

Monthly Funding Information January 2026

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
Covenant Fund – VALOUR Recognised Centres Development Fund *	14 th Jan 2026
Army Benevolent Fund – Grants for Organisations (New)	20 th Jan 2026
Armed Forces Covenant – Apart, Not Alone Programme (New)	21 st Jan 2026
Ufi VocTech Trust – VocTech Activate Fund	3 rd Feb 2026

Funding for projects which support Young People (including young people with disabilities)

Grant Fund	Closest Deadline
The Education Opportunity Foundation – Main Fund	14 th Jan 2026
HM Govt. – Early Years Stronger Practice Hubs	16 th Jan 2026
Asda Foundation – Young Futures Fund (New)	20 th Jan 2026
Ironmongers - STEM Project Grants (New)	31 st Jan 2026
Universal Music UK Sound Foundation – School Award	27 th Feb 2026
The Pawprint Trust – Adventurous Activities (New)	31 st March 2026

Funding for projects which support broader community outcomes

Grant Fund	Closest Deadline
Garfield Weston Foundation – Weston Charity Awards	9 th Jan 2026
HM Govt. - Social Housing Innovation Fund *	9 th Jan 2026
The VCSE Gambling Harms Prevention and Resilience Fund (New)	9 th Jan 2026
OPCC – Community Action Fund	12 th Jan 2026
Music For All – 2025 Award Round 5	14 th Jan 2026
The Big Give – Earth Raise Campaign	16 th Jan 2026
The Theatre Trust – Small Grants Scheme	16 th Jan 2026
The Elephant Trust (New)	18 th Jan 2026
National Archives – Engagement Grants * (New)	19 th Jan 2026
National Archives - Resilience Grants * (New)	21 st Jan 2026
Esmee Fairbairn – Communities and Collections Fund	21 st Jan 2026
Macmillan Cancer Support - Macmillan Care Grants	23 rd Jan 2026
CABWI Awarding Body – Employment Skills Funding	26 th Jan 2026
AB Charitable Trust – Human Rights Funding	30 th Jan 2026
Delamere Dairy Foundation (New)	31 st Jan 2026
Another Way Women’s Foundation (New)	31 st Jan 2026
Dan Maskell Tennis Trust (New)	1 st Feb 2026
Rowing Foundation (New)	2 nd Feb 2026
Royal Botanical Gardens - Grow Wild Community Programme (New)	4 th Feb 2026
Association of Independent Museums (AIM) – Museum Fundamentals *	6 th Feb 2026
Worshipful Company of Information Technology – IT4 Good (New)	6 th Feb 2026
UK Research and Innovation – Local Innovation Partnerships Fund *	12 th Feb 2026
Idlewild Trust	13 th Feb 2026
Harborough District Council – Community Grants	16 th Feb 2026
National Lottery – Heritage Grants *	26 th Feb 2026
Wise Music Foundation – Hardship Illness Poverty (New)	28 th Feb 2026
Foundation for Social Investment – Energy Efficiency Sharematch Fund	March 2026
Ramblers Path Accessibility Fund (New)	14 th March 2026
AiM – Collections Care and Conservation Grants * (New)	27 th March 2026
The Animal Defence Trust	31 st March 2026
Focus Foundation (New)	Open
The Charities Aid Foundation – Venturesome Impact Fund (New)	Open
Historic Houses Foundation * (New)	Open
Angling Trust – Angling Improvement Fund * (New)	Open

Funding for projects which support Adults

Armed Forces Covenant Fund – VALOUR Recognised Centres Development Fund *

Summary

Funded by the Office for Veterans' Affairs, this £50 million initiative aims to create a national network of in-person support centres delivering advice and assistance on housing, employment, health, and welfare.

This round offers grants for larger, established organisations or consortiums that can rapidly deliver an operational Centre.

Key Criteria

Applicants must demonstrate strong partnerships with both statutory and non-statutory service providers

Applicants can be:

- A registered charity which can demonstrate relevant experience and engagement in the provision of services to veterans
- A CIC that has been established more than three years so that evidence of governance, financial and operational management can be provided, and that you can demonstrate relevant experience and engagement in the provision of services to veterans
- A local government body

Projects will need to deliver all of the following outcomes:

- Help reduce the postcode lottery by delivering more equity of access and a level of consistency in service quality
- Enhance collaboration and coordination within your area between statutory and non-statutory organisations
- Help improve understanding of need through sharing data and information on veterans and the wider armed forces community

Amounts available: Between £500,000 and £1million (for projects being delivered over a three-year period)

Application deadlines: 14th January 2026 (Decisions by end of March 2026)

Army Benevolent Fund – Grants for Organisations (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for charities and organisations that support soldiers, veterans, and their immediate families.

