

Capacity and training boost for local CBOs

The Built Environment Support Group (BESG) is offering a landmark community out-reach capacity building programme for local Community Based Organisations (CBOs).

The programme will run for 10 months, starting in January 2007 and will be based on a series of 9 workshops and current action learning. Twelve CBOs will be eligible for the 10-month programme selected, based on their community development needs.

The programme is financially supported by the South African office of the Ford Foundation. The programme aims to deliver intensive community development knowledge to local government organisations. CBOs will be equipped to strengthen representative and accountable local leadership in low income and vulnerable communities and to promote and secure the rights of residents to basic services and housing.

The programme will enhance community participation in and benefit from development policy, processes and programs, by enabling them to engage with municipal officials and structures around fundamental building blocks

of development, viz., local government legislation, Integrated Development Planning (IDP processes) and budgeting, in order to leverage resources for upliftment of their communities.

Qualifying criteria for CBOs are to submit a letter of motivation in which they demonstrate their commitment to community development and highlight their development needs. Preferably, CBOs must have a regular meeting place as this is an out-reach programme allowing BESG to go out to communities.

Where possible, CBOs can submit joint applications to BESG proposing to be trained in a common venue. All letters of motivation must be accompanied by a letter of support from the local councilor. A detailed information brochure is available on request at BESG offices at 371 Jabu Ndlovu Street (formerly Loop Street), Tel 033-394 4980. Those available on email can request an electronic version by emailing zolani@besg.co.za Closing date for application is 12 December 2006.