

Monthly Funding Information April 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
Rayne Foundation – Better Careers of Better Care Programme * (New)	7 th April 2026
Veterans Foundation – Major Grants	20 th April 2026
Concertina Charitable Trust – Grants	30 th April 2026
Pink Ribbon Foundation – Grants	31 st May 2026
HM Govt Dept of Transport – Big Bike Revival (New)	1 st June 2026
Home Instead Charities – Grants (New)	Open

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

Grant Fund	Closest Deadline
Youth Music - Trailblazer Fund (New)	11 th April 2026
Woodward Charitable Trust – Summer Playscheme Grant (New)	16 th April 2026
UK Community Foundations - Lead The Change (New)	22 nd April 2026
Schroder Charity Trust	30 th April 2026
The Brit Trust Grants	30 th April 2026
Arnold Clark – Gear Up For Sport (New)	Open in April
The Wolfson Foundation – Secondary Education Programme (New)	1 st May 2026
ILPA - Strategic Legal Fund (New)	8 th June 2026
Armed Forces Covenant – Family Fund: Early Years * (New)	15 th July 2026

Funding for projects which support broader community outcomes

Grant Fund	Closest Deadline
Easyfundraising – Impact Fund	5 th April 2026
Hospice UK – Capital Improvement Grant *	13 th April 2026
Hospital Saturday Fund	13 th April 2026
Aviva Foundation	15 th April 2026
The National Archives – Seed Corn Grant	17 th April 2026
National Grid – Community Matters Fund (Future Skills 2026) (New)	23 rd April 2026
Oadby and Wigston Borough Council – Community Grants (New)	24 th April 2026
ASDA Foundation – Community Spaces Fund (New)	28 th April 2026
MOD – Armed Forces Day Grant	30 th April 2026
Leathersellers’ Foundation ACEs – Main Grants (New)	30 th April 2026
England Athletics – Club Improvement Fund (New)	30 th April 2026
North West Leicestershire District Council – Month of Action Grant (New)	30 th April 2026
Anglian Water – Thriving Communities Fund (New)	1 st May 2026
Music For All Awards	7 th May 2026
Harborough District Council – Community Grant (Updated)	11 th May 2026
SPAR – Community Cash Back Scheme (New)	13 th May 2026
Museums Association - Health and Wellbeing in Museums Fund	20 th May 2026
Charles Hayward Foundation – Social and Criminal Justice Grants	22 nd May 2026
Sported – Barclays Community Sport Fund (New)	27 th May 2026
Material Focus - Electrical Recycling Grant * (New)	31 st May 2026
The DPO Centre – Charity and Community Fund (New)	31 st May 2026
Leeds Building Society – Small Grants (New)	1 st June 2026
OPCC – Community Action Fund (Updated)	14 th June 2026
The Matthew Good Foundation – Grants for Good Fund (New)	15 th June 2026
War Memorials Trust – Grant (New)	30 th June 2026
Worshipful Company of Weavers – Charitable Grants (New)	2 nd July 2026
School for Social Entrepreneurs – Trading for Good	Closes 30 th Sept
HM Govt. – School-Based Nursery Capital Grant *	30 th Sept 2026

Funding for projects which support Adults

[Rayne Foundation – Better Careers of Better Care Programme](#) * (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available to voluntary, statutory and not-for-profit organisations across the UK for collaborative projects that improve career development and opportunities for adult social care workers.

Applicants will need to make clear how their work will build a culture of trust, respect and collaboration in adult social care and specifically, how they will:

- Identify the blockers to embedding professional development opportunities and create collaborative solutions to address them.
- Build respectful and mutual relationships across different parts of the adult social care system such as commissioning, procurement, providers, professional care workers, people drawing on care and support, and unpaid carers.
- Bring professionals with different remits and priorities together to agree shared objectives and actions.
- Evidence the impact of collaborative cultures using key measurement indicators such as staff retention and turnover, progression rates, provider-commissioner relationships, shared governance in commissioning, improved contract sustainability, and changes made due to care worker insight and influence.

