

Monthly Funding Information August 2025

This document includes information about current grants and funding opportunities primarily for Voluntary & Community Sector Groups and Organisations, Charities and Social Enterprises. Where the Grant title includes an asterisk (*), Local Authorities and other partner organisations may also be eligible to apply for the funding.

Please also note the grants that are **NEW** to the bulletin.

This document, along with information about other sources of funding and associated support, can also be accessed via the [Leicestershire Communities Grants and Funding page](#).

Please use the links in the contents table below to go directly to the relevant section:

[Funding for projects which support Adults \(including older people, veterans and adults with disabilities\)](#)

| Grant Fund | Closest Deadline |
|---|----------------------------|
| Lloyds Foundation - Deaf and Disabled People's Organisations Fund | 4 th Sept 2025 |
| The Visa Foundation – CatalyseHer Programme (New) | 7 th Sept 2025 |
| Alzheimer's Research UK's - Inspire Fund (New) | 8 th Sept 2025 |
| Help the Homeless | 15 th Sept 2025 |
| Armed Forces Covenant – Hidden Voices * (New) | 1 st Oct 2025 |
| Concertina Charitable Trust (New) | 31 st Oct 2025 |

[Funding for projects which support Young People \(including young people with disabilities\)](#)

| Grant Fund | Closest Deadline |
|---|---------------------------|
| The 7 Stars Foundation * (New) | 8 th Aug 2025 |
| Violence Reduction Network (VRN) – Community Diversion Fund (New) | 17 th Aug 2025 |
| SIB – Better Youth Spaces Programme * (New) | 31 st Aug 2025 |
| ILPA - Strategic Legal Fund (SLF) | 1 st Sept 2025 |
| National Lottery Community Fund – Million Hours Fund * (New) | 22 nd Oct 2025 |

Funding for projects which support broader community outcomes

| Grant Fund | Closest Deadline |
|--|----------------------------|
| <u>National Lottery – Heritage Grants</u> * | 6 th Aug 2025 |
| <u>Harborough District Council – Community Grant Fund</u> | 11 th Aug 2025 |
| <u>GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) – The King's Fund</u> (New) | 11 th Aug 2025 |
| <u>Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust</u> | 15 th Aug 2025 |
| <u>The Hilden Charitable Fund</u> (New) | 21 st Aug 2025 |
| <u>Homes England – Council Housebuilding Support Fund</u> * (New) | 22 nd Aug 2025 |
| <u>Harold Hyam Wingate Foundation</u> (New) | 26 th Aug 2025 |
| <u>The Woodland Trust – Free Tree Scheme</u> (New) | 28 th Aug 2025 |
| <u>Rewilding Britain - Rewilding Innovation Fund</u> * | 29 th Aug 2025 |
| <u>The Inman Charity</u> | 31 st Aug 2025 |
| <u>Amazon's Regional Creatives Fund</u> (New) | 31 st Aug 2025 |
| <u>William and Jane Morris Fund</u> | 31 st Aug 2025 |
| <u>Theatres Trust – Theatre Improvement Scheme</u> | 5 th Sept 2025 |
| <u>Leicestershire County Council – Get Ready Community Energy Fund</u> | 8 th Sept 2025 |
| <u>The Society Foundation</u> (New) | 12 th Sept 2025 |
| <u>UKRI – Gambling Harms Funding</u> * | 16 th Sept 2025 |
| <u>Charles Hayward Foundation – Main Grants</u> (New) | 19 th Sept 2025 |
| <u>Blaby District Council – Community Grants</u> (New) | 19 th Sept 2025 |
| <u>Music For All – Community Project Funding</u> (New) | 24 th Sept 2025 |
| <u>Association of Independent Museums (AIM) – Grants</u> * | 26 th Sept 2025 |
| <u>The Rowing Foundation</u> | 29 th Sept 2025 |
| <u>The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust</u> | 30 th Sept 2025 |
| <u>De Montford University – Community Challenge Fund</u> (New) | 30 th Sept 2025 |
| <u>Calisen Impact Charitable Trust</u> | 30 th Sept 2025 |
| <u>Fat Beehive Foundation – Digital Funding</u> (New) | 30 th Sept 2025 |
| <u>Matrix Causes Fund</u> | 30 th Sept 2025 |
| <u>East Midlands Airport – Community Fund</u> (New) | 6 th Oct 2025 |
| <u>OPCC – Community Action Fund</u> (New) | 17 th Oct 2025 |
| <u>The Tree Council – Trees Outside of Woodlands Fund</u> * | 31 st Oct 2025 |
| <u>The Tree Council – Branching Out Fund</u> | 14 th Nov 2025 |
| <u>England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) – County Grants Fund</u> | 30 th Nov 2025 |
| <u>International Tree Foundation –Tree Planting Grants</u> (New) | 12 th Dec 2025 |
| <u>National Lottery – Environment Programme</u> * | 17 th Dec 2025 |
| <u>Pixel Fund</u> (New) | Open |

Funding for projects which support Adults

[Lloyds Foundation - Deaf and Disabled People's Organisations Fund](#)

Summary

Funding is available for small and local charities and CICs led by and working with d/deaf and disabled people experiencing poverty to help deaf and disabled people gain greater choice and control in their lives, access their rights, and overcome barriers.

Key Criteria

Organisations must have:

- Annual income between £25,000 and £500,000
- At least one set of annual accounts showing as 'received' on the Charity Commission or Companies House website
- A track record of delivering support, activity or services, for at least one year, to people aged 18 and over.
- For CIC's, no Director should hold more than 50% of the company's voting rights

Amounts available: Maximum £75,000 (unrestricted grant for up to three years)

Application deadlines: 4th September 2025

[The Visa Foundation – CatalyseHer Programme](#) (NEW GRANT)

Summary

The programme is designed to support women-led businesses with a focus on social and environmental impact in the UK. The three-year initiative will provide 500 women entrepreneurs with micro-grants, alongside two months of training and community-building support to help them grow their businesses and become investment-ready.

