodological approach to the research objectives.
- A detailed costing of the proposed approach including average daily input and rates per team members inclusive of travel expenses and VAT.

Following the submission of this information the Trust may shortlist applicants and require attendance at interview/presentation as the next stage of the selection process

Please note that it is not expected that a single individual will be capable of undertaking this project and/or be awarded the research award.

## **Budget**

The targeted research proposal is capped at £30,000 inclusive of all costs including staff/consultant time, venue hire, catering, travel and other expenses.

## **Timescale**

Closing date for the submission of preliminary proposals Friday 2 March.

Shortlisting 9 March.

Interviews/presentations if required by week ending 16 March.

Commencement by 1 April 2012.

Completion by 31 October 2012.

## **Submission of proposals**

Proposals in 1 x electronic copy (pdf format) and 3 hard copies to Nigel McKinney, Trust Administrator, Building Change Trust, Community House, Belfast, BT12 4HQ e-mail [info@buildingchangetrust.org](mailto:info@buildingchangetrust.org)

The Building Change Trust reserves the right to reject any or all tenders, the lowest will not necessarily be accepted.

### **Tender scoring**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Scoring</b>	<b>Weighting</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Compliance with tendering requirements	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Must be fully in compliance to be considered for scoring</b>
Experience and expertise of the researcher(s)	<b>0 – 10</b>	<b>3</b>	
Proposed methodological approach	<b>0 – 10</b>	<b>5</b>	
Costing of the proposed approach	<b>0 – 10</b>	<b>2</b>	