Key Criteria

- Statutory organisations need to consider how a grant will enable transformation over and above delivering statutory obligations.
- Statutory and for-profit organisations that receive funding are expected to commit match-funding from their own resources, indicating their commitment to the work, and to work collaboratively with the voluntary sector.
- It will not fund business-as-usual training that maintains compliance and professional standards or capital projects

Amounts available: Between £60,000 and £150,000 (for projects lasting up to two years)

Application deadlines: 7th April 2026 (for expressions of interest).

Veterans Foundation – Major Grants (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available to organisations for activities that provide direct benefit to serving and former members of the UK armed forces, operationally qualified seafarers and their immediate families.

There are five thematic priorities:

- Community Relationships
- Employment, Education & Skills
- Health and Wellbeing
- Housing & Homelessness
- Tackling Disadvantage

Key Criteria

- Applicants must complete an online eligibility check before submitting a full application.
- It is anticipated that the grants will be awarded to partnerships of more than two organisations
- Each partnership should have a nominated lead organisation that is a registered UK charity or CIC Ltd by Guarantee* and has a minimum annual income of £100,000

Amounts available: Between £100,000 and £200,000 (for projects over one to three years)

Application deadlines: 20th April 2026 (for expressions of interest).

Concertina Charitable Trust - Grants (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for charitable bodies that provide musical entertainment and related activities for the elderly.

Concertina is particularly keen to support smaller organisations which might otherwise find it difficult to gain funding.

Key Criteria

Applying organisations must include a copy of their accounts or financial statement with the application.

Amounts available: Maximum £250

Application deadlines: 30th April

[Pink Ribbon Foundation - Grants](#) (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available to UK charities and not-for-profit organisations working on practical projects and initiatives to improve the physical and mental health of individuals with or recovering from breast cancer.

This year, priority will be given to supporting organisations with limited financial resources to deliver their services.

Key Criteria

- A set of your most current accounts must accompany any grant application
- All applicants must be prepared to inform the Foundation of their projects progress at least twice in the year of the grant, unless it is to be used for a specific purchase or event then only one report is required

Amounts available: Maximum £6,000

Application deadlines: 31st May 2026 (Grants are awarded in July 2026).

[HM Govt Dept of Transport – Big Bike Revival](#) (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for local volunteer-led groups, social enterprises, and other not-for-profit organisations across England to deliver cycling events aimed at encouraging adults to start or return to cycling this summer.

These events should particularly engage individuals who face social, economic, or health deprivation, come from diverse backgrounds, or are dealing with complex personal challenges.

The programme delivers three types of event based on the FIX-LEARN-RIDE model.

- Fix events – offer basic services to repair cycles and provide essential checks to ensure cycles are safe to ride
- Learn events – offer instruction, training or skills for adults to learn to maintain or repair their cycle or learn cycle skills to help them feel safer when cycling
- Ride events – offer led rides for adults to practise cycling locally, build confidence and learn new routes in a social environment

Key Criteria

- Delivery partners are typically volunteer-led groups, not-for-profit organisations and social enterprises that are rooted in local communities and working to address a range of local needs
- Organisations should be experienced in engaging with non-regular cyclists and people in need in terms of social, economic and health deprivation.

Amounts available: Maximum £3,500

Application deadlines: 1st June 2026

Home Instead Charities - Grants (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available to community groups, CIC's and small charities for projects that enhance wellbeing or reduce social isolation among people aged 55 and over.

Key Criteria

Please note that the scheme no longer accepts unsolicited grant applications submitted directly to the charity. Potential applicants are asked to contact their local Home Instead office directly to discuss the project or organisation.

Amounts available: Maximum £3,500

Application deadlines: Open

Funding for projects which support Children and Young People

Youth Music - Trailblazer Fund (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Grants are available to organisations in England for projects that support disadvantaged and disabled children and young people under 25 years of age in making, learning, and earning in music.

