

Monthly Funding Information November 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
Sported - Cash4Clubs	8 th Dec 2025
Thomas Wall Trust – Grants For Charities (New)	22 nd Dec 2025
Fight for Sight – Digital Inclusion Fund (New)	6 th Jan 2026

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

Grant Fund	Closest Deadline
Learning Through Landscapes – Happy By Nature Fund (New)	9 th Nov 2025
Boxing is Love – Equipment Fund (New)	10 th Nov 2025
The Ironmongers Company – Grants to Charities (New)	18 th Nov 2025
Youth Music - Trailblazer Fund (New)	21 st Nov 2025
British Science Association – Kick Start Grant (New)	24 th Nov 2025
Youth Music – Shift the Scene Fund (New)	28 th Nov 2025
Heritage Open Days - New Wave Funding (New)	8 th Dec 2025
Duke of Edinburgh - Access Funding	11 th Dec 2025
HM Govt. – School Based Nursery (SBN) Capital Grant (New)	11 th Dec 2025
1001 Critical Days Foundation – Charity Grants (New)	19 th Dec 2025
Adamson Trust – The Disabled Children’s Holidays Charity	31 st Dec 2025
The Education Opportunity Foundation – Main Fund (New)	14 th Jan 2026
Ernest Cook Trust – Outdoor Essentials Grant (New)	Open

Funding for projects which support broader community outcomes

Grant Fund	Closest Deadline
HM Govt. Active Travel Innovation Fund (New)	14 th Nov 2025
HM Govt (MaPS) - Debt Advice Transformation Fund (New)	14 th Nov 2025
The Tree Council – Branching Out Fund	14 th Nov 2025
The Gardens Trust – Community Grants (New)	14 th Nov 2025
HM Govt - Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund *	14 th Nov 2025
Choose How You Move – Legacy Grants (New)	14 th Nov 2025
Masonic Foundation – Hospice Grants	17 th Nov 2025
HM Govt. – Common Ground Resilience Fund	21 st Nov 2025
Airbnb - Best of British Fund (New)	23 rd Nov 2025
National Lottery - Racism & Discrimination Partnership Programme (New)	26 th Nov 2025
Naturesave Trust (New)	27 th Nov 2025
Schroder Charity Trust	30 th Nov 2025
The Bailey Thomas Charitable Fund – General Programme (New)	1 st Dec 2025
Allen Lane Foundation – People with Mental Health Issues	Dec 2025
Rosa – Voices form the Frontline Fund (New)	9 th Dec 2025
International Tree Foundation –Tree Planting Grants	12 th Dec 2025
Kristina Martin Charitable Trust – Mental Well-Being (New)	12 th Dec 2025
Motability Foundation	15 th Dec 2025
The Matthew Good Foundation – Grants for Good Fund	15 th Dec 2025
National Lottery – Environment Programme *	17 th Dec 2025
National Lottery – Climate Action Fund Our Shared Future (New)	17 th Dec 2025
Paddle Trust * (New)	17 th Dec 2025
Yorkshire Building Society – Small Change Big Difference Fund (New)	31 st Dec 2025
Garfield Weston Foundation – Weston Charity Awards (New)	9 th Jan 2026
OPCC – Community Action Fund	12 th Jan 2026
Music For All – 2025 Award Round 5 (New)	14 th Jan 2026
AB Charitable Trust – Human Rights Funding (New)	30 th Jan 2026
Association of Independent Museums (AIM) – Museum Fundamentals * (New)	6 th Feb 2026
UK Research and Innovation – Local Innovation Partnerships Fund * (New)	12 th Feb 2026
The Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation – General Fund (New)	Open
Power To Change - Energy Resilience Fund (New)	Open
Community Foundation – Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (New)	Open
Football Foundation - Lionesses Here to Play Fund * (New)	Open
The Hedley Foundation (New)	Open

Funding for projects which support Adults

[Sported - Cash4Clubs](#)

Summary

Unrestricted funding is available for community sports organisations to support organisational sustainability. Funding can be used for a range of purposes such as improving facilities, buying new equipment or gaining coaching qualifications.

Applications are particularly welcomed from clubs targeting communities from deprived areas, as well as those using sport for other social purposes such as targeting underrepresented groups, developing skills, reducing crime or addressing anti-social behaviour

Key Criteria

Applicants must be delivering activities to adults (18+) to be eligible for funding.

Amounts available: Maximum £2,000 (A total of £500,000 is available in this funding round).

Application deadlines: 8th December 2025

[Thomas Wall Trust – Grants For Charities](#) (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for charities to support projects that equip people (18 or older) from disadvantaged groups with the communication skills necessary to gain employment.

Priority will be given to projects that target people experiencing multiple deprivation or other groups facing major hurdles to employment, especially women, people with physical, mental, or learning disabilities, refugees and asylum seekers.

Key Criteria

- Charities must have been registered for at least three years and have an annual income of between £25,000 and £500,000
- Applicants must be delivering activities to adults (18+) to be eligible for funding.
- Beneficiaries must gain at least one accredited vocational qualification during delivery or within two months of project completion.

Amounts available: Maximum £5,000

Application deadlines: 22nd December 2025 (for stage one applications)

Fight for Sight – Digital Inclusion Fund (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for organisations supporting blind and vision-impaired people to tackle digital barriers to employment.

