

## Facilities Management from A to Z



Based on The FM Lexicon by Martin Pickard  
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# G rants

Grants to help with business development including a variety of property and facilities activities are sometimes made available from a variety of sources, such as the government, European Union, local authorities and some charitable organisations. These grants may be linked to business activity or a specific industry sector while others are linked to specific geographical areas such as those in need of economic regeneration. It can be greatly advantageous for facilities managers to make themselves aware of where such opportunities exist.

The government provides support to businesses both financially, in the form of grants, and through access to expert advice, information and services. However, getting financial support can be tough. There will be strong competition and the eligibility criteria for grants are stringent. Criteria vary but are likely to include the location, size and industry sector of the business.

Government grants are almost always awarded for a specific purpose or project and are usually for proposed projects only, not for those that have already started. There are also strict terms and conditions that apply to all grants. If these are not followed, immediate repayment of the grant can be required.

Most government grants require the recipient to match the funds being awarded. The amount of matching funds varies from grant to grant. A research grant may require a business to find 40 per cent of the total cost with 60 per cent provided by the grant. However, a grant to refurbish a factory may require a considerably higher percentage of match funding from the business.

Other bodies that may award grants include the European Union, Scottish Enterprise, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, the Welsh Government, Invest Northern Ireland, local authorities, councils and development agencies.

Potential grants might support an organisation's relocation if the move will bring employment to an economically struggling area, or partly fund a refurbishment project in an area where regeneration is desired. Other grants may be available to fund research or to support training and development for certain groups of workers such as women, young people or ethnic minorities.

Grants are often awarded for a specific purpose such as purchasing machinery, improving offices, increasing employment or developing export markets. Grant bodies prefer to see specific targets and results that are compatible with their own objectives. As well as making an assessment of the benefits of the project, the awarding body will expect a high level of commitment from the receiving business and for the project to be commercially viable.

*Information on government support for businesses including grants and advice can be found on the [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) website*