The funding supports organisations that want to trial work for the first time; test a new way of working; or disrupt the status quo, or all three.

To be eligible for support, applications must meet 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

- A minimum of 10% match funding is required
- Voluntary groups not registered with Companies House or the Charity Commission must have a constitution and management committee
- Schools and academies can't apply to this fund
- Pupil Referral Units, special schools or alternative provision settings are eligible

Amounts available: Between £2,000 and £30,000 (Organisations under one year old can apply for a maximum grant of £15,000).

Application deadlines: 11th April 2025 (for projects starting between September and November 2025).

Woodward Charitable Trust – Summer Playscheme Grant (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for charities, exempt charities and CIC's to run summer playschemes for disadvantaged children between the ages of 5-16 years. Playschemes should run for a minimum of two weeks or ten days during the summer holidays.

Preference is given to:

- Small local playschemes that provide a wide-ranging programme of activities. Trustees prefer activities that are relatively inexpensive such as crafts and cooking, as well as outdoor activities and sport
- Schemes that involve a large number of children
- Schemes where past users are encouraged to come back and help as volunteers

Key Criteria

- Eligible organisations with an annual income of less than £100,000 are eligible
- Trustees will only fund up to 50% of the total cost of a scheme
- Trustees won't fund trips that are only social such as to a theme park or cinema, however Trustees prioritise funding for trips that are educational and motivational or relate to the natural environment such as to the seaside or countryside

Amounts available: Between £500 and £2,000

Application deadlines: 16th April 2025

UK Community Foundations - Lead The Change (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Lead the Change is a new, three-year initiative launched by BBC Children in Need which supports young people to play a leading role in strengthening relationships, fostering understanding and building belonging in their communities.

The programme aims to:

- Strengthen community connection and safety
- Empower young people as leaders, storytellers and changemakers
- Support young people to build digital literacy and challenge harmful narratives
- Increase opportunity through skills and leadership pathways
- Build a national movement for youth-led connection and change

Projects could include:

- Safe spaces for young people to meet and connect – youth clubs, sports, creative and cultural spaces.
- Youth-led community action and resilience – co-designed projects, leadership development, intercultural initiatives to bring people together.
- Pathways to opportunity – skills development, mentoring, training and connection to training or apprenticeships.
- Narrative change and digital literacy – tackling misinformation and disinformation, storytelling and youth-created content.

Key Criteria

Lead the Change is open to registered not-for-profit organisations in the UK (in the 27 specified places). For Leicester and Leicestershire, Leicester is the specified place.

Organisations can apply if they are already funded by BBC Children in Need or a community foundation, but they cannot apply for the same work that is already funded (or any work already funded by another organisation).

Organisations should:

- Have an income of no more than £2 million
- Be based and work in Leicester City
- Be able to demonstrate strong safeguarding and trauma-informed practice
- Have at least three unrelated board/governing body members

Amounts available: Maximum £123,353 over three years (NB only one grant will be awarded in Leicester).

Application deadlines: Expressions of interest opened on 1st April and will close after three weeks on 22nd April.

[Schroder Charity Trust](#)

Summary

Funding is available for registered charities undertaking work with the following two 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 is for core or project costs.

Key Criteria

- Eligible organisations are UK-registered charities with an annual income between £150,000 and £1,000,000
- Charities less than one year old without a full year of audited accounts are not eligible to apply

Amounts available: Maximum £5,000

Application deadlines: 30th April 2026 (Decisions within four months)

[The Brit Trust Grants](#)

Summary

Funding is available for organisations that use music-focused activities to improve the lives of young people aged 16 and above across the UK.

Key Criteria

- The applicant organisation must be a registered charity
- The planned activity must be music-focused
- The planned activity must be aimed at ages 16 and above

Amounts available: Maximum £5,000

Application deadlines: 30th April 2026 (Decisions in November 2026).