Projects should address one or more of the following priority areas, and incorporate expertise by experience as a defining element:

- Getting ready for the workplace
- Looking for and applying for jobs
- Job retention and progression
- Working in technology or digital support

Key Criteria

- The scheme will fund registered charities, CIO's, charitable companies, CIC's and exempt charities
- Projects should run for 12 to 36 months

Amounts available: Maximum £30,000

Application deadlines: 6th January 2026 (Decisions in February 2026)

Funding for projects which support Children and Young People

[Learning Through Landscapes – Happy By Nature Fund](#) (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for Primary, Infant, and Junior schools which are lacking quality green outdoor spaces to transform their outdoor areas into vibrant, nature-rich environments supporting children's mental health and wellbeing.

Projects could include wildlife habitats, sensory gardens, and outdoor play zones. Free nature and play toolkits are also available to assist schools in improving outdoor learning environments.

Key Criteria

Eligible schools will:

- Be state-funded Primary, Infant or Junior Schools in the UK.
- Identify as having a current lack of quality green outdoor space.
- Demonstrate strong senior leadership support for the project.
- Whole-school commitment to pupil involvement in the project
- Commit to an ongoing utilisation of the outdoor space

Projects should be completed by November 2026

Amounts available: Maximum £10,000 (only ten grants are awarded)

Application deadlines: 9th November 2025 (Outcomes know by 28th November 2025)

[Boxing is Love – Equipment Fund](#) (NEW GRANT)

Summary

The fund provides essential boxing equipment to grassroots boxing clubs and youth organisations. The initiative supports organisations that share the charity's mission of using boxing to foster personal growth, discipline, inclusion, and community engagement.

Key Criteria

This fund is open to UK-based boxing gyms, charities, and youth-focused organisations that can demonstrate how their work reflects the values of Boxing is Love.

Amounts available: The award is a free pre-filled boxing bag. Successful applicants will also gain access to £10,000 worth of additional high-quality equipment at subsidised rates.

Application deadlines: 10th November 2025 (Decisions by 10th December 2025)

The Ironmongers Company – Grants to Charities (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for charities (including Schools registered as charities for young people with disabilities) that work with disadvantaged children under 25.

Funding can support projects that provide opportunities for disadvantaged children and young people to fulfil their potential and educational activities that develop learning, motivation and skills.

Key Criteria

- Preference will be given to projects piloting new approaches to disseminate the outcomes to a wider audience
- Preference will be given to requests where the grant would cover a significant element of the project costs (at least 50%) and to applications from smaller charities
- Grants must be spent within twelve months from the date of the award
- For the autumn round applications, projects should have a start date after 30th April 2026

Amounts available: Between £3,000 and £10,000

Application deadlines: 18th November 2025

Youth Music - Trailblazer Fund (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for projects that support disadvantaged and disabled children and young people in making, learning, and earning in music.

The project should trial work or test a new way of working, sustain a grassroots programme or disrupt the status quo (or all three!) but it must fit with one of the following themes:

- Early years
- Disabled, d/Deaf and neurodivergent young people
- Youth justice system
- Young people facing barriers
- Young adults
- Organisations and the workforce

Key Criteria

- Projects should start between April and June 2026
- Young people should be 25 years of age or under

Amounts available: Between £2,000 and £30,000 (Organisations under one year old can apply for up to £15,000).

Application deadlines: 21st November 2025

British Science Association – Kick Start Grant (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available to schools, colleges, Ofsted-registered Early Years nurseries, and preschools in the UK to support science activities during British Science Week (6th to 15th March 2026).

The fund aims to encourage science engagement activities and events among underrepresented groups. The types of activities supported include field trips to local science centres, museums or university science departments; mini science festivals; and student led projects such as school gardens.

Key Criteria

The school should be a state-funded school. Registered Independent Special schools and Alternative Provision settings that receive local authority funding for pupil places are also eligible.

The young people taking part in the activity/event are aged between 3 and 19

Only on application per school

The school should meet at least one of the following additional eligibility criteria:

- A minimum of 30% of pupils are eligible for Free School Meals, or equivalent
- A minimum of 30% of pupils are from ethnic minority backgrounds
- The school is based in a remote and rural location

Amounts available: Maximum £400

Application deadlines: 24th November 2025

Youth Music – Shift the Scene Fund (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for organisations in England who provide creative opportunities for Disabled children and young people, pushing for genuine inclusion, ambition and accessibility.

Key Criteria

- Organisations can work across any creative discipline – not just music
- Organisations must have a track record of working with Disabled children or young people
- Projects must demonstrate meaningful involvement of Disabled people across all levels of delivery.
- Projects must be starting between May 2026 and September 2026

Amounts available: Maximum £200,000

Application deadlines: 28th November 2025 (for stage one applications with decisions notified on 6th February 2026)

Heritage Open Days – New Wave Funding (NEW GRANT)

Summary

The New Wave youth engagement training and development programme focuses on co-creating exciting, youth-led events for the 2026 [Heritage Open Days](#) festival.

Funding, specialist training, and marketing support is available for organisations who have a historic story to share and want to work with young people to tell it.

Your organisation doesn't need to have taken part in the festival before to be eligible, applications are welcomed from a wide variety of organisations, community groups, and individuals - including those who may not see themselves as part of the 'heritage sector'.

