

## New Communities First fund

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**CATEGORY:**

ARTICLE

A new Communities First fund is to be introduced by the government to help set up community groups in deprived areas. The announcement is in keeping with the emphasis on community running throughout the Coalition Agreement, the government's policy agreement.

Francis Maude, the Minister for the Cabinet Office, announced the fund on 9 June 2010 but there is no indication yet of how much funding it will be allocated for grant-making.

The Communities First fund may effectively fill the gap which will be left by the Grassroots Grants fund, a fund which currently supports smaller charities and community groups. The Office of Civil Society has confirmed that Grassroots Grants funding will not be renewed from April 2011. This year the fund has £80m to award to community groups and £50m to match other funding of local foundations; we will wait to hear how the new Communities First funding will compare.