There are two learning tracks for this cohort:

- The Fundamentals Track for early-stage businesses with an annual income under £50,000 who are looking to refine and strengthen their business model
- The Impact Track for those ready to scale their social impact.

Key Criteria

- To be eligible, businesses must be less than five years old with an annual income below £2 million.
- Applicants must be Women founders, co-founders, or CEOs of businesses based in the UK (registered on Company House or HMRC registered)

Amounts available: Maximum £5,000

Application deadlines: 7th September 2025 (Training starts 17th September 2025).

Alzheimer's Research UK's - Inspire Fund (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for a range of organisations and individuals, to engage diverse and underserved audiences, including ethnic minority, marginalised, and socioeconomically disadvantaged communities with innovative public engagement projects that raise awareness of brain health and dementia risk reduction.

Key Criteria

- The scheme prioritises applications from underrepresented parts of the UK—particularly Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, and regions of England such as the Midlands, North West, North East, Yorkshire, and East Anglia
- Particularly encourage collaborative applications, and those that build relationships between communities and researchers.
- Projects must be UK-based and last up to 12 months
- Eligible costs may include staff time, materials, accessibility, and evaluation.

Amounts available: Maximum £5,000

Application deadlines: 8th September 2025

Help the Homeless (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Capital funding is available for small homelessness charities to support homeless people rebuild their lives. Typically, organisations awarded funding operate residential or training facilities to assist homeless people.

Key Criteria

- Charities must have an annual turnover of less than £500,000 and unrestricted reserves of less than six months.
- There should be a minimum period of two years between the receipt of a decision or grant awarded and making a further application.

Amounts available: Maximum £5,000

Application deadlines: 15th September 2025

Armed Forces Covenant – Hidden Voices * (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for local authorities, registered charities and Community Interest Companies (CICs) with significant recent experience supporting Armed Forces communities to support the mental health and well-being needs of marginalised groups within Armed Forces communities.

The programme aims to identify and fill gaps in service provision and foster collaborative partnerships between Armed Forces organisations and specialist non-armed Forces organisations

Key Criteria

Projects should last up to 12 months

Projects will need to meet both of the following outcomes:

- Those who are underrepresented, or whose voices are seldom heard, within the armed forces community, have equitable access to mental health and wellbeing support which meets their specific needs.
- Awareness of the needs of underrepresented groups within the armed forces community has been raised among organisations supporting them, through mutual learning and knowledge exchange to embed best practice.

Amounts available: Between £3,000 and £25,000

Application deadlines:

- 1st October 2025 (Decision by end of November 2025)
- 21st January 2026 (Decision by end of March 2026)

Concertina Charitable Trust (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for charitable organisations and care homes for the elderly to run activities which provide musical entertainment and related activities for the elderly

Key Criteria

- Applications will automatically be refused if they do not include a copy of their accounts or financial statements with the application
- The Trust is particularly keen to act as a catalyst via matched funding.

Amounts available: Maximum £250

Application deadlines: 31st October 2025

Funding for projects which support Children and Young People

[The 7 Stars Foundation](#) *(NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for a range of organisations which support young people aged 18 and under in the UK who are affected by abuse, addiction, homelessness, or caring responsibilities.

Funding is intended for activities and items that address immediate needs, provide long-term support, or promote wellbeing and potential among young people in the foundation's priority areas.

Project Funding – for organisations

Individual Funding - small grants to safeguarding professionals (such as social workers, lawyers, school outreach officers) representing a young person within the UK, in the care or legal system who is in need of some extra help.

Key Criteria

- Registered charities, council-run children's homes, and schools with an annual turnover below £1.5 million are eligible to apply
- Applicants must have delivered services pre-2020
- For individual funding, the young person will either be a survivor of abuse, a young carer, living with addiction, or be at risk of or currently homeless

Amounts available:

- Project Funding - Maximum £2,500
- Individual Funding – Maximum £500

Application deadlines: 8th August 2025 (for decision in December 2025).

Violence Reduction Network (VRN) – Community Diversion Fund (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available to increase community-based and community-delivered prevention, early intervention and diversionary provision for children and young people (aged 10 to 17) at risk of involvement in anti-social behaviour (ASB), crime and/or violence.

Both universal (open to all) and targeted initiatives working with a specific cohort or issue to reduce ASB, crime and violence are eligible.

The general expectation is that activities will be delivered at times when children and young people are not at school or college.

Key Criteria

- A wide range of voluntary and community organisations are eligible
- Particularly interested in receiving applications for delivery in East and West of Leicester City, Charnwood, Hinckley and Bosworth, North West Leicestershire and Melton due to the higher prevalence of ASB, crime and violence in these areas.
- Community organisations who are successful in their application for funding, will be expected to take referrals and work with children referred from their local Prevention Panels. It is, however, also acceptable to work with other children who fit the criteria but have not been referred through a panel.
- Initiatives should be delivered for 12 months

Amounts available: Between £10,000 and £20,000

Application deadlines: 17th August 2025

SIB – Better Youth Spaces Programme * (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for youth organisations in specific geographic locations to undertake small-scale capital projects, including purchasing equipment and refurbishment projects. The fund will support youth organisations working with disadvantaged young people aged 11 to 18, or up to 25 for those with additional needs or vulnerabilities.

Projects must meet at least one of the fund objectives:

- Improving the reach of activities provided
- Improving the safety of existing youth facilities
- Improve the youth sector's capacity and quality to deliver a range of enrichment activities
- Funding priority areas on the basis of youth need
- Improving the financial sustainability of youth facilities

Key Criteria

- Leicester is one of the 42 priority areas
- Please note: the eligible postcode area relates to the building/land being refurbished or where the equipment being purchased will be stored.
- Although the minimum grant size is £5,000, for equipment to be classed as capital and therefore eligible, all equipment items that make up the grant of £5,000 or more must each be £2,000 or greater in value.
- The fund cannot consider part funding or match funding requests due to the timescales for this funding to be spent. Applications must cover the full costs of the work/ equipment.
- Local authorities can apply where they provide youth services

Amounts available: Between £5,000 and £100,000

Application deadlines:

- Applications for refurbishment will close on 31st August 2025 unless oversubscribed
- Applications for equipment will remain open until 21st September 2025, unless oversubscribed

ILPA - Strategic Legal Fund (SLF)

Summary

Not for profit organisations and private law firms working with vulnerable young migrants can apply for grants to support legal work that benefits young migrants living in poverty, who face significant disadvantage or discrimination, as a result of their immigration status.