[Arnold Clark – Gear Up For Sport \(NEW GRANT\)](#)

Summary

Grassroots youth sports teams in Scotland, England and Wales can apply for free kits for sports teams' players aged 4 to 15.

This includes match kits, tracksuits and training wear, helping to reduce costs for community clubs. The kits are supplied and delivered directly to the club.

Key Criteria

- Each club can apply for one team, with up to 30 players
- Applications must be submitted by a coach or club official, not a parent

Amounts available: Not disclosed – the award is the kit for the Team

Application deadlines: Open for the month of April

The Wolfson Foundation – Secondary Education Programme (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for secondary schools and sixth form colleges to improve the teaching of science, computer science, design & technology, art, languages, music and performing arts at GCSE and A-Level.

Grants are generally awarded for new builds, refurbishment, and technical equipment.

Projects should have one or more of the following aims:

- Improved quality of teaching and learning spaces for subjects which require specialist facilities and technical equipment
- Increased numbers of students taking these subjects
- Improved learning outcomes for students taking these subjects

Key Criteria

To be eligible, schools must be state-funded, have at least two years of exam results available, have been inspected by Ofsted / Estyn / HMIE / ETI, and have an overall outcome of 'Good' or above

Projects must cost at least £25,000

Match funding will be required for projects over £50,000. This will depend on scale of the project

Amounts available: Between £15,000 and £100,000

Application deadlines: 1st May 2026 (Decisions in November 2026).

ILPA - Strategic Legal Fund (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for not-for-profit organisations and private law firms to support legal work that benefits young migrants living in poverty who face significant disadvantage or discrimination as a result of their immigration status.

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

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

Key Criteria

- The SLF only supports strategic legal work carried out in the UK. This is defined as work where the impact is likely to go beyond an individual case, and to result in changes to law, policy and practice that will benefit a wider group of people
- Not for profit organisations should be regulated by the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC)
- Not for profit organisations which are applying to undertake work in the asylum or immigration field, must confirm that staff leading on the proposed work are accredited at Level 3, Advocacy and Representation, in the relevant category of law
- Maximum grant length is twelve months

Amounts available: Maximum £30,000 (Average grant is between £12,000 and £15,000)

Application deadlines: 8th June 2026

Armed Forces Covenant – Family Fund: Early Years * (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for early childhood education and childcare providers to help enhance early childhood education and childcare settings to meet specific needs of young children from armed forces families.

Service life can bring unique challenges such as frequent moves, disrupted routines, or long periods without a parent at home. These experiences can affect a child's sense of security and wellbeing, particularly in their earliest years.

This programme seeks to help early years settings respond to those challenges by expanding available places, enhancing indoor and outdoor learning spaces, strengthening staff understanding of military family experiences, building local networks, and increasing engagement with families.

Local authorities can apply who wish to supply specific training to early childhood education and childcare providers supporting service children aged 0-5 years and provide a shared resource working across multiple settings.

This year, your project must contribute to at least one of the following outcomes:

- Increased capacity at the setting to allow more service children to attend.
- Better learning environments for service children.
- Stronger staff skills and understanding of the needs of service children through targeted training and resources.
- Establishing collaborative networks and shared resources to better meet the needs of service children.
- Stronger engagement with families during key service-life challenges (e.g. mobility, deployment, separation)

Key Criteria

- Eligible organisations should be working with children aged 0 to 5 years
- Childminders cannot apply to this programme
- At least 50% of enrolled children should be from service families

Amounts available: Between £5,000 and £80,000

Application deadlines: 15th July 2026

Funding for projects which support broader community outcomes

[Easyfundraising – Impact Fund](#)

Summary

Funding is available for a wide range of not-for-profit organisations to help them continue or improve their services.

Funding is unrestricted and can therefore be used where organisations need it most including equipment, resources, volunteer costs, event expenses, small projects, or essential running costs.