Various projects and activities can be funded, including mental health support, educational programmes and employment assistance, family support, housing assistance, independent living, and elderly care.

Key Criteria

Priority is given to member organisations of the Confederation of Service Charities

Organisations should:

- Provide a service that directly supports the Army family, meeting an evidenced need that is not currently being met by statutory or other, including other charitable, providers
- Are going concerns that can demonstrate financial sustainability – evidenced through a least two years audited accounts – good governance, and impact

Amounts available: Grant amounts vary depending on the proposed project or activity, however new applicants are unlikely to be awarded in excess £20,000.

Application deadlines: 20th January 2026 (Decisions in February 2026). The Board of Trustees consider applications three times per year: in June, November and February. Applications from organisations that have not previously been supported, or haven't been supported in the last two years, are considered at the February committee

Armed Forces Covenant – Apart, Not Alone Programme * (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available to charities, community interest companies (CICs), and Armed Forces units or bases for projects that strengthen Armed Forces families during separation caused by deployments, weekending, or military exercises.

Your project will need to address one or more of the following outcomes:

- Families feel more able to manage the impact of loneliness or isolation during periods of separation
- Families experience fewer challenges during reintegration after deployment or extended separation
- Improved mental health and wellbeing for serving families
- Improved understanding of effective models of support for serving families

NB: If you are a charity registered in the UK for at least three years, or a local authority, and you wish to provide targeted support for serving families facing challenges in specific locations in the UK due to service-related separation, you may wish to apply to the [Apart, not Alone: Local impact grants programme](#). This scheme has additional criteria.

Key Criteria

- Registered charities and Community interest Companies (CICs) with substantial recent experience of supporting Armed Forces communities are eligible.
- Substantial recent experience of supporting armed forces communities means that either the governing documents of your organisation state that you specifically work with people from armed forces communities, or that you can show that working with veterans, armed forces families or serving personnel is a significant and regular part of your existing work.
- Registered charities and Community interest Companies (CICs) should have been registered for at least one year before applying

Amounts available: Between £5,000 and £50,000

Apart, not Alone: Local impact grants programme awards grants of up to £300,000 over three years.

Application deadlines: 21st January 2026 (Decisions by end March 2026).

The Apart, not Alone: Local impact grants programme has an expression of interest deadline of 23rd July 2026.

Ufi VocTech Trust – VocTech Activate Fund

Summary

Funding will be available from 6th January 2026 to support early-stage digital innovations addressing vocational learning needs for adults aged 16 and over, particularly from underserved groups.

The fund is aimed at projects that are at a relatively early stage, helping to trial truly novel ideas, prove their potential and support the journey from innovative idea to market-ready, scalable solution.

Key Criteria

- Eligible applicants include charities, trade bodies, learning providers, employers, private companies, community interest companies and other not for profit organisations.
- Projects should last between three and twelve months
- Projects must clearly show why their target learners have been overlooked by mainstream provision
- Projects must offer new learning tools not just learning content

Amounts available: Between £30,000 and £60,000

Application deadlines: 3rd February 2026 (for stage one applications)

Funding for projects which support Children and Young People

[The Education Opportunity Foundation – Main Fund](#)

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)

HM Govt. – Early Years Stronger Practice Hubs

Summary

The Department for Education is offering grants to expand the number of Early Years Stronger Practice Hubs across England, an initiative aimed at strengthening early years provision and improving child outcomes in communication, literacy, mathematics, and personal and social development for children under five.

Currently there are 18 Early Years Stronger Practice Hubs (2 in each region). The aim is to increase this to 36 Hubs across England. The existing East Midlands Early Years Stronger Practice Hub lead setting is the [Pen Green Centre](#), Northamptonshire.

The stronger practice hubs support early years settings and childminders in their area to adopt evidence-based practice improvements. Through collaboration and shared learning, hubs:

- Promote training and tools that reflect the latest, evidence-informed research and best practices in early childhood education, ensuring that staff feel confident and equipped to meet the diverse needs of children and families
- Encourage equity and inclusion by helping settings identify and address barriers to learning so that every child has the opportunity to achieve their best, particularly those with socio-economic disadvantage
- Foster a culture of continuous improvement, where early years professionals are supported to reflect on their practice, share insights and grow together as a community
- Support pedagogy and help practitioners make informed decisions that nurture each child's curiosity, confidence and wellbeing

Key Criteria

- Hubs must be led by early years settings (including school-based, private, voluntary, independent, or maintained nurseries) rated "good" or "outstanding" by Ofsted and providing pre-reception early education
- Each lead setting must partner with up to four other providers, including childminders, to share evidence-based practices, strengthen local networks, and deliver professional development opportunities.