Applications must be to fund one of two kinds of strategic legal work:

- The research and development of cases pre-litigation including gathering evidence to test a hypothesis or research to establish authorities' policy and practice; identifying potential plaintiffs/applicants/appellants; researching whether to proceed; translating relevant material; and evaluating a litigation strategy.
- Third party "interventions" in existing cases, which allow a non-party intervener to assist the court in arriving in its decision in a case, acting as an *amicus curiae*, a friend of the court.

Key Criteria

Strategic legal work is defined as work where the impact is likely to go beyond an individual case, and to result in changes to law, policy and practice that will benefit a wider group of people

Amounts available: Maximum £30,000 (average grant £12,000)

Application deadlines: 1st September 2025 (generally six closing dates for applications per year).

National Lottery Community Fund – Million Hours Fund * (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for a range of organisations including local authorities to give extra support to young people in areas with higher rates of anti-social behaviour. It will fund extra hours of youth work to give these young people more places to go and positive things to do.

Key Criteria

The work must take place in, or benefit young people living in, one of the [eligible ward areas](#). Leicester and Leicestershire have eligible wards.

To apply, your project must:

- Benefit young people aged 10 to 18, or up to 25 if they have special educational needs or disabilities (SEND)
- Effectively engage with young people at risk of taking part in anti-social behaviour
- Deliver more hours of youth work than you provide now
- Involve young people in deciding how you work
- Deliver youth work that is open to as wide a range of young people as possible (known as 'open access')
- Be run by trusted adults such as qualified youth workers, youth support workers, or experienced volunteers

Amounts available: Between £30,000 and £100,000

Application deadlines: 22nd October 2025 (The application window may close early if the scheme becomes oversubscribed).

Funding for projects which support broader community outcomes

[National Lottery – Heritage Grants](#) *

Summary

Funding is available for a range of not-for-profit organisations to deliver projects which connect people or communities with heritage.

The funding can support a broad range of activities and project costs such as volunteer expenses, capital works, repairs, maintenance, conservation costs, professional fees, event costs, and the acquisition of heritage.

Key Criteria

- Projects must also consider long-term environmental sustainability
- Up to 10% match funding is required

Amounts available:

- Between £10,000 and £250,000
- Between £250,000 and £10 million

Application deadlines:

Deadline for Expressions of Interest for applications over £250,000 is 6th August 2025. If the EoI is approved, you will have 12 months to submit your full application.

Applications for under £250,000 can be submitted at any time

[Harborough District Council – Community Grant Fund](#)

Summary

The Community Grant Fund is available for Town and Parish Councils/Meetings and community organisations in the Harborough District.

The grants are intended to support capital projects that create lasting assets, such as improvements to buildings, facilities, or purchasing and installing equipment. There is a focus on enhancing, upgrading, or expanding facilities and activities, rather than covering routine maintenance or general upkeep.

Key Criteria

- As well as Town and Parish Councils any constituted community/voluntary group based in Harborough District, who hold a bank account in the name of the organisation and have at least three years of accounts, can apply
- All applications outside of Market Harborough need to be submitted or supported by the Parish Council or Parish Meeting
- For applications over £25,000 the applying organisation is required to attend the Cabinet Grants Sub-Committee meeting

Amounts available:

A share of the £1m Grant has been allocated to parishes and towns based on the local plan. There is a [document](#) available on Harborough District Council's website, which sets out the allocation of funds per area.

Application deadlines: 11th August 2025 (Decision meeting on 24th September 2025)

GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) – The King's Fund (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for health charities in the UK. There are two strands of support:

- GSK Community Health Programme - funding to smaller charities (operating for at least one year) working to address health inequalities within their communities.
- GSK Awards – for community-based charities (operating for at least three years) making a significant impact on people's health and wellbeing.

Key Criteria

- GSK Community Health Programme - eligible charities must have an annual income between £20,000 and £150,000.
- GSK Awards - eligible charities must have an annual income between £150,000 and £3 million

Amounts available:

- GSK Community Health Programme maximum £10,000 (up to 10 awards)
- GSK Awards- between £4,000 and £50,000 (15 awards)

Application deadlines:

- GSK Community Health Programme deadline 11th August 2025
- GSK awards application deadline 20th August 2025

Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust

Summary

Organisations involved in horticulture, gardening, or botany can apply for grants towards projects that promote horticulture, conserve the environment through biodiversity, develop public gardens, and advance horticultural education.

Eligible projects include the restoration of historic gardens, creation of new public garden spaces, horticultural research, publications, and plant study expeditions.

Key Criteria

The Trust does not support applications from places or individuals where horticulture is only a minor part of their operation.

The Trust may consider grants for the repair or conservation of physical structures related to historic landscapes such as pergolas or conservatories but only when they are part of a wider garden restoration project.

Amounts available: Maximum £5,000

Application deadlines: 15th August 2025

The Hilden Charitable Fund (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for smaller charitable organisations delivering projects within the UK to support social justice and to tackle disadvantage in specific areas of focus – providing unrestricted or project/core funding.

It focuses on two key areas:

- Supporting asylum seekers and refugees by integrating them into the community
- Aiding prisoners, especially women, with coping, maintaining family bonds, and successful resettlement post-release.

Key Criteria

- Organisations which were successful in securing one year's funding, or were not successful in 2024 can apply for funding in 2025
- Organisations which were successful in securing two years funding in 2024 are not eligible to apply
- Organisations annual income should be no more than £200,000
- Preference on supporting organisations which have been running for more than one year

Amounts available: Between £5,000 and £7,000

Application deadlines: 21st August 2025 (Decisions by end November 2025)

Homes England – Council Housebuilding Support Fund * (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Local Councils in England (excluding London) can apply for grants to help build their internal expertise and capability in preparation for bidding to the next Affordable Homes Programme from April 2026.

