

Dear Member

Thanks to all of you who completed this year's Membership Survey. The full findings are available for your information at www.nicva.org.

The findings indicate that you would like more information and training in Governance, Skills Development and Policy Development. To meet these needs NICVA has pulled together a calendar of training covering numerous topics such as Collaborative Working, Full Cost Recovery, Recruitment and Selection, Fundraising, Media Skills, Lobbying and Collaborative Working, to name but a few. The calendar is available at www.nicva.org or by contacting us. We continue to signpost members to other organisations for training where relevant.

You also requested specific training in the following and here is what we have arranged in response:

Basic Finance Skills – NICVA offers training in VAT, PAYE, Budgeting, Fraud and SORP. We provide associated Advice Notes and web-based articles. Furthermore the second of the Members' Information Session on 9 October 2007 will be dedicated to basic Human Resources and Finance issues. We have engaged external providers to deliver training on Full Cost Recovery, Finance for Non-Finance Managers, and Finance for Social Enterprise Activities (see calendar).

Induction of New Committee Members – NICVA's Governance and Charity Unit has recently included Induction in its Committee and Trustee Roles and Responsibilities course.

Incorporation – the Governance and Charity Unit offers free drafting of Memorandum and Articles of Association and encourages organisations to take the training on this. This is much in demand and we will continue to deliver on it. The Companies Act 2006 will bring in changes and we will continue to develop our advice in accordance with regulation and legislation.

Limiting Liability – NICVA provides groups with up to date information on legislation changes and responds to issues which arise in the sector via NICVA communications. We have engaged Marsh to deliver training on Risk Management (see calendar).

Collaborative Working and Mergers – a session on Self Due Diligence which is dedicated to those who are ready to embark on a merger is to be delivered in June. Another more general session has been arranged for 25 October 2007 on Partnerships, Collaborative Working and Mergers. NICVA is also currently involved with a training provider to deliver more in depth training on partnerships, collaboration,

negotiating and influencing, and contract negotiation. We are building on our associated information resources on these matters all of which will be available on the websites in the near future or by contacting the Governance and Charity Unit.

IT training – we have dedicated the first of the Members' Information Sessions to training on IT and Communicating Effectively. The ICT Strategy has recently been launched which considers how to support the sector (see www.ictconsortiumni.org).

Strategic Planning – we are not resourced to do what groups want which is to work solely with their organisation. It is our intention to continue to signpost them to other providers until we have more resources to allow us to deliver on this.

Fundraising – NICVA continues to develop and add more up to date funding information to Grant Tracker. We plan to improve on the 'Diversifying your Funding Base' on Grant Tracker and promote how to use it to fundraise more strategically. There are three fundraising sessions on the training calendar and we offer bespoke fundraising courses. We are developing a programme for the year with the Institute of Fundraising in giving groups opportunities to meet funders.

Full cost recovery - we are running at least two training courses (see calendar).

Community Planning and RPA (Review of Public Administration) – NICVA will be running a joint project with Community Technical Aid to help organisations familiarise themselves with the consequences of the RPA and prepare for community planning. NICVA and the Rural Community Network are planning a joint conference on this issue later in the year. We hope to secure resources to enable us to focus primarily on community planning for the next 3-5 years.

Charity Law – for up to date information on the reform in Northern Ireland and the other jurisdictions see [www.nicva.org/What we do/Governance and Charity Advice](http://www.nicva.org/What%20we%20do/Governance%20and%20Charity%20Advice). Also we will continue to provide you with up to date information and opportunities for debate through the website, email briefings and NICVA News.

EU issues – we will continue to provide funding advice on all relevant EU programmes.

Lobbying – we will continue to run lobbying training (see calendar).

If you require any further information on any of the above, or wish to request training on another subject, please contact Sandra Bailie at NICVA on 028 9087 7777.

Regards,



Paula Reynolds
Director of Member Services