Amounts available: Maximum £240,000 per Hub for one year

Application deadlines: 16th January 2026

Asda Foundation – Young Futures Fund (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for grassroots community groups and charities for projects which support the mental health and wellbeing of young people aged 13 to 18 and help them develop skills and opportunities for a positive future.

Projects should focus on:

- Offering emotional and mental health support (counselling and therapy).
- Providing essential items (hygiene supplies and clothing).
- Driving awareness of the key issues facing teenagers (educational workshops).
- Rehabilitation, recovery, and shelter (addiction support and youth homelessness reintegration).
- Activities and events that build connections and improve wellbeing and physical health.

Funding Priorities:

- Groups who are promoting inclusivity and access to activities for individuals facing barriers to participation
- Projects addressing prevalent social issues in their community such as knife crime, gangs, bullying, personal safety etc

Key Criteria

Applicants must have:

- An annual income of £250,000 or below
- A governing document, bank account and safeguarding policy specifically for children

Amounts available: Between £500 and £1,000

Application deadlines: 20th January 2026 (Applications may close earlier if demand is high or if specific regions become oversubscribed).

Ironmongers - STEM Project Grants (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for charities working to increase engagement in science and technology among young people.

The funding is aimed at initiatives that encourage young people aged 11–18 from disadvantaged backgrounds to study science subjects and progress into further education, training, or vocational pathways, with a particular emphasis on materials science.

Key Criteria

- Grants are made to registered or exempt charities only. Applications will not be accepted from schools
- Preference for projects based in the North and the Midlands
- Activities must be additional to those funded by government or other sources e.g. covered by school budgets.
- The Foundation prefers to support smaller projects where it is the sole funder, or its contribution makes a real difference

Amounts available: Maximum £10,000

Application deadlines: 31st January 2026

Universal Music UK Sound Foundation – School Award

Summary

Funding is available to schools across the UK and Ireland that teach the national curriculum, to improve their access to music by purchasing or upgrading musical instruments and/or equipment.

Key Criteria

- Schools must apply individually; trusts or academies cannot submit on behalf of multiple schools.
- Exclusions include music studios, businesses, private music centres, community projects, and staffing costs for teaching or peripatetic lessons
- If your application is successful, you will have approximately 2 months to claim the donation so if you're planning an expensive purchase, you need to consider if you will have raised the balance in that time frame
- Previously successful applicants, please wait for two years from when the funding was offered before applying again

Amounts available: Maximum £1,000

Application deadlines: 27th February 2026

The Pawprint Trust – Adventurous Activities (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available to enable young people from across the UK to participate in life-changing adventures that develop their skills, capacities, and capabilities. The funding will support young people aged 11-25 who need a bit of extra help with their fundraising for projects and activities both locally and abroad.

Each application should be accompanied by a supporting statement from someone who knows the young person well, such as a group leader or teacher.

Key Criteria

- Applicants must be aged 11-25 (inclusive) at the time of the project and be a resident in the UK
- Projects cannot be funded if they take place before 31st May in the application year

Amounts available: Not disclosed

Application deadlines: 31st March 2026

Funding for projects which support broader community outcomes

[Garfield Weston Foundation – Weston Charity Awards](#)

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)

[HM Govt. - Social Housing Innovation Fund](#)

Summary

Funding is available for social landlords, tenant representative groups and other relevant organisations across England to test innovative approaches that improve tenant engagement with their landlords and give residents greater influence over decisions affecting their homes.

Between ten to twenty projects are expected to be funded. Bids from consortiums or partnerships are encouraged.

Key Criteria

- Proposals must be deemed 'innovative'. This means that the project must introduce new or significantly improved approaches, technologies, or partnerships to the sector which improve landlords' engagement with their tenants, or which enhance tenants' 'voice' and their ability to influence and scrutinise landlords' policies and services
- Proposals must be co-produced with tenants
- Successful applicants must agree to compile a case study following the delivery of the project and to make this case study publicly available

Amounts available: Between £60,000 and £100,000 (Bids under £60,000 will be considered)

Application deadlines: 9th January 2026 (Decisions in February 2026)

The VCSE Gambling Harms Prevention and Resilience Fund (NEW GRANT)

Summary

The fund, provided by the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, aims to establish an independent, public health-led approach to preventing gambling-related harm in those most at risk.

Funding will be allocated across three strategic strands:

- Core Prevention Delivery Fund: This will focus on the provision of direct prevention activities to prevent or reduce gambling harms
- Innovation & Evidence Fund: Funding for new, adapted, or emerging prevention approaches
- VCSE Resilience & Systems Capacity Fund: Funding support packages to strengthen the VCSE sector's ability to deliver sustainable prevention activities that reach intended cohorts

Key Criteria

Organisations will need to demonstrate the following:

- That they fall into the defined category of a third sector organisation.
- That they are intending to carry out a prevention activity under the following categories: Social Action, Awareness, Education, Campaign, Training, Support, Affected Others, Gambling Blocking Tools
- That they can provide a theory of change to demonstrate how these services can help us build, evidence – based prevention services at scale in future.