Key Criteria

- Organisations need to be based in Leicestershire and be able to collaborate with 18–30 year-olds to plan at least one event
- The event(s) must take place during Heritage Open Days 2026 (11-20 September 2026).

Amounts available: £2,500 grant per participant available

Application deadlines: 8th December 2025

Duke of Edinburgh - Access Funding

Summary

State-funded specialist schools, Alternative Provision settings, and Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) in England can apply for grants to enable young people with disabilities and additional needs to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) scheme.

Funding can be used to purchase equipment for the Volunteering, Physical, Skills, and Expedition sections as well as 75% of the 2025/26 annual DofE license fee and provides fully funded Bronze, Silver and Gold participation places to remove cost barriers for young people with disabilities and additional needs.

Key Criteria

- The organisation is a state funded Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) school, Alternative Provision (AP), or Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) that receives funding through their local authority or directly from the government
- The organisation does not currently have a DofE license
- The organisation has not terminated a DofE license in the past six months at the point of application

Amounts available: Maximum £4,500

Application deadlines: 11th December 2025

HM Govt. – School Based Nursery (SBN) Capital Grant (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Capital funding is available for eligible state-funded primary-phase schools and maintained nursery schools to create or expand a school-based nursery to result in an increase in the number of childcare places.

Key Criteria

- Schools that received funding in phase one, Special Schools, and Pupil Referral Units are not eligible for this round but may be considered for future phases.
- Applications require local authority approval and landowner permission
- The SBN should be operational and offering new childcare places by September 2026
- The project must be on either an SBN located on a primary-phase school site that already offers Early Years education (e.g. a reception class), or part of a maintained nursery school site

Amounts available: Maximum £150,000

Application deadlines: 11th December 2025 (Successful applicants notified in April 2026). Please note that there is a deadline of 1st December 2025 for new applicants to register and create a DfE sign-in account.

1001 Critical Days Foundation – Charity Grants (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for charities delivering frontline services that improve outcomes for babies during their first 1001 critical days – from pregnancy to age two.

The Foundation aims to bring about meaningful change in the way services are delivered, and support parents and carers to give their baby the best start in life.

Key Criteria

- Charities should have been registered for at least two years
- It will only support services being delivered in community-based family hubs and other "one stop shop" settings
- Prioritise projects and initiatives that deliver the greatest impact, and work that measurably improves outcomes for babies
- Projects should support babies directly. While it is happy to consider applications for work with parents, it must be clear how this will directly benefit the lives of babies and how this will be measured.
- Prefers projects which have secured additional funding from elsewhere

Amounts available: Maximum £100,000 per year for up to five years (Grants typically range between £20,000 and £80,000 per year)

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

Adamson Trust – The Disabled Children’s Holidays Charity

Summary

Families and groups of children, schools, organisations, and other registered charities can apply for a grant towards the cost of holidays or respite breaks for disabled children with physical, mental, or emotional impairments.

Key Criteria

- To be eligible, the child must be a resident of the UK and between the ages of 3 and 17
- The Trust requires evidence of their disability or illness from a medical or social services professional

Amounts available: Amounts are not specified. The grant is a contribution towards the cost of the holiday/respite break.

Application deadlines: 31st December 2025 for the February 2026 meeting. There are four grant meetings per year

The Education Opportunity Foundation – Main Fund (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Grants are available to support schools and registered charities that wish to undertake educational projects with children and young people under the age of 25 in marginalised communities within the UK and internationally.

For UK projects, the focus is on improving the educational outcomes and life chances of care experienced young people.

Projects should:

- Improve access to educational opportunity - including support for care experienced young people to attend and engage in mainstream school life.
- Improve educational outcomes - including enabling care experienced young people to learn in ways that works for them.

Improve life chances - Including improving the support for care experienced young people (aged 16-24) to access further education, employment or training opportunities and improving support for them to remain engaged with these opportunities

Key Criteria

- The Foundation will fund between 25% to 100% of the total project costs but will give preference to projects with some degree of matched funding
- Annual grant payments cannot exceed 50% of an organisation’s three-year average income
- Applying organisations should have an income normally between £25,000 and £2.5 million

Amounts available: Between £30,000 and £90,000 (maximum £30,000 per year for a multi-year project)

Application deadlines: 14th January 2026 (For UK projects)

Ernest Cook Trust – Outdoor Essentials Grant (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available to state-funded schools in selected parts of the UK, including Leicestershire, for projects that connect children and young people with nature and support their wellbeing.

The grant offers support for improving school grounds, covering transport to outdoor learning venues, providing clothing for outdoor activities, and training teachers.

Key Criteria

- Schools working with children aged 4 to 18 can apply
- Priority will be given to schools that have not previously received funding from the Ernest Cook Trust, schools in rural areas and schools with underserved communities
- For Multi Academy Trusts applications must be made by the individual schools

Amounts available:

- Primary and special schools maximum £500
- Secondary schools maximum £1,000

Application deadlines: Open (But applicants are urged to apply soon, as funding rounds will close once sufficient applications have been received).

Funding for projects which support broader community outcomes

HM Govt. Active Travel Innovation Fund (NEW GRANT)

Summary

The Active Travel Innovation Fund is inviting applications from small to medium-sized organisations, including not-for-profits, charities and non-governmental organisations, to develop and deliver bold and innovative active travel interventions, aimed at increasing current levels of walking, wheeling, and cycling in England.