Key Criteria

Eligible organisations include charities, sports clubs, youth organisations, faith-based organisations and schools.

Amounts available: Twenty grants of £500 will be awarded

Application deadlines: 5th April 2026

[Hospice UK – Capital Improvement Grant *](#)

Summary

Funding is available via the Screwfix Foundation for Hospices across the UK, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man to improve their end-of-life care facilities.

The grant can support capital costs, including LED lighting installation, boiler and heating improvements, EV charging points, environmentally friendly windows, and the creation of sensory gardens and accessible outdoor spaces.

The funding aims to enhance comfort for hospice users, while helping hospices improve energy efficiency and reduce operating costs.

Key Criteria

- Eligible applicants must be members of Hospice UK, including NHS Hospices
- Both Adult and Children's Hospices are eligible
- Only one application can be considered from each hospice
- Hospices that have been awarded a grant directly from the Screwfix Foundation within the past two years are not eligible to apply
- The Screwfix Foundation likes to support projects where they are the major or sole funder

Amounts available: Maximum £10,000

Application deadlines: 13th April 2026 (Decisions by end of May 2026)

Hospital Saturday Fund

Summary

Funding is available for registered medical charities, hospices and medical organisations to support medical capital projects, care, research or medical training. It will also consider running costs.

The fund will also consider supporting individuals for the following:

- Equipment including specialised mobility equipment, car adaptations, medical appliances and aids, hearing aids, nebulisers, specialised vision aids, specialised computer equipment, therapeutic equipment/treatment, orthopaedic beds, mattresses or pillows, riser /recliners chairs, lift hoist/aids.
- Treatments including Physiotherapy, Hydrotherapy, Speech Therapy, Osteopathy, Chiropractic treatment, Reflexology, Massage Therapy
- Home adaptations including, walk in showers, accessibility adaptations to bathrooms, access ramps, non-slip flooring, stair lifts.

There are two grants: Standard and Large. Large grants can be used towards specific projects, research or equipment.

Key Criteria

- Organisations must be registered with the Charities Commission or HMRC
- Organisations must be carrying out medically related activities

Amounts available:

- Standard Grant maximum: £2,000
- Large Grant maximum: £10,000

Application deadlines: There are four application windows per year. The next ones are:

- Standard Grant - 13th April 2026
- Large Grants - 16th June 2026

Aviva Foundation

Summary

Aviva has brought together the Aviva Community Fund and its previous grant programmes under one structure.

The current focus is on two main funds across the UK:

- The Financial Futures Fund - supports larger UK-based organisations that are tackling financial insecurity over the long term with multiyear funding
- The Communities Fund - supports smaller, local charities and community organisations, building on the existing Aviva Community Fund. Focuses on projects that improve financial wellbeing and address climate action. Funding is provided through a matched-funding model.

Key Criteria

- Financial Futures Fund open to organisations with an annual income of £1 million or more
- Communities Fund open to UK organisations with an annual income of £1 million or less

Amounts available:

- Financial Futures Fund – not disclosed (Annual budget of £3 million over two funding rounds)
- Communities Fund – match funding donations of up to £250 to a maximum of £25,000

Application deadlines:

- Financial Futures Fund closes 15th April 2026 and 7th October 2026
- Communities Fund – Open, applications can be submitted at any time

The National Archives – Seed Corn Grant

Summary

Funding is available for community groups, archives, and heritage organisations to support early-stage, exploratory projects that spark new ideas and approaches to community engagement with heritage.

The grants are particularly designed to help organisations test concepts, build partnerships, or pilot activities, with a strong emphasis on experimentation and learning.

By applying to a Seed Corn grant, organisations will also gain access to a dedicated skills development and training programme, offering a wide range of learning opportunities tailored to the unique challenges faced by organisations and practitioners in the sector. This will be made available to all applicants, whether successful or not.