Amounts available: Not disclosed

Application deadlines: 9th January 2026 (for Expressions of Interest)

OPCC – Community Action Fund

Summary

The Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) has announced further information on its rounds of funding for 2025-26:

- Road Safety - for projects that focus on prevention and education, and that align with the wider goal of reducing harm and improving safety.
- Violence and Vulnerability - to support local communities in tackling serious crime and safeguarding vulnerable individuals

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)
- Projects involving structural components (e.g. signage, CCTV, road markings) must have approval from the relevant authority. Evidence of this approval must be included in the application.

Amounts available: Maximum £10,000

Application deadlines:

- Road Safety – is open and closes on 12th January 2026
- Violence and Vulnerability - opened on 1st December and closes on 31st March 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

The Big Give – Earth Raise Campaign

Summary

Earth Raise is a seven-day online match funding campaign dedicated to helping charities playing a vital role in tackling pressing environmental issues.

Funding is available for UK-registered charities whose core mission encompasses environmental work, such as biodiversity, climate change, waste, energy, transport, or pollution.

Once accepted, charities will receive ring-fenced match funding from Champion donors which is unlocked as public donations arrive during the campaign week (22nd – 29th April 2026).

Key Criteria

- The campaign is open to organisations with a minimum annual income of £25,000
- There are no joining or platform fees

Amounts available:

There are two options:

- 1:1 match model (public fundraising target: £1,000–£10,000)
- Pledge model (public fundraising up to £100,000, combined with a pledge fund and champion match funding).

Application deadlines: 16th January 2026

The Theatre Trust – Small Grants Scheme

Summary

Funding is available to support projects aimed at ensuring the future viability and success of non-profit theatres in the UK, including essential small capital works, digital upgrades, and critical machinery installations.

This scheme will prioritise:

- Improvements to buildings that protect theatre use and remove barriers to participation and attendance
- Projects where the total project costs are less than £250k or where the grant is the sole external funder

Key Criteria

Applicants must demonstrate that they:

- Own or manage theatres with titles or signed leases of more than five years on buildings in the UK
- Run a year-round programme of live performance, 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

Amounts available: Maximum £7,500

Application deadlines: 16th January 2026

The Elephant Trust (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for artists and small organisations and galleries for new, innovative visual arts projects. It aims to make it possible for artists and those presenting their work to undertake and complete projects when confronted by lack of funds.

Key Criteria

- Projects with a total budget exceeding £30,000 will not be supported
- Successful applicants should leave a minimum of two years before reapplying for help with a new project
- It is not able to support festivals, group exhibitions, charities organising community projects

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

Application deadlines: 18th January 2026

National Archives – Engagement Grants * (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for organisations to conduct outreach and engagement projects that will connect archives with their communities in places across England and Wales.

The fund will invest in:

- The skills of the archives sector workforce
- Research to lead innovation in technology and archival practice
- Engagement to connect archives with changing societies in places across England and Wales

The theme for the current application round is 'Belonging'. Applicants should consider their collections and devise creative ways to use these records to engage with new and existing audiences, exploring ideas relating to 'Belonging'.

Key Criteria

- The programme is open to all public sector bodies, not-for-profit organisations including registered charities, and for-profit organisations including business archives.
- Funding is not available to private individuals.
- Eligible costs for the programme include exhibitions, events, online or digital engagement, materials, staff time, travel and subsistence, and materials or software as needed to deliver the project.
- The programme cannot fund overheads, full cost recovery or management fees, collections acquisition, costs incurred prior to the date of any award offer, the core work of an archive service

Amounts available: Maximum £3,000

Application deadlines: 19th January 2026

National Archives - Resilience Grants * (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for archives and records services, including those in museums, libraries, universities, and community or heritage organisations, to help them develop practical and sustainable ways to strengthen their long-term resilience.

The fund can support projects focusing on areas such as financial sustainability, workforce capacity, digital preservation, income generation, or environmentally responsive practices.

Key Criteria

- The programme is open to all public sector bodies, not-for-profit organisations including registered charities, and for-profit organisations including business archives
- If the archive is not currently accessible for public use, the organisation must have the intention to make the collection freely accessible to the public in the future
- There is no restriction on past applicants applying

Amounts available: Maximum £20,000

Application deadlines: 21st January 2026

Esmée Fairbairn – Communities and Collections Fund

Summary

Funding is available to support museums and their partners to use collections in ways that advance inclusion, equity, and social and climate justice.