The funding is designed to help develop new ideas or to expand on successful initiatives that are already making a difference. Examples could include community projects that help under-represented groups make more active travel choices, partnerships between councils and local communities or businesses to promote sustainable travel, or digital tools that improve safety and accessibility.

Successful applicants will receive grants to develop, deliver and/or scale their intervention.

Key Criteria

- The lead organisations must fit the size profile of a Small / Medium Size enterprise, as set out in the Government Commercial Function's Guidance (i.e. staff size limit of fewer than 250 people)
- The fund is to be spent on active travel interventions, with a focus on engagement and behaviour change.
- Substantive expenditure on capital assets, including infrastructure, technology, blue skies research, and product development (e.g. increasing Technology Readiness Levels – TRLs – towards the commercialisation of a product), will not be supported
- Interventions which propose to use funding to continue the day-to-day running of an existing service will clearly need to demonstrate how funding will add additional value
- The delivery of interventions should conclude by the end of March 2027

Amounts available: Maximum £100,000

Application deadlines: 14th November 2025 (Successful applicants will be notified of their funding in January 2026).

HM Govt (MaPS) - Debt Advice Transformation Fund (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for larger debt advice organisations and membership bodies in England to drive innovation and improvement across the sector.

Through the fund the Money and Pensions Service (MaPS) seeks to:

- Support discovery and research activities that build the evidence base for future service transformation.
- Encourage collaboration across the sector to address shared challenges and develop scalable, sustainable solutions.
- Test and learn from new tools, models, and approaches that improve access, efficiency, or quality of free-to-client debt advice.
- Enable organisations to share learning and build capacity for lasting improvement across the sector.

Proposals can be submitted by individual organisations or partnerships.

Projects funded through this scheme must deliver practical, evidence-based outputs by March 2026 and contribute to the longer-term transformation of the debt advice sector, rather than business-as-usual activity or internal system upgrades.

Key Criteria

- Organisations should have a turnover above £10 million (**membership bodies are exempt from turnover limits**).
- Organisations should be delivering free-to-client debt advice
- Projects should be delivered by 31st March 2026

Amounts available: Between £25,000 and £100,000

Application deadlines: 14th November 2025

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

The Gardens Trust – Community Grants (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for volunteer groups to promote the conservation, understanding, and enjoyment of historic designed landscapes which can include historic parks, gardens, and cemeteries.

The grant aims to help kick-start or develop initiatives such as restoration planning, establishing Friends groups, conducting research, or delivering volunteer training schemes.

The Gardens Trust particularly encourage applications that reflect its priorities around conservation, sharing knowledge, and encouraging inclusive participation and enjoyment of historic designed landscapes.

Key Criteria

- The applicant must be a volunteer group. It does not have to be a registered charity, but does need to be able to demonstrate that it is an active group with a clear plan
- The project can be any activity relating to historic designed landscapes

Amounts available: Maximum £8,000

Application deadlines: 14th November 2025

HM Govt - Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund *

Summary

Capital funding is available for accredited museums, museum services and galleries in England falling into one of the following categories:

- Museums/museum services and universities with at least one Designated collection
- Current Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisations (NPOs)

Projects must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Material improvements to the display and interpretation of collections, in permanent galleries, exhibition spaces and public spaces, to enhance visitor experience
- Improvements to access and/or interpretation for visitors with disabilities, children and young people, and/or underrepresented audiences
- Improvements to environmental controls, collections storage and conservation facilities to enhance the care of collections

Key Criteria

- Only one capital project bid per museum, gallery, museum service or university will be considered.
- Please note that any funding awarded will only be made available to claim from April 2026 to March 2027

Amounts available: Maximum £400,000

Application deadlines: 14th November 2025 (Decisions in March 2026)

Choose How You Move – Legacy Grants (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available from Leicestershire County Council to launch active travel initiatives within a community.

The grant can be used for a range of community needs, such as:

- Buying in e-bikes to loan in the community
- Running an active travel project in local schools
- Funding walk leader training to set up social groups in your area

Two grants will be allocated per district, on a first come, first serve basis. These cover the community areas: Blaby, Charnwood, Harborough, Hinckley & Bosworth, Melton, North West Leicestershire, and Oadby & Wigston.

Key Criteria

- Any community group can apply for funding, as long as a governance structure for the group is in place. Joint applications can also be submitted
- If you work for a primary school, you can apply for funding through the [Primary School Grants](#) scheme
- Applications will be successful if they can prove the initiative will have long-lasting benefits
- Those who have previously received funding through the Legacy Grants scheme will not be able to reapply
- A minimum of £500 of the grant must be set aside for costs relating to training, monitoring and evaluation to allow for project longevity

Amounts available: Maximum £5,000

Application deadlines: 14th November 2025

Masonic Foundation – Hospice Grants

Summary

Funding is available for hospices to improve access to care for people facing financial hardship or socio-economic deprivation.

Funding can support both existing programmes and new initiatives.

Key Criteria

- Applicants must be independent charitable hospices, members of Hospice UK, and not currently funded under the Progressive Neurological Conditions programme.
- The fund supports both adult and children's hospices

Amounts available: Total budget £400,000 (Generally aim to support between ten and fourteen hospices)

Application deadlines: 17th November 2025 (Decisions in February 2026)

HM Govt. – Common Ground Award

Summary

Capital funding is available for voluntary, community, and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations to support the cost of building or renovating facilities, or purchasing essential equipment, in order to deliver services that bring people from diverse backgrounds together strengthening community cohesion and resilience.