It will support councils to:

- Deliver more new affordable homes (directly or in partnership with registered providers or developers)
- Develop plans that maximise the number of homes delivered for social rent
- Ensure regional affordable housing priorities are delivered (in an established mayoral combined authority area) wherever possible

Eligible activities include hiring specialist staff, providing training, commissioning site appraisals and feasibility studies, and undertaking pre-development technical work to bring projects closer to delivery.

Key Criteria

Funding is available until March 2026

Particularly encouraging applications from Councils:

- Already delivering through the Affordable Homes Programme 2021 to 2026 who, with additional support, could increase the number of new affordable homes delivered
- Close to delivering through the Affordable Homes Programme 2021 to 2026 and with additional support could submit ambitious new proposals
- Exploring partnerships with registered providers and developers, who, with additional support, could speed up or increase delivery

Amounts available: Maximum £300,000

Application deadlines: 22nd August 2025 (or sooner if the fund is fully allocated)

Harold Hyam Wingate Foundation (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for small UK-registered charities working in music, the performing arts, and Jewish life and learning (including interfaith initiatives). The Foundation aims to support initiatives that significantly impact individuals and/or communities and leave a lasting legacy.

Key Criteria

For Music and Performing Arts initiatives priority will be given to:

- Encouraging excellence with bursaries, apprenticeships and fellowships for named individuals of any age within, or supported by, institutions that are recognised for the excellence of their creative output and their nurturing culture. We particularly welcome applications benefitting people from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Projects that enable significant, active participation in performances by adults who are often excluded, namely; homeless people, asylum seekers, prisoners, those not in education employment or training.
- Projects that enable significant, active participation in performances by children and young people who would otherwise face significant challenges to engaging with music performance

For Jewish /interfaith initiatives priority will be given to:

- Promotion of peaceful co-existence and understanding between the UK's Jewish and Muslim communities (such as through joint cultural projects).
- Enhancing cross-cultural understanding and mutual respect – including activities that foster greater public understanding of Jewish life, history and culture.

Amounts available: Not stated

Application deadlines: 26th August 2025

The Woodland Trust – Free Tree Scheme (NEW GRANT)

Summary

A wide range of community-based organisations including schools, parish councils, youth organisations and resident associations are able to apply for up to 420 tree saplings to improve their local environment.

Tree packs include hedging, copse, wild harvest, year-round colour, working wood, wild wood, wildlife, and urban trees.

Key Criteria

- Applicants will need to have permission from the legal landowner to undertake the planting
- For schools the trees should be planted on either the school grounds, land the school has arranged regular access to or in an area that is publicly accessible
- For other community groups, the land needs to be accessible to the public

Amounts available: The free tree saplings will be delivered in November 2025

Application deadlines: 28th August 2025

Rewilding Britain - Rewilding Innovation Fund *

Summary

The fund aims to support works that could potentially unlock further funding or move your project up the rewilding scale, whether you are new to rewilding or have been going for some time.

Key Criteria

- Applicants must be part of Rewilding Britain's Rewilding Network (applicants can join at the time of application).
- Applicants include private and public landowners and community organisations
- Projects must cover at least 40 hectares (this can be one site or a cluster of landholdings)
- Projects should follow the [five rewilding principles](#)
- Funding cannot be provided for land purchase or capital costs such as fencing.
- The funding must be spent within fifteen months

Amounts available: Maximum £15,000

Application deadlines: 29th August 2025

The Inman Charity

Summary

The Inman Charity Directors are particularly interested in supporting the following areas of charitable work:

- Medical research
- Care of the elderly
- General welfare
- Hospices
- The Deaf and Blind
- Care of the physically & mentally disabled
- The Armed Forces

Key Criteria

- All applications should be sent in writing
- In order for the appeal to be considered, the applicant must provide a copy of their latest annual report and a set of the most recent audited (if applicable) accounts
- The directors do not acknowledge applications and will only contact those to whom grants are awarded

Amounts available: Not disclosed (Grants awarded in October 2024 ranged from £2,500 to £10,000)

Application deadlines: 31st August 2025 (for consideration in the Autumn meeting)

Amazon's Regional Creatives Fund (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available to UK charities with proven experience in running training programmes within the creative industries, with a focus on opening up career opportunities for underrepresented communities in publishing, music, gaming, film, fashion, and related sectors.

Successful applicants will also benefit from mentoring, work experience, and digital training provided by Amazon's industry professionals.

Key Criteria

Preference will be given to projects already demonstrating clear routes into creative careers.

Amounts available:

- Individual charities - Maximum £30,000
- Consortia - Maximum £100,000

Application deadlines: 31st August 2025

William and Jane Morris Fund

Summary

Grants are available for churches, chapels, and other places of worship built before 1896 for small programs of conservation work to decorative features and monuments.

Eligible work includes, but is not limited to, stained glass windows, sculpture, furniture, internal monuments, tombs, and wall paintings.

Key Criteria

The work must be directed by a professional architect or established conservator and completed according to the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) principles.

Amounts available: Between £500 and £5,000

Application deadlines: Applications can be submitted at any time, up until 31st August 2025

Theatres Trust – Theatre Improvement Scheme

Summary

Grants are available to reduce theatres' environmental impacts by capital projects such as improving the building's management systems, installing more efficient water heaters, or installing green roofs.

Key Criteria

Eligible organisations must:

- Own or manage theatres with titles or signed leases of more than 5 years on buildings in England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.
- Run a year-round programme of live performances of no less than 30 performances a year.
- Have a bona fide UK charitable or not-for-profit legal structure and be able to provide certified or audited accounts for at least two years.
- Operate theatres that achieve excellence through their producing and programming or architectural significance.

Amounts available: Maximum £20,000

Application deadlines: 5th September 2025

Leicestershire County Council – Get Ready Community Energy Fund

Summary

Community organisations can apply for funding to kickstart renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in their area.