There are two streams:

- Core Grants for single museum organisations for strategic development of their inclusive collections work
- Partnership Project Grants for museums and community organisations working equitably with collections to achieve shared aims for inclusion

Key Criteria

- In the case of partnership grants, we would encourage you to have this partnership in place before approaching us for an initial conversation
- All applicants must speak to a member of Communities and Collections Fund staff at the Museums Association (MA) before submitting an expression of interest
- Applicants must be a MA institutional member. Partnership applications must include at least one MA institutional member

Amounts available: Between £40,000 and £100,000 (over a maximum of three years)

Application deadlines: 21st January 2026 (For expressions of interest. Shortlisted applicants notified in February, final applications due in May, and successful projects announced by the end of June 2026.)

Macmillan Cancer Support - Macmillan Care Grants

Summary

Funding is available for voluntary and community organisations with experience in tackling health inequalities to run community-led projects that remove barriers to cancer care.

Projects can be supported which fit under at least one of the three themes:

- Cultural Responsiveness in Cancer Care - projects that help healthcare services better understand and meet the cultural needs of different communities and remove barriers to person-centred care.
- Shared Decision-Making - projects that make it easier for people to understand their treatment options, take part in decisions about their cancer care, and reduce unfair differences in how this happens.
- Dementia-Friendly Cancer Care - projects that support people living with both cancer and dementia, improve their care experience, and help them and their carers take part in treatment decisions.

Key Criteria

- Prioritising projects that are designed by and with the people most affected, have clear leadership and understand what partnerships are needed for success and have the capacity to create change with clear goals, good plans and an understanding of the wider context they are operating in.
- Potential applicants can complete an online [eligibility checker](#) to make sure that basic criteria are met
- Organisations already funded by Macmillan can apply if the new project is completely separate from existing Macmillan-funded work with no duplication of cost and they have the capacity to manage multiple projects.

Amounts available: Between £50,000 and £150,000

Application deadlines: 23rd January 2026 (Decision in early March 2026)

CABWI Awarding Body – Employment Skills Funding

Summary

Funding reopened on 5th January 2026 for registered charities working to equip young people and adults with the skills, confidence and experience to enter the labour market.

The scheme will help people overcome complex barriers to employment, particularly those who are NEET or facing challenges such as leaving the armed forces or the criminal justice system.

The fund supports initiatives that build life skills and improve access to work, with emphasis on the water, utilities and construction sectors.

Key Criteria

Eligible organisations must:

- Have annual income under £1 million
- Be working with people aged of 16 +
- Be requesting no more than 15% of their income (to a maximum of £40,000)
- Have at least three unrelated Trustees and a CEO and Senior Managers living at separate addresses

Amounts available: Maximum £40,000

Application deadlines: 26th January 2026 (for stage one applications). Notifications for successful applicants to progress to stage two will be made in March 2026.

AB Charitable Trust – Human Rights Funding

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.

Delamere Dairy Foundation (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for charities and not for profit organisations whose purpose fits with the objects of the Delamere Dairy Foundation:

- The advancement of agriculture and of environmental protection
- The advancement in life of young people by developing their capabilities so that they may mature as contributory members of society
- The relief of financial hardship
- The advancement of education
- The relief of sickness

Key Criteria

- Organisations should demonstrate a clear community benefit in their constitution or governing document
- Applicants must be voluntary or community-based organisations with a constitution and a bank account. New groups without a constitution or bank account will need to nominate an established group that will be responsible for holding and administering the grant on their behalf.
- If project-based funding is being applied for, then the project must last no more than 12 months

Amounts available: Between £1,000 and £5,000

Application deadlines: 31st January 2026

Another Way Women's Foundation (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for UK-based individuals and not-for-profit organisations for initiatives that empower women and girls.

The grants typically fall into two areas:

- Project support – 'seed' funding for pilot or start-up initiatives to show 'proof of concept', with a view to enabling partner organisations to go on to apply for further/larger grants from other funders to expand/increase the project scope, or to attain self-sustainability for the project
- Services support – aid funding to enable support organisation and service providers to pay for essential service delivery

There are two application rounds per year. January applications can be to support women and girls in any area. In September there will be a specific focus each year. September 2026 will focus on Sport and Leisure for women and girls.

Key Criteria

Applications must be:

- Focussed preferentially, but not exclusively, on sustainable, cooperative, community-led initiatives aimed at the root cause of gender inequality (system change) in under-represented communities and/or under-funded areas
- Aimed at having a positive, measurable and sustainable impact on women in need and/or the community as a whole

Amounts available: Between £1,000 and £5,000

Application deadlines: 31st January 2026

Dan Maskell Tennis Trust (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available to disabled individuals, disability groups, tennis clubs, schools, and associations across the UK that work with people with disabilities to support participation in tennis.