Key Criteria

- Organisations need to be involved with, or linked to, the Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums (GLAM) and/or wider Heritage sector. Higher education institutes and/or Independent research organisations (IROs) cannot be the lead on applications but can be listed as partners.
- Applying organisations cannot have received a Community Hub Seed Corn grant before
- Projects can last up to one year, with all funds required to be spent by December 2027

Amounts available: Between £500 and £5,000

Application deadlines: 17th April 2026 (Decisions in June 2026).

National Grid – Community Matters Fund (Future Skills 2026) (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for community-based organisations to support people who are furthest from the job market.

The fund will support projects that develop practical skills and improve employability for underrepresented groups, including young people aged 16–25 not in full-time education, people from ethnic minority backgrounds, disabled people and those with long-term health conditions, armed forces veterans, and people returning to work after a long absence.

Projects will need to meet at least one of the following themes:

- Offering placements, work experience, and professional accreditation programmes
- Developing key professional skills to help people into skilled trade roles e.g. construction, mechanics, plumbing, electrical work and clean energy
- Boosting employability, e.g. through CV masterclasses, workshops and interview coaching
- Supporting people returning to work after a long-term absence, for example due to chronic health conditions, full-time caring roles or military service

Key Criteria

- The fund is open to registered charities, not for profit companies limited by guarantee and constituted charitable organisations with no charity number
- Funding is only available to organisations based and delivering in the Midlands, South West England, and South Wales
- Projects must be completed and the grant fully spent by 31st October 2026

Amounts available:

- Registered charities and charitable companies: Maximum £5,000
- Constituted charitable organisations: Maximum £2,000

Application deadlines: 23rd April 2026 (Decisions in May 2026).

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council – Community Grants (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for local not-for-profit groups and organisations to deliver projects that benefit residents and strengthen our communities.

Projects should align with the council's priorities:

- To enhance the health and wellbeing of residents
- To provide a clean and safe space for everyone
- To promote local economic growth and support employment opportunities
- To ensure that we are a carbon conscious borough

Projects should also contribute to at least one of the following themes:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Community Cohesion and Inclusion
- Safer Neighbourhoods
- Skills, Learning and Personal Development
- Local Economy
- Environment and Sustainability

Key Criteria

- Projects must benefit residents of Oadby and Wigston Borough
- The fund will not support the on-going running costs of existing projects
- Organisations must have an annual income of under £500,000

Amounts available: Maximum £500

Application deadlines: 24th April 2026

ASDA Foundation – Community Spaces Fund (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for charities and CIC's operating community spaces for the following:

- Repair and Maintain Community Spaces - projects that involve essential repairs or maintenance to ensure the facility remains safe, functional, and able to serve the community effectively
- Expand and Improve Community Spaces - projects aimed at enhancing or adapting spaces to better meet the needs of service users

The scheme will prioritise:

- Community centres or spaces which host a variety of established community groups catering for a wide range of ages, demographics and needs and which offer a variety of activities throughout the week
- Youth centres offering targeted support to youths in areas of high deprivation in a space that offers a variety of activities, making a positive difference to health, wellbeing and the lives of young people. We would not accept applications for projects taking place in clubhouses used by only one organisation, or covering maintenance to pitches and grounds.
- Centres which support the most vulnerable, in areas of high deprivation. Such as homeless shelters, food banks, dementia and elderly support, community cafes.

Key Criteria

- Charities and CIC's should have been registered for at least three years and have completed all relevant reporting requirements on time
- Applying organisations should own the project site, if not you must have a fully signed lease between the landowner and your organisation, with at least 3 full years remaining
- Organisation must have an annual income of between £40,000 and £400,000
- Applicants may contribute up to £20,000 of their own funds towards the project but they must be able to demonstrate that these funds in place
- The project site must be open and accessible all year round

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

Application deadlines: Opens on 14th April 2026 and appears to close on 28th April 2026. Decisions by 31st August 2026.

MOD – Armed