Projects may include those that reduce the energy use of homes or community buildings and renewable energy generation projects such as photovoltaic panels, heat pumps and wind turbines.

Eligible costs may include:

- Undertaking feasibility studies
- Costs of structural surveys, planning applications, contracts and legal fees
- Developing demonstration projects that help educate people about community energy

The funding is intended for project development costs and cannot be used to directly fund the cost of installing renewable energy unless the installation is part of a demonstration project for the wider community

Successful applicants will be allocated a project mentor to help make the project a success and will be invited to join the Community Energy Leicestershire Forum

Key Criteria

- Applicants must be part of a community group or other organisation with a dedicated bank account and has plans in place to develop energy efficiency and or renewable energy projects that benefit local people
- The fund is not open to individuals or limited companies
- The main beneficiaries must be residents of Leicestershire, excluding Leicester City and Rutland
- The grant must be spent by 28th November 2025

Amounts available: Not disclosed, but the total budget available is £140,000

Application deadlines: Open, but the scheme will close to new Expressions of Interest on 8th September 2025

The Society Foundation (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for UK-registered charities and charitable organisations seeking to help people move towards paid employment who are either ex-offenders, the recently homeless or vulnerably housed, or 16- to 24-year-olds not in employment, education or training.

Key Criteria

Organisations should:

- Have a turnover of up to £500,000
- Be working in capacity-building activities, including IT infrastructure and equipment, staff training and development, and external consultancy/support

Amounts available: Maximum £2,500

Application deadlines: 12th September 2025

UKRI – Gambling Harms Funding *

Summary

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), supported by the statutory gambling levy, is launching two linked grants to advance the new Research Programme on Gambling:

Gambling Harms Research and Innovation Partnerships (GHRIPs) Grant - funding partnership development and evidence analysis through interdisciplinary consortia involving academia, business, government, and third-sector partners. Successful applicants may later apply for larger phase two awards.

Gambling Harms Research Coordination Centre (GHRCC) Grant - to coordinate and manage the programme, supporting research scoping, partnership building, and capacity development.

Key Criteria

For GHRIPs Grant:

- Project co-leads from government, local government, third sector and non-profit organisations and industry are eligible and encouraged for this funding opportunity.
- The full economic cost of your phase one project can be up to £100,000

For GHRCC Grant:

- You must be based at a UK research organisation, IRO, or UK registered business eligible for UKRI funding
- The full economic cost of your project can be up to £10 million. UKRI will fund 80% of the full economic cost
- Third sector institutions can act as partners and collaborating organisations
- Applications must be consortia based and must bring together diverse people, institutions, expertise, experiences, places, and wider stakeholders. This includes people with lived and learned experience from gambling and gambling related harms.
- Please see the online list of [Research Organisations Eligible for UKRI Funding](#)

Amounts available:

GHRIPs Grant – Between £70,000 and £100,000 (up to 20 awards for nine months)

GHRCC) Grant – Maximum £10 Million (1 award to a consortium)

Application deadlines: 16th September 2025

Charles Hayward Foundation – Main Grants (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for registered charities working in the areas of Social and Criminal Justice to deliver projects that prevent people from entering the criminal justice system and to support those already in it to rebuild their lives.

The Foundation will fund projects in the following categories:

- Targeted early intervention programmes aimed at reaching the most troubled and vulnerable families in a community
- Tailored preventative and diversionary projects for young people at risk of offending, including interventions identifying and addressing the particular needs of girls and young women
- Programmes combining prison-based and community interventions dealing with the rehabilitation of offenders, accommodation and support on release, maintaining family relationships, mentoring, and creating pathways to employment
- Schemes offering viable alternatives to custody, in particular for women and young people
- Programmes of support that alleviate the consequences of domestic abuse

Key Criteria

- Charities must have an annual income of between £350,000 and £4 million)
- Charities that have previously received a grant must wait at least two years from the date of the last grant payment before re-applying.
- Charities that have applied unsuccessfully must wait one year from the date of declination before re-applying.

Amounts available: between £15,000 and £25,000 (per year for up to three years)

Application deadlines: 19th September 2025 (deadline for stage one applications)

Blaby District Council – Community Grants (NEW GRANT)

Summary

The scheme supports local voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations to develop and strengthen community facilities and activities for the benefit of Blaby district residents.

The following grant schemes are available:

- Capital Green Grants - up to £5,000 for energy efficiency measures and improvements to open spaces (20% match funding required)
- Large Capital Grants - up to £5,000 for purchase of higher value items or large-scale improvements to community buildings or spaces (50% match funding required)
- Small Capital Grants – up to £500 for small items of equipment or start up costs
- Revenue Grants - up to £500 for on-going delivery costs such as venue or transport hire, marketing or energy costs
- Everyone Active Grants - up to £500 for setting up a new group or activity, running costs, coaching fees

Key Criteria

- Organisations can only apply for one grant at a time
- Specific criteria apply to each grant scheme

Amounts available: Please see information above

Application deadlines: 19th September 2025 (deadline for stage one applications). Later rounds close on 5th December 2025 and 6th March 2026

Music For All – Community Project Funding (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available to community groups, schools and individuals undertaking music initiatives in the following categories:

- Physical mobility or accessibility needs
- Mental health and loneliness/isolation
- Choral groups
- Working with early years aged children
- Descant recorder pack and music pack

Key Criteria

- Projects should be working in deprived or marginalised areas
- There are specific criteria for each of the categories

Amounts available: Maximum £2,000. For the Descant recorder pack and music pack category there is an application limit of 60 recorder packs

Application deadlines: 24th September 2025

Association of Independent Museums (AIM) – Grants *

Summary

The following grants are available for small and medium-sized museums to improve the care of their collections:

- Collections Care Audits grants - to help smaller museums conduct professional collections care audits
- Collections Care Scheme grants - for small to medium AIM member museums that seek to improve the sustainability of their collections' conservation and management through better collections care
- Remedial Conservation Scheme grants – for museums to finance the conservation of objects in their collections

Key Criteria

- Applicants need to be AIM members which are either a UK registered charity, an organisation with exempt charitable status or a public body
- Applicants should have less than 50,000 visitors per year
- Larger museums are encouraged to apply for funding to the Pilgrim Trust directly.