The grants can be used for coaching with LTA-licensed coaches, court hire, tennis wheelchairs, and equipment like rackets. Applicants seeking sports wheelchairs may be required to make a personal contribution.

Key Criteria

All applicants must be UK citizens and resident in the UK

The Trust recommend all applicants aged under 18 years of age seeking funding for a sports wheelchair should apply to [Variety](#) in the first instance. Variety funds the full cost of the wheelchair with no contribution needed.

All funding is paid on a 'reimbursement' basis

Amounts available:

- Groups and Clubs maximum = £1,600
- Individuals maximum = £600

Application deadlines: 1st February 2026 (There are four decision meetings annually)

Rowing Foundation (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for organisations, clubs, and schools involved in rowing to support junior and student rowers, as well as adaptive rowing for all ages.

This funding, targeted at groups ineligible for larger grants or with smaller needs, helps purchase equipment such as boats, sculls, ergs, oars, and safety gear, aiming to increase participation in rowing among young people, individuals with disabilities, and those in education.

There are two grants:

- Equipment grants – to provide equipment to enable participants to take part in rowing activity
- Refurbishment grants - the scope of the refurbishment is a “Hull and Tops Service” and any repair work beyond this must be approved by the Rowing Foundation before the extra work is carried out.

Key Criteria

- Applicants must be an established club with an active junior/student programme, or with existing facilities suitable for disabled rowers
- It does not award grants for canoeing, kayaking, sailing or swimming.
- There is a limit of £4,000 of funding to be awarded to any organisation over a five-year period and this applies across both of the grant schemes
- Refurbishment grants are available for any boat belonging to a UK rowing club which is used exclusively for Juniors, those in full-time education or for adaptive rowers of any age.

Amounts available: Between £500 and £4,000 (up to 50% of the project's overall cost).

Application deadlines:

- Equipment grants deadline 2nd February 2026
- Refurbishment grants are open year-round

Royal Botanical Gardens - Grow Wild Community Programme (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available to charities, community groups, and other not-for-profit organisations in the UK that aim to bring local people together to transform urban spaces by sowing and growing UK native wildflowers and/or fungi.

The Fund will support twenty-three community-led projects that benefit both wildlife and people, with a particular focus on engaging young people, disabled people, those experiencing disadvantage, and others who face barriers to connecting with nature

Key Criteria

- Schools, Parish and Town Councils and Local Authorities are not able to apply, but the scheme can fund projects led by independent groups on Local Authority land as long there is written evidence of the landowners permission
- Projects must be in urban locations - settlements with 10,000+ inhabitants
- Grow Wild can't fund projects requiring planning permission, due to the programme timelines

Amounts available: Maximum £2,000 (Successful groups can also apply for a £500 follow-on grant for spring 2027 to support ongoing activities).

Application deadlines: 4th February 2026

Association of Independent Museums (AIM) – Museum Fundamentals *

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)

Worshipful Company of Information Technology – IT4 Good (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for registered charities, educational establishments, community interest companies, and other not-for-profit organisations for IT projects that benefit communities and people across the UK.

The fund aims to support innovative projects and activities that use information technology (IT) to create positive impact through education, digital inclusion, charitable, and public engagement initiatives.

It is more likely to fund the development and delivery of innovative new services, solutions, training, apps, analytics, AI, robotics, or custom-made accessibility features/hardware; projects where it is the main or sole funder and organisations that could benefit from our pro bono support.

Key Criteria

The following are not eligible:

- Start-up organisations less than a year old, or with no income or accounts
- Organisations with an annual income or reserves of over £1 million
- Commercially available off-the-shelf products for use by staff
- Apps or websites for income generation or staff administration

Amounts available: Maximum £15,000

Application deadlines: 6th February 2026 (There are four meetings per year. Typically, only two grants are awarded each quarter)

UK Research and Innovation – Local Innovation Partnerships Fund *

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)

Idlewild Trust

Summary

Funding is available for charities under two themes:

- Arts - improve opportunities for young professionals working in the arts, particularly at an early stage in their careers
- Conservation - supporting the conservation of national or international works of art and objects in museums, galleries, places of worship, historic buildings or their grounds/landscapes accessible to the public that are being lost through the lack of funds to look after these works.

Key Criteria

- Arts - priority is to support high-level training to early career participants in the performing, fine and applied arts.
- Arts - anticipated eligible charities include theatres, galleries, orchestras, opera, ballet, and theatre companies
- Arts – it will not fund programmes for young people under 18 years of age or gap year students
- Conservation - priority will be given to applications that include a knowledge sharing element as an outcome of the project, depending on the size and resources available within the project
- It will not fund structural repairs to buildings or routine maintenance, cleaning and preventative work to objects or works of art
- It will not fund organisations with an annual income of under £5,000

Amounts available: Average grant £6,437

Application deadlines: 13th February 2026 (For Expressions of Interest)

Harborough District Council – Community Grants

Summary

Funding is available to town and parish councils/meetings and community organisations in the Harborough district for capital projects which create lasting assets across the Harborough district, such as improvements to building, facilities, or purchasing and installing equipment.

