

Could your project or community make a local difference and gain the funding to do it?

The Big Lottery Fund and ITV have announced a bigger People's Millions public voting competition for 2006, firing the starting gun for communities across the UK to put in their bids to receive up to £50,000 in Lottery good cause funding.

People across the UK will be able to vote for their favourite regional projects when the on-air contest hits TV screens in the autumn, awarding 90 grants of up to £50,000 including bonus grants to the most popular runners-up in each ITV region. The opportunity to have a say on how Lottery money is awarded caught the public imagination last year and thousands of votes were cast in a frantic week of frayed nerves that culminated in champagne celebrations for over 50 projects. Winners of the previous contests have been using their awards to make their local communities a better place to live. As part of the People's Millions this year, GMTV viewers will also be given the chance to award a single grant of £1.5 million in early April. Next year, on top of the regional contests for £50,000, the Big Lottery Fund and ITV will be asking viewers UK-wide to vote on a massive award of between £25 and £50 million to a single project.

The Big Lottery Fund will assess and shortlist projects to go forward for the public vote. Entry deadline for applications for funding to be awarded in 2006, the second year of the scheme, is Thursday 18 May 2006. Each ITV region will announce a shortlist of projects in October.

From 13 November to 17 November the public will be able to vote by telephone or text for the projects they want funded in their region. There will be between four and five awards in each ITV regional news area. All awards will be for one year. Application packs for People's Millions are available by calling Hotline Tel: 08450 10 11 12 or visitng Website:

www.peoplesmillion.org.uk