Amounts available: Maximum £10,000

Application deadlines: 26th September 2025

Charnwood Borough Council – Community Grants (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Charnwood Borough Council's current grant programmes include:

- Charnwood Community Grants - this scheme provides revenue funding including organisational running costs for community bodies, one-off contributions of equipment costs for projects with community benefit.
- Community Facilities Grant - provides capital funding for voluntary organisations, to assist with the renovation, improvement, and provision of community buildings and enhancement of adjacent outside space
- Small Grants - for the activities of properly constituted Voluntary and Community and Voluntary Sector (VCS) organisations and projects in Charnwood, including organisational running costs and projects (for up to one year), and one-off contributions for equipment costs for projects with community benefit.

Across all grant programmes, the following will be of particular interest for 2025/26:

- Projects that mitigate the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on VCS organisations and those they support.
- Projects that meet the Borough Council's new environment and climate change corporate strategic aims

Key Criteria

- A maximum of 2 grants can be applied for across all grant programmes in 2024/25 including Small, Community and *Facilities Grants for different organisational and project activities costs.
- Please contact Tina Robinson, VCS Development Officer (tina.robinson@charnwood.gov.uk) before applying for a Charnwood Community Grant or Facilities Grant to ensure eligibility criteria will be met.

Amounts available:

- Charnwood Community Grant maximum £5,000
- Community Facilities Grant up to £20,000, to a maximum of 50% of project cost
- Small Grants maximum £750

Application deadlines:

- The Charnwood Community and Community Facilities Grants have a series of deadlines in the year – the next round opens on 1st September and closes on 26th September 2025
- The Small Grant scheme applications can be made anytime. However the scheme closes on 31st January 2026

The Rowing Foundation

Summary

Organisations, clubs, and schools involved in rowing can apply for grants to support junior and student rowers and adaptive rowing for all ages.

The funding is being made available through two funding programmes:

- Equipment grants
- Refurbishment grants

Key Criteria

- These grants are intended for groups who may have small funding requirements or be ineligible for other sources of funding such as the National Lottery
- Prefers to encourage participation in rowing by the young or disabled through the provision of equipment, such as boats, sculls, oars and essential safety equipment
- To be eligible for funding, the projects or work must be non-elitist, for public benefit, and aim to benefit young people, those in education, or people with disabilities
- Coaching, revenue or any commitment requiring long term support are rarely approved

Amounts available: Between £400 and £5,000 (up to 50% of the overall cost of the project)

Application deadlines: 29th September 2025 (Equipment Grants). Applications for Refurbishment Grants can be submitted at any time.

The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust

Summary

Funding is available for registered charities supporting the advancement of the arts, health and medical welfare and environmental protection or improvement. Funding can be for core or project costs.

Key Criteria

- The Trust favours small-scale locally based initiatives
- Due to the volume of appeals received, the Trustees do not consider requests from charities that have had an application turned down until two years have elapsed after the date of rejection.
- Charities in receipt of single grants in three consecutive years, or three grants in five years may reapply after three years have passed since the date of the last grant
- Individual hospices are not currently able to apply although applications from charities delivering music and art therapy services directly to hospices are welcomed

Amounts available: Between £500 and £6,000

Application deadlines: 30th September 2025 (Decision meeting on 18th November 2025)

De Montfort University – Community Challenge Fund (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for charities, non-profit organisations and community groups in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to deliver short projects relating to one of the university's key research themes:

- Peace, equality and social justice
- Lifelong wellbeing
- Creative and heritage industries
- Living in a digital society
- Net zero

Key Criteria

- The project should clearly and demonstrably benefit the community (or a particular section of the community) in Leicester, Leicestershire or Rutland
- The project should offer opportunities for students to learn and gain practical experience by getting involved, such as through knowledge exchange, research opportunities, real-life learning or volunteering
- Projects should be delivered between February and April 2026
- Applicants are requested not to submit more than one proposal in each application window

Amounts available: Between £500 and £2,000

Application deadlines: Opens 1st September and closes 30th September 2025 (Decisions on 31st October 2025)

Calisen Impact Charitable Trust

Summary

Funding is available for registered charities to support projects that deliver positive environmental, social or wellbeing outcomes.

The Fund aims to drive economic and social development within communities by supporting initiatives that focus on sustainable energy solutions, and promote inclusive, safe, and diverse educational and work environments.

Projects should support at least one of the Trust's values:

- Help to achieve the UK climate targets
- Move the UK towards zero emissions
- Create a more sustainable energy system
- Embrace and promote inclusion, safe and diverse educational and working environments
- Extend economic and social development relevant to the community

Key Criteria

- Projects should be delivered within 12 months of the award
- Successful applicants must wait for 12 months before re-applying

Amounts available: Not disclosed

Application deadlines: 30th September 2025 (Decisions 31st October 2025. There are four rounds per year).

Fat Beehive Foundation – Digital Funding (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for charities to help build websites and apps, digitise services, and purchase digital products.

Key Criteria

- Charities should have an average annual income of less than £1 million
- Particularly keen to support traditionally hard-to-fund organisations, such as those supporting prisoners, refugees, or disadvantaged youth.
- The scheme won't fund general software or hardware procurement

Amounts available: Maximum £2,500

Application deadlines: 30th September 2025 (Decisions in October 2025). There are two rounds per year).

Matrix Causes Fund

Summary

Funding is available for registered charities working with the most vulnerable people to support access to justice (particularly for people trying to get support to meet their basic personal needs), equality of opportunity, or a sustainable environment.

The fund can be used for core activities that support vulnerable persons such as prisoners, asylum seekers, people with mental health difficulties, people (particularly children) with disabilities, or women in refuges.

Key Criteria

Applications from organisations not registered as a charity but established for charitable purposes may also be considered.