The funding focuses on enhancing, upgrading, or expanding facilities and activities, rather than covering routine maintenance or general upkeep.

Key Criteria

- All applications outside of Market Harborough need to be submitted or supported by the Parish Council or Parish Meeting
- In Market Harborough only, community organisations will first need to obtain a letter of support for their proposal from the Market Harborough Special Expenses Advisory Panel
- All applicants will need to submit the views of their Ward Councillor
- Funding can only go to groups that are constituted and have held a bank account in the name of the group for three years
- Grants must be spent within one year of receipt, unless agreement is given by the Council

Amounts available: There is a set amount of grant funding available for Market Harborough and each of the Parished areas, which can be seen via the [Funding Allocations Document](#).

Application deadlines: 16th February 2026 (Decisions in March 2026)

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.

Projects must take into account the National Lottery Heritage Fund's four investment principles:

- Saving heritage
- Protecting the environment
- Inclusion, access and participation
- Organisational sustainability

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 26th February 2026. There are quarterly deadlines throughout 2026. 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.

Wise Music Foundation – Hardship Illness Poverty (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for small charities working to make a positive difference for people facing hardship, illness, or poverty, particularly children, the homeless, older people, and those with disabilities.

Key Criteria

- Charities with an annual turnover of up to £500,000 are eligible to apply
- The Foundation won't donate to the same charity more than once in a calendar year

Amounts available: Maximum £5,000 (average grant £1,500)

Application deadlines: 28th February 2026 (For a decision in March 2026. The Trustees meet quarterly to consider applications).

Foundation for Social Investment – Energy Efficiency Sharematch Fund

Summary

Funding is available to help community organisations reduce energy usage and their carbon footprint. It can be used to install on-site energy generation measures like solar panels and heat pumps, improve building energy efficiency through insulation and LED lighting, and upgrade operational equipment to more energy-efficient alternatives.

The application process requires an initial expression of interest, followed by a formal application through the Crowdfunder platform for eligible projects.

The scheme would ordinarily expect to match money raised through the Crowdfunder platform in community shares investments on the basis of 25-33% match of the total raised, up to the maximum grant amounts.

Key Criteria

- To be eligible to apply, organisations must be one of the following: Community Benefit Society, Charitable Community Benefit Society or a Co-operative Society
- In order to be eligible to apply, projects must set up on Crowdfunder
- Organisations must own their buildings or have long (over 10 years) tenancies in place. The tenancy should also be as long or longer than the payback period for the share capital.
- Organisations can only access funding from the Energy Efficiency Sharematch once.

Amounts available: Between £5,000 and £30,000 (total budget of £250,000)

Application deadlines: The grant scheme will close in March 2026 and the goal is to allocate all funds before this deadline.

Ramblers Path Accessibility Fund (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available to landowners, parish councils, community groups, voluntary organisations, and individuals for projects that improve public rights of way across England, Scotland, and Wales, helping more people, especially those with limited mobility, enjoy walking outdoors.

The funding aims to support work to remove barriers such as stiles, steps, and overgrown paths, with improvements including accessible gates, widened entrances, and better path surfaces to make routes safer and easier to use.

Key Criteria

- All projects must have received written permission from the landowner or their representative
- Projects must take place on definitive public rights of way
- You should discuss the project with the relevant rights of way officer in your local highway authority

Amounts available: Average grant £2,500

Application deadlines: 14th March 2026 (For expressions of interest)

AiM – Collections Care and Conservation Grants * (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available to small and medium-sized museums, that are members of the Association of Independent Museums, to cover the cost of a three-day professional collections care audit.

These grants are a good starting point for smaller museums to understand their collection care needs and to develop future grant applications based on the recommendations of a conservator.

Key Criteria

Organisations should:

- Be either a UK registered charity, an organisation with exempt charitable status or a recognised public body such as a Local Authority Museum
- Have fewer than 50,000 visitors a year

Amounts available: Maximum £1,200

Application deadlines: 27th March 2026

The Animal Defence Trust

Summary

Funding is available to support approved animal welfare charities working to rescue and care for animals that have suffered cruelty. The Trust's main objectives are protecting animals from suffering and mistreatment, promoting research to reduce animal use in scientific experiments, and ensuring proper accommodation for animals during transportation.

Grants are generally for capital projects, but running costs may be considered.

