

Top tips from the National Council of Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) on how to thrive and survive in the current economic conditions.

Have a diverse range of income streams

By exploring all the available income options you can set up a more secure range of funding for your work.

Strengthen key relationships

Ensure that you are responding to the needs of the people that use your services and products. Be clear with your funders about what it is they want from you and what you can provide.

Focus on your mission

Concentrate on your core business and make sure your organisation is doing what it is best at. NCVO has created a self-assessment tool to help you prioritise your organisation's needs – www.strategy-impact.org.uk.

Tighten up financial systems

Make sure that you have an accurate picture of income, cash flow and costs so you can quickly address any issues.

Plan for the future

Rapid economic change can provide opportunities as well as threats. Ensure your organisation thinks about what is coming and has planned accordingly. Third Sector Foresight can help you identify some of the key issues that may affect your organisation and what you can do to address them – www.3sf.org.uk.

Recession Resources

For a full guide to surviving the recession go to www.ncvo.org.uk/recessionresources

Further help and support:

SUSTAIN is here to help all voluntary and community organisations in Solihull and can provide you with free advice, information and guidance to support you in these challenging times. For more information contact Manjit Johal, Community Development Officer on **0121 711 3148** iag@solihull-sustain.org.uk or visit our website at www.solihull-sustain.org.uk