Only one application per organisation per round (there are two rounds /cycles per year)

Applicants should:

- Wait for at least three years from the completion of a previously funded project before re-applying
- Be registered with HMRC as an exempt charity or non-for-profit organisation
- Have an annual income (including all sources) of under £500,000

Amounts available: Maximum one-off grant £5,000 or maximum £3,000 a year for up to three years

Application deadlines: 30th September 2025

East Midlands Airport – Community Fund (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Communities around East Midlands airport can apply for grants for projects that have a long-lasting community, social or environmental benefit.

Applications must meet at least one of the following objectives:

- Provide help to community groups which are supporting vulnerable people during the Covid-19 outbreak
- Bring the community closer together through facilities for sport, recreation and other leisure-time activities
- Support young people to prepare for employment
- Offer environmental improvement and/or heritage conservation
- Improve awareness of environmental issues, and encourage and/or protect wildlife.

Key Criteria

- Projects must be located within the [area of benefit](#)
- This fund cannot pay for running costs, consumables, salaries, rent or maintenance. It needs to be used for tangible items of lasting benefit such as equipment and furniture

Amounts available: Maximum £2,000

Application deadlines: 6th October 2025 (Decision 3rd November 2025)

OPCC – Community Action Fund (NEW GRANT)

Summary

The Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) has announced the dates for the first two rounds of funding for 2025-26:

- Rural Crime - to support projects that aim to reduce rural crime and enhance community safety.
- Road Safety - for projects that focus on prevention and education, and that align with the wider goal of reducing harm and improving safety.

Key Criteria

- Projects must clearly support at least one of the [Police and Crime Plan](#) priorities
- A range of community-based organisation can apply.
- Organisations should not have more than 30 full-time equivalent staff (this does not include Volunteers)

Amounts available: Maximum £10,000

Application deadlines:

Rural Crime – round opens 1st September and closes on 17th October 2025

Road Safety – round opens 17th November and closes on 12th January 2026

The Tree Council – Trees Outside of Woodlands Fund *

Summary

Local authorities and registered charities in England can apply for grants to fund projects that expand tree canopy cover outside woodlands.

The fund supports initiatives such as urban tree planting to improve air quality, creating tree-lined avenues to enhance public spaces, and establishing community orchards for local food production and community engagement.

Key Criteria

- Registered charities should have a turnover of more than £100,000
- Early applications are strongly encouraged to avoid missing out on available funding
- All applicants must have public liability insurance for the planting and have written permission to undertake the planting on the specific site or sites
- Applicants must comply with bio-secure tree sourcing requirements
- Projects should be delivered by 2nd March 2026

Amounts available: Between £10,000 and £40,000

Application deadlines: Rolling application process with expression of interest phase closing on 31st October 2025 or when all funding has been allocated – whichever comes first.

The Tree Council – Branching Out Fund

Summary

Funding is available for a range of community organisations including schools, community groups, parish and town councils, and tree warden networks to work with communities and young people in planting and caring for trees, hedges, and orchards.

Key Criteria

- Grants will be paid after planting has taken place, upon submission of a claim form
- All projects must have planted and submitted a claim form before midnight on Sunday 15th March 2026
- All applicants must have public liability insurance for the planting and have written permission to undertake the planting on the specific site or sites

Amounts available: Between £250 and £2,500

Application deadlines: 14th November 2025

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) – County Grants Fund

Summary

The aim of the Fund is to support affiliated cricket clubs in broadening participation in the sport, enhancing facilities, and to help clubs tackle the impact of climate change.

Priority is given to clubs actively engaged with ECB programmes such as All Stars, Dynamos, women's and girls' cricket, and disability cricket.

- Creating Welcoming Environments – open to ECB affiliated Cricket Clubs registered for All Stars or Dynamos in 2025, and/or actively involved with competitive female cricket.
- Providing Enhanced Facilities and Playing Opportunities for Women's and Girls' Cricket and / or Disability Cricket – open to ECB affiliated Cricket Clubs actively engaged in competitive female only cricket and/or disability cricket
- Tackling Climate Change – open to any ECB affiliated Cricket Clubs

Key Criteria

Clubs will need to meet a range of criteria including having the following:

- A Constitution, Articles of Association or equivalent governing document
- Valid Buildings, Contents and Public Liability Insurance
- Security of Tenure - Leasehold, Freehold or Rental (minimum one year)
- Club Safeguarding Officer (fully compliant on ECB Safe Hands Management System)
- Adoption of the ECB Anti-Discrimination Code of Conduct

Amounts available: Between £1,000 and £10,000

Application deadlines: 30th November 2025

International Tree Foundation –Tree Planting Grants (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for community groups, schools, and local organisations to support tree planting and conservation projects on public or publicly accessible land.

Projects may also include community engagement and educational activities

Key Criteria

- Applying organisations must have signed permission from the owner or manager of the land indicating that the project meets all legal requirements
- The projects must be planting indigenous tree species, be engaging the community in the planting and have clear plans for maintenance and sustainability

Amounts available: £2.05 provided per tree for woodlands and hedging, plus two maintenance grants of £0.10 per tree in the first two summers

Application deadlines: Applications can be submitted anytime from July onwards. Final deadline 12th December 2025 (The application process consists of an initial eligibility check followed by a detailed proposal for shortlisted projects).

National Lottery – Environment Programme *

Summary

Funding is available for not-for-profit organisations to tackle environmental challenges at the local level and will support community-led projects that help people engage with, care for, and protect nature.

Funding can be used for a wide range of activities, including creating community gardens, rewilding green spaces, tree planting, outdoor learning, repair and reuse sessions, food-growing initiatives, and energy-saving projects such as solar panel installation.

Key Criteria

Applicants should apply at least 16 weeks before the anticipated project start date

The Lottery now states it will not accept applications written for you by private businesses or consultants

It will not fund improvements to school facilities or projects that mainly benefit teachers, pupils or parents. Projects must involve and benefit the community outside of the school

Amounts available: Between £300 and £20,000 (for up to two years)

Application deadlines: Open but scheme closes 17th December 2025

Pixel Fund (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Registered charities focused on mental health-related matters can apply for funding to support the mental health and well-being of children and young adults in the UK.

Projects should provide a measurable difference to children and young adults under 26 years old.

Key Criteria

- Prefer to fund projects rather than core costs
- No single grant is ever more than 5% of an organisation's annual income
- Very unlikely to grant to any organisation with an income of less than £20,000 per year and annual income must be under £2 million
- Organisations which have trustees which are related to each other or related to a member of the charity executive team (this includes by marriage) are generally not eligible
- Charities will need to have submitted at least a first full set of accounts on the Charity Commission website before it will be considered as eligible

Amounts available: Between £2,500 and £5,000

Application deadlines: Open

Sport England – Leading the Movement Programme (NEW INFO)

Summary

The programme aims to support and develop a more diverse network of leaders working to tackle inequalities in sport and physical activity.

The programme is aimed at individuals of all levels, whether paid or volunteer, in formal or informal roles, who are helping people to be active in places with limited opportunities.

The programme aims to:

- Understand the challenges faced by sector leaders working to tackle inequalities, and explore solutions through engagement, training, coaching and mentoring
- Better connect leaders and encourage the exchange of information, ideas and learning
- Provide targeted support to under-represented leaders, and leaders working with under-served communities

Key Criteria

The scheme is open to anyone taking decisions, or acting to make activity more accessible and enjoyable for everyone.

Amounts available: All aspects of the programme are fully funded by the National Lottery and therefore available to participants without charge.

Application deadlines: Open but scheme closes March 2029

Support available for Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise Sector organisations in Leicestershire

[Voluntary Action Leicestershire](#)



Leicestershire County Council has a contract with Voluntary Action LeicesterShire (VAL) to provide support to voluntary and community sector organisations in Leicestershire, including help with identifying and securing funding.

If you are a VCSE sector organisation who is seeking to apply for funding, or bid for contracts, please contact VAL's Sector Support Team for assistance, advice, and guidance. VAL can provide assistance with searching for funding opportunities, checking the relevance of the fund to your funding aspirations, and a read and review of your bid.

You can also [sign up](#) for further e-bulletins from VAL, including [news](#), [events](#), [training](#), [funding opportunities](#) and updates from the Government and Charity Commission. There are currently two newsletters which you can select to receive by ticking the appropriate box. At present, funding and commissioning items are included in the Voluntary Sector Support newsletter.

Safeguarding Workshops in 2025-26

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Boards and Safeguarding Children Partnerships are hosting free, two-hour online workshops about safeguarding within the VCSE sector. Two more workshops are scheduled for 24th September 2025 and 28th January 2026, from 10am-12pm.

Contact LSCPB@leicester.gov.uk to receive the invitations for the online meetings.

VAL Future Focus 2025

VAL's annual Future Focus conference will take place on Wednesday 24th September 2025 at Devonshire Place, 78 London Road, Leicester, LE2 0RA.

The theme for this year's event is Digital, Sustainable, Accessible and will include a number of interactive and informative workshops and speakers addressing these themes.

More details are to follow and booking will go live soon. Keep an eye on the [VAL website](#) for more details.

Contact Details:

Tel: (0116) 257 5050

Email: helpline@valonline.org.uk

[Get Grants Free Virtual Conference](#)



The Get Grants Virtual Conference take place on Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th of October 2025 between 10:00am and 3:00pm.

The event is for Fundraisers of all levels of experience to build their confidence and celebrate the amazing work they do with like-minded, friendly people.

There will be expert fundraising advice, top tips, Q&As, networking, peer-support, and lots of chat!

Every session will have practical support and advice that you can take away and put into practice.

CASE – Support for Social Enterprises in Leicestershire

CASE

Co-operative and Social Enterprise Development Agency (CASE) is a social enterprise and co-operative which provides advice, guidance, and support to existing and emerging co-operatives, social enterprises and community enterprises in Leicester and Leicestershire. CASE supports co-operatives and social enterprises to develop and grow, through the promotion of co-operative ways of working.

Leicestershire County Council has a contract with CASE to provide support to people currently running (or thinking of setting up) social enterprises in Leicestershire.

Contact Details:

Tel: (0116) 222 5010

Email: enquiries@case.coop

Leicestershire & Rutland Community Foundation



The Leicestershire & Rutland Community Foundation is a charity which helps local individuals and companies to give money, in a tax efficient way, directly to local needs. It does this by helping set up new local family and company charitable funds and then supports those donors to give grants to local charitable groups of their choice through the Making Local Life Better Fund (previously the Donor Matching Scheme).

The Community Foundation also administers local and national grant schemes on behalf of those organisations. These vary throughout the year, please check the website for the funds currently available.

Contact Details:

Tel: (0116) 262 4916

Email: grants@lrccommunityfoundation.org.uk

Commissioning Opportunities



VCSE organisations are encouraged to explore opportunities to receive income through delivering contracts for services commissioned by the public sector. You can register to receive details of commissioning opportunities through the following websites:

[Source East Midlands](#)

[Due North](#)

[Gov UK Contract Finder](#)

[Easy Fundraising](#)



This is a leading fundraising platform that gives organisations access to an unlimited fundraising source, that helps you to raise FREE cashback donations through online shopping. Register your group/organisation as a good cause with easyfundraising to receive free cashback donations when anyone connected to that organisation shops online with 4,200 retailers including Argos, Amazon, Just eat and Booking.com. It doesn't cost the shopper a penny more so it's an easy way for your community to support your organisation just by shopping online as they usually would.

[Leicestershire Communities Grants and Funding Webpage](#)



The Leicestershire Communities website contains a range of useful information to help local people to actively participate in their communities, including information for people involved in community groups, charities and social enterprises. This section of the website provides a range of support, information and resources related to Grants and Funding, including Monthly Funding Bulletins, information from a range of funders, along with details of support provided to voluntary and community sector groups, charities and social enterprises, by other relevant organisations.