In addition to funding, successful applicants will join a wider community of practice, fostering collaboration, knowledge exchange, and long-term social resilience.

The Common Ground Award aims to:

- Identify and reward good practice in building bridging social capital
- Invest in the physical spaces and equipment that enables good practice
- Build a community of practice, for knowledge sharing across the voluntary and community sector and with government

Key Criteria

- Organisations will be assessed based on how their objectives and activities seek to build bridging social capital – this describes work that builds social connection across and between different communities.
- Local authorities and other public sector organisations are not able to apply
- Applications must state the level of funding required, that can be committed for spending by 31st March 2026.

Amounts available: Maximum £10,000

Application deadlines: 21st November 2025 (Scheme opens on 13th October 2025)

Airbnb - Best of British Fund (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available to help small businesses, social enterprises, charities, and cultural organisations attract more visitors by turning local traditions into engaging experiences.

There are four categories:

- Nature and outdoors - encourage visitors to get outside and explore the very best of UK's rich and diverse landscape
- Food and dining - showcase the best of UK food culture, from pubs and street food to world-class cuisine
- Music and arts - shine a light on UK's global creative influence, from local festivals and theatre to iconic cultural stories.
- Culture and heritage - protect, restore or celebrate UK's rich history and traditions.

Key Criteria

- Applicants must be over 18, reside in the United Kingdom, and their organisation must have a United Kingdom bank account to receive the grant.
- Applications must come from a recognised group or organisation rather than individuals acting in a non-professional capacity.
- Projects or initiatives must be based in the United Kingdom and relate to one of the four categories

Amounts available: Between £25,000 and £100,000

Application deadlines: 23rd November 2025

National Lottery - The Health Inequities: Structural Racism and Discrimination Partnership Programme * (NEW GRANT)

Summary

The programme will support up to ten partner organisations to tackle health inequities in England caused by structural racism and discrimination.

By structural racism and discrimination, we mean the unfair ways that systems and practices affect people based on their race. This can include:

- Rules and processes
- The way services are usually organised
- Everyday behaviours and decisions

The programme focuses on organisations led by and working with racialised communities, including:

- Black communities
- Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities
- Jewish communities
- Middle Eastern and East Asian communities
- South Asian communities

Partners will work with:

- People in your communities to reduce inequities caused by structural racism and discrimination
- The Lottery and other partners to share learning, test new ideas, and shape future funding

Funding is available for both new and existing work, including the costs of project delivery and collaboration with partners.

Key Criteria

- A wide range of organisations are eligible including local authorities, town and parish councils, charities and CIC's
- Private sector for -profit organisations are not eligible to apply
- At least 2 members of the applying organisations' board or committee must not be related to one another

Amounts available: Between £250,000 and £5million over five years (between £50,000 and £1 million per year)

Application deadlines: 26th November 2025

Naturesave Trust (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available to charities, social enterprises, and community groups for projects that connect communities with nature, aiming to improve physical and mental wellbeing while fostering positive action on climate change.

The Theme for the October to November funding window is Biodiversity. Projects could include: pollinator plans, wildlife gardens, education, community wildlife surveys, habitat restoration, pesticide alternatives, influencing local councils, hedgerow management, conservation volunteering or citizen science.

Key Criteria

- No longer accepting applications from government-funded organisations and schools
- Grants are made to projects which specifically address the needs set out in the latest funding window
- Projects are expected to be completed within six months of the award

Amounts available: Maximum £5,000

Application deadlines: 27th November 2025

The Schroder Charity Trust

Summary

Funding is available for UK registered charities working to meet the following objectives:

- Enabling children and young adults from disadvantaged backgrounds to thrive and achieve their potential in education and employment.
- Strengthening communities through services and opportunities which enhance the wellbeing and life outcomes of vulnerable and disadvantaged people.

Funding can be for project or core running costs.

Key Criteria

- Charities should have an annual income of between £150,000 and £1 million
- There are priorities under each of the two objectives
- Previously successful applicants should wait for 24 months before re-applying

Amounts available: Maximum £5,000

Application deadlines: 30th November 2025

The Bailey Thomas Charitable Fund – General Programme (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for a range of organisations (including voluntary groups and schools) to help children and adults with severe learning difficulties and autism.

Grants can be used to purchase equipment, support capital works and cover project and core costs.

There are two funding streams within the General Programme:

- Small Grants
- General Grants

Key Criteria

- Applications for the General Programme will only be considered from voluntary organisations which are registered charities or are associated with a registered charity
- Schools and Parent Teacher Associations, Co-operative and Community Societies/Community Benefit Societies and other such exempt charities can also apply
- Community Interest Companies are not eligible
- The Fund does not give grants towards anything considered to be statutory, if you are applying on behalf of a School or PTFA, it would have to be for something such as an extra-curricular club

Amounts available:

- Small Grant programme from £250 to £5,000
- General Grant programme for requests over £9,000

Application deadlines: 1st December 2025 (for applications over £9,000 with decisions in March 2026). Applications for £9,000 and under can be submitted at any time.

Allen Lane Foundation – People with Mental Health Issues

Summary

Funding is available for a range of community-based, mental health organisations in their support for with people experiencing moderate or severe mental health conditions. The programme aims to reduce isolation, stigma and discrimination associated with mental health while promoting recovery and inclusion.

Key Criteria

- Priority is given to specialist mental health organisations and user-led groups
- One-to-one counselling or therapy is not funded under this stream.
- Local groups should have annual income below £100,000 to be eligible
- UK-wide organisations should have annual income under £250,000 to be eligible
- The Foundation does not fund individuals or public bodies such as schools, NHS organisations or councils

Amounts available: Maximum £15,000 (as a single grant or spread over two or three years, but the average grant award is usually around £5,000).

Application deadlines: Open, but next deadline is early December 2025 for decisions in February 2026.

Rosa – Voices from the Frontline Fund (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available to support the work of not-for-profit grassroots womens' and girls' organisations in achieving change in the UK.

The fund can be used to support campaigning and influencing work that enables women and girls to use their voice in addressing social issues. This could include campaigning for changes in policy and laws; influencing community leaders; mentoring or training for women on how to participate in public life and influence social policy; and hosting workshops, events and conferences that educate and influence wider society etc

Key Criteria

Rosa defines womens' and girls' organisations as those which are run by, for and with women and girls. This means that your organisation will be governed and led by women

Organisations must:

- Have a written governing document
- Have a governing body with at least 3 unrelated members
- Have been active for one year and be able to produce annual accounts for a whole year
- Not have received a grant through Voices from the Frontline round 7 (which were awarded in April 2025)

Amounts available: Between £500 and £10,000

Application deadlines: 9th December 2025

International Tree Foundation –Tree Planting Grants

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).

Kristina Martin Charitable Trust – Mental Well-Being (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for charities supporting vulnerable and marginalised people experiencing mental health issues, particularly those affected by bereavement, suicide, and online bullying.

In the current round the grant will support projects in the following themes:

- Homelessness and mental health
- The impact of social media on mental health
- Reducing social isolation
- Supporting the mental health of children and young people

Key Criteria

Charities should have:

- An annual income of under £1 million
- A core focus to support mental health well-being

Amounts available: Not disclosed. Total pot available £400,000, allocated by £100,000 per theme. The level of funding awarded for most grants will be determined by the Trustees.

Application deadlines: 12th December 2025

Motability Foundation

Summary

Funding to support organisations working to remove barriers to accessible transport for people with disabilities.

There are five funds available:

- Better access to active travel experiences and equipment £50,000 to £1 million
- Better access to wheelchairs and mobility aids (large grants) £250,000 to £1 million
- Better access to wheelchairs and mobility aids (small grants) £50,000 to £249,000
- Expanding access to driving tuition for disabled people £50,000 to £1 million
- Support for travel training schemes £50,000 to £1 million

All grants are currently for between one and three years

Key Criteria

Applicants must:

- Have a minimum annual turnover requirement of £50,000
- Be UK-based incorporated organisations
- Have three months' operating reserves
- Primarily work in the field of transport for disabled people

Amounts available: Between £50,000 and £1 million (please refer to the specific amounts above)

Application deadlines: Open. Apply anytime until 15th December 2025. The Expanding access to driving tuition for disabled people is open until 31st March 2026

The Matthew Good Foundation – Grants for Good Fund

Summary

The aim is to support small charities, not-for-profit groups and social entrepreneurs who are making a difference to people, their community or the environment.

The Fund will share £15,000 between five shortlisted projects every three months, which will be voted for by John Good Group employees.

As well as established projects and charities, the Foundation wants to hear from people with innovative ideas that need some funding to get their projects up and running.

Offers unrestricted funds that can be used for any of the applying organisation's costs, including core running costs.

Key Criteria

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be a UK-based local community group, charity, voluntary group or social enterprise
- Have an annual income of less than £50,000
- Have a bank account in the organisation's name

Amounts available: Maximum £5,000

Application deadlines: 15th December 2025

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

National Lottery – Climate Action Fund Our Shared Future * (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for bold partnership projects that involve more people in climate action and lead to lasting change.

A central aim of the initiative is to increase participation among communities that have historically faced barriers to involvement, including those experiencing poverty, discrimination, or other forms of disadvantage.

The fund anticipates supporting up to 25 projects, prioritising formal partnerships between community, voluntary, and public sector organisations.

Projects should either:

- Influence communities at a regional, national or UK level – by linking with bigger campaigns or projects that encourage people to take climate action, or by helping communities influence the decisions that affect them
- Connect climate action to everyday life – using people's daily activities or interests to help them take action and create long-lasting change

Key Criteria

- A range of not-for-profit organisations are eligible including local authorities, town and parish councils, charities, schools, colleges and universities
- You must apply as a partnership. It will not fund applications from single organisations
- Prospective applicants are encouraged to consult with the NLCF prior to submission to ensure alignment with programme objectives

Amounts available: Between £500,000 and £1.5 million (over a period of up to seven years)

Application deadlines: Open but scheme closes 17th December 2025

Paddle Trust * (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for not-for-profit organisations, charities, clubs, and other interest groups based to help them to increase participation in canoeing.

The scheme is looking to fund a range of specific improvements including:

- Launch and landing platforms, ramps or steps
- Improvements to pathways and accessible routes to the water's edge
- Designated or essential additional parking for water users
- Works that create more sustainable access points
- Access improvement projects that actively engage and allow water users to protect/enhance the waterway or riverbank environment (e.g. by preventing bank erosion)
- Signage and information that promotes positive behaviour

Key Criteria

Applications are open to:

- Clubs, community groups, Parish Councils, Local Authorities or anyone in the UK with an active interest in improving access to water for recreational users and protecting the environment
- Organisations or partnerships with local paddlesport groups who will continue to support the use of the improvements on an ongoing basis

Amounts available: Between £500 and £10,000

Application deadlines: 17th December 2025

Yorkshire Building Society – Small Change Big Difference Fund (NEW GRANT)

Summary

The Foundation aims to help alleviate poverty, improve health, and save lives. Members and colleagues of the Yorkshire Building Society can nominate UK Registered Charities to apply for this fund to support initiatives that benefit vulnerable groups in the UK, including children, the seriously ill, the elderly, the homeless, and people with disabilities.

To access the funding, charities should consider encouraging supporters who are members or colleagues of the Yorkshire Building Society to nominate them for potential funding opportunities.

Funding is unrestricted and can be used for project or core costs.

Key Criteria

- Priority will be given to organisations with an annual income under £100,000 and those supporting marginalised communities.
- Funding must provide urgent support or relief to those experiencing financial hardship such as food banks, debt advice, support for rough sleepers or community centres based in areas of high deprivation.

Amounts available: Between £250 and £2,500

Application deadlines: 31st December 2025

Garfield Weston Foundation – Weston Charity Awards (NEW GRANT)

Summary

The Weston Charity Awards 2026 celebrate and support small charities working in the fields of community, environment, welfare and youth.

The awards will support up to 22 charities in the Midlands, North of England and Wales. Successful charities will also have free access to an 8-month leadership coaching programme run by Pilotlight worth an estimated £16,000. This can include advice in areas such as planning, finances, strategy development, fundraising, and expansion.

Key Criteria

- Please explain how your charity would use the Awards to make a difference to your beneficiaries
- Ensure that the person applying is a senior authorised representative of your charity, such as the CEO or equivalent

Amounts available: Maximum £6,500

Application deadlines: 9th January 2026 (preliminary decisions by February 2026 and final decisions in May 2026)

OPCC – Community Action Fund

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:

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

Music For All – 2025 Award Round 5

Summary

Funding is available for community groups, schools and individuals to support music-making projects in deprived or marginalised areas.

Grants are available for community initiatives in the following categories:

- Groups working with those facing chronic diseases & conditions affecting quality of life
- Groups working with those facing financial hardship
- Youth Clubs (and comparable organisations)
- Half size classical guitars
- Descant recorder packs with sheet music pack
- Learn to Play award (for individuals who took part in the 2025 Learn to Play weekend)

Key Criteria

- Only applications within the UK are eligible
- Applicants are not eligible if they are only in the UK for study purposes
- There are separate criteria for each of the categories

Amounts available: Maximum grant £6,000, but in some categories the award is much less or is provided in actual equipment.

Application deadlines: 14th January 2026

AB Charitable Trust – Human Rights Funding (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Grants are available for UK-registered charities working to defend the human rights of marginalised and excluded people and which work in the following priority areas:

- The Human Rights Framework
- Access to Justice
- The Criminal Legal System and Penal Reform
- Migrants and Refugees

Both core and project funding are available

The funding will support organisations to deliver activities that protect and promote human rights through:

- Campaigning
- Advocacy
- Narrative change work

Key Criteria

Eligible organisations must:

- Be registered as a UK charity, delivering work in the UK
- Have an annual income between £150,000 and £1.5 million
- Have a mission, aims and objectives aligned with one of the four priority areas.
- Have operated for at least a year and be able to provide a full year's audited or independently examined accounts.

Amounts available: Between £10,000 and £30,000 (per year over up to three years)

Application deadlines: 30th January 2026 (Decisions in April 2026). There are generally four rounds of funding per year.

Association of Independent Museums (AIM) – Museum Fundamentals * (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available to small and medium-sized museums to help enhance their ability to research, interpret, and display their collections effectively.

Funding can support specific costs only including:

- Professional fees to conserve collections, train staff and develop plans
- Purchase of equipment to conserve, protect and display collections
- Small scale building works and improvements to heating and lighting to improve the condition of collections

Key Criteria

Eligible applicants must be AIM members with annual visitor numbers under 50,000

Amounts available: Maximum £20,000

Application deadlines: 6th February 2026 (For expressions of interest)

UK Research and Innovation – Local Innovation Partnerships Fund * (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available to local leaders from councils, universities, and businesses across the UK to form 'Triple Helix' partnerships which undertake regional research and drive innovation tailored to the needs of their communities.

The fund seeks to turn cutting-edge research into practical solutions that create jobs, improve quality of life, and promote regional growth - from technologies that enable faster disease diagnosis to cleaner transport systems and the development of entirely new industries.

The primary objectives of the fund are to:

- Foster the growth of mature innovation clusters by deepening their capabilities and expanding their reach
- Support emerging clusters, to grow and mature their ecosystems enhancing their capability of generating substantial economic value
- Support the adoption, diffusion, and commercialisation of new technologies
- Strengthen local partnerships and governance to deliver place-based innovation

Key Criteria

To apply on behalf of a triple helix partnership, the applicant must be based at an eligible organisation:

- Higher education providers
- Research institutes
- Public sector research establishments
- NHS bodies
- Independent research organisations.
- A Mayoral Strategic Authority, or other local government partner that has been granted non-standard eligibility for this funding opportunity

Amounts available: Maximum £20 million per place

Application deadlines: 12th February 2026 (For Expressions of Interest)

The Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation – General Fund (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for registered charities that support communities in need across England, Wales, the Isle of Man, and the Republic of Ireland.

The fund can only be used for direct delivery of services.

Projects should meet one or more of the following priorities:

- Supporting victims of modern slavery
- Supporting victims of domestic abuse
- Helping ex-offenders and their families
- Tackling homelessness
- Advancing medical research
- Supporting people with terminal illnesses or life-limiting conditions, and their carers
- Addressing drug and substance misuse
- Supporting people with intellectual disabilities
- Assisting care leavers
- Promoting worship and community outreach activities
- Encouraging participation in amateur sport
- Providing care for the elderly

Key Criteria

- Charities should have an annual expenditure of under £10 million
- Applicants must first complete an eligibility test before submitting a full application
- Though not a fixed rule, it advises applicants to consider applying for no more than 50% of the total project cost
- It will not fund events or one – off activities

Amounts available: Not disclosed but previous awards have ranged between £5,000 and £2.25 million for projects running from one to three years.

Application deadlines: Open (Quarterly Trustee meetings)

Power To Change - Energy Resilience Fund (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for community businesses (social enterprises) to help reduce their energy costs.

Projects could include installing solar panels or heat pumps, upgrading insulation, lighting, or heating systems, and fitting energy monitoring technology.

Energy audit grants are also available to identify potential improvements.

Key Criteria

- Applicants must own their premises or hold a lease of at least 12 years
- Applicants must have been declined commercial finance by a bank
- Loans have a minimum term of 12 months and maximum of 7 years

Amounts available: Between £10,000 and £150,000. The funding is a mix of grants (up to 40% of the total award) and loans at 6.5% interest.

Energy audit grants between £500–£2,500

Application deadlines: Open – no deadline stated

Community Foundation – Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (NEW GRANT)

Summary

The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Community Foundation administers various grant funds throughout the year. Details of current grant programmes can be seen on the Community Foundation's website.

One of the main, current funds is the [Making Local Life Better Fund](#), which awards grants for work anywhere in Leicestershire and Rutland. Grants need to be spent within a year of receiving it.

Eligible organisations can apply to cover costs such as:

- Core organisational running costs
- Staffing
- Training and skills development
- Premise costs, including rent and hiring venues
- Volunteer expenses
- Equipment and materials

Key Criteria

Priority will be given to organisations:

- Who add value to existing services, reaching different community members or meeting unmet needs
- Who actively engage their target community, and can evidence how they have been involved in developing the proposed activity
- Who proactively reduce barriers to participation and engagement, whether that be through physical access, additional support of reducing financial barriers
- Which are locally managed or have been developed in response to local need, rather than branches of national organisations or regionally based groups
- With an annual turnover of £1,000,000 or less
- With 3-6 months in free reserves (those organisations with 9 months or more in free reserves will be actively deprioritised)
- Who are less likely to receive funding from larger Trusts and Foundations

Amounts available: Maximum £3,000

Application deadlines: Open. Applications can be submitted at any time. Although it should be noted that it may still take up to 12 weeks for an assessment decision at quarterly meetings in February, May, August and November.

Football Foundation - Lionesses Here to Play Fund * (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for a range of clubs and organisations to provide more inclusive, safe, welcoming, and accessible facilities for women and girls playing grassroots football.

The funding can support a defined range of improvements including:

- Signage
- External lighting/CCTV
- Toilets and showers
- Baby change & breastfeeding facilities
- Female officials' & player privacy changing spaces
- Changing rooms

Key Criteria

Eligible organisations include local authorities, not-for-profit football clubs, registered charities, educational establishments providing community access and CIC's/social enterprises

Up to 75% of total project costs will be supported, with a minimum of 25% match funding required

Amounts available: Between £1,500 and £25,000

Application deadlines: Open

The Hedley Foundation (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available to small charities for initiatives that benefit the lives of young people, disabled people, elderly people, the terminally ill, and otherwise disadvantaged people and their carers.

Key Criteria

- Charities should have an annual income of under £1 million
- The application should not be for core salaries, building construction, general running costs, transport, financial deficits or overseas projects
- The application should not be on behalf of a community interest company, for religious institutions, museum or for an individual

Amounts available: Between £250 and £5,000

Application deadlines: Open (The Trustees meet regularly to discuss applications and to make decisions on grants).

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 and Promoting the Welfare of Children

Voluntary Action LeicesterShire have partnered with the Leicester Safeguarding Children's Partnership to deliver the training session. The training costs £10 per participant.

This course will provide participants with learning that will help them to meet the Core Competencies of the LLR Safeguarding Children Competency Framework. It is a foundation course for those who are in positions where they may spot safeguarding concerns, or someone may tell them that they are being harmed.

Booking is required

Contact Details:

Tel: (0116) 257 5050

Email: helpline@valonline.org.uk

CASE – Support for Social Enterprises in Leicestershire



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@llrcommunityfoundation.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.