Key Criteria

- All applications must be made via post. The Animal Defence Trust does not accept electronic copies.
- If planning permission is required to complete a project, then this should have been acquired, at least at outline level, prior to the application being submitted.
- A full report and supporting photographs (if appropriate) of the project should be submitted by 31st March of the year following the giving of the grant.

Amounts available: Not disclosed

Application deadlines: 31st March 2026 (to be considered in July 2026)

Focus Foundation (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available to charities, social enterprises and community groups to deliver projects that make a positive difference to people's lives.

It will support projects that focus on underprivileged children and young adults, mental health, and community initiatives that are located close to one of its regional UK offices.

It does not fund core costs or part-fund projects.

Key Criteria

- Community Projects should be located in the same county as one of the Focus Group offices. For Leicestershire the office is based in Groby.
- The charity or community group needs to have an annual income of less than £1m
- To be eligible, projects should demonstrate clear and measurable benefits to their communities

Amounts available: Maximum £8,000

Application deadlines: Open (Expressions of Interest and Full Applications are accepted year-round, with submissions closing four weeks before the next committee meeting scheduled for early March 2026). There are four committee meetings per year.

The Charities Aid Foundation – Venturesome Impact Fund (NEW GRANT)

Summary

The Charities Aid Foundation is a UK-based charity that supports and strengthens the charitable sector by providing funding, advice and financial services.

The fund aims to help organisations strengthen their financial resilience, grow trading income and increase social impact where traditional grants or bank lending may not be suitable. Rather than providing one-off grants, the fund offers repayable finance, allowing capital to be recycled to support more organisations over time.

Organisations can use the funding to support working capital, manage cash flow, expand services, invest in staff or systems, or develop new income-generating activities.

Key Criteria

- The fund is open to UK-registered charities, social enterprises and community groups that can demonstrate a clear social purpose and measurable impact
- Applicants must usually have been operating for at least one year, show a minimum annual turnover of £75,000, and be able to repay the investment from trading or other earned income

Amounts available: Loans ranging from £50,000 to £1 million (loans are typically over three to five years, with fixed interest rates)

Application deadlines: Open

Historic Houses Foundation * (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available to charities, institutions, local authorities, and individuals for the restoration and conservation of rural historic buildings and structures in England and Wales, including their gardens, grounds and outbuildings.

The funding is intended to support projects that either do not qualify for mainstream funding or have been awarded only partial funding.

The restoration and conservation of works of art in historic house collections open to the public will also be supported.

Key Criteria

The proposed work must meet the following criteria:

- There is a compelling need for the work, usually within 2 to 3 years
- The work will enhance our historic environment
- There will be appropriate public access
- There is a financial need for the grant
- The work can proceed within a reasonable time frame (usually 1 to 2 years)
- The building or structure is listed however, we may make grants that involve an unlisted building, particularly in a conservation area
- The structure is rural, either in the countryside or where it has been overtaken by urban or suburban development

Amounts available: Maximum £250,000, however most grants are for less than £50,000

Application deadlines: Open (There is a two-stage application process)

Angling Trust – Angling Improvement Fund * (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for angling organisations to help stop the spread of invasive non-native species and boost biosecurity at fishing venues.

Funding is available to support:

- Training of members to undertake invasive species management
- The purchase of management equipment
- The installation of biosecurity facilities at venues

Invasive non-native species are those that have been introduced by human activity into Great Britain and are causing significant negative impacts. These may include:

- Invasive plants such as Floating pennywort, Canadian pondweed, Water fern, Giant hogweed, Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam
- Invasive invertebrates such as Killer shrimp, Demon shrimp, Zebra mussel
- Mink

Key Criteria

- Applicant venues must be located in England and offer a form of fishing covered by an Environment Agency non-migratory trout and coarse fishing licence
- It is not a requirement to be an Angling Trust member club or affiliated organisation to apply
- There must already be angling taking place at the site
- If you are interested in installing a biosecurity station you do not need to have an invasive species established on your site
- Applicants should attempt to match the award with a similar amount of funding from their own sources

Amounts available: Maximum £5,000 (Budget £100,000)

Application deadlines: Open (The fund will remain open until all funding has been allocated).

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 Adults Training Session](#) - January 2026

This session is designed to provide participants with the essential knowledge and practical skills needed to protect adults at risk and uphold their rights.

Safeguarding is a shared responsibility, and understanding how to identify concerns, respond appropriately, and follow correct procedures is critical for ensuring safety and well-being.

The training costs £10 per participant.

[Booking is required](#)

[Planning Impact Measurement](#) - February 2026

Learn how to begin measuring your charity's impact. This session will help you to understand impact, outputs and outcomes, learn how to articulate your plan for change and begin the path to measuring your organisation's impact effectively.

The training sessions is free.

[Booking is required](#)

Contact Details:

Tel: (0116) 257 5050

Email: helpline@valonline.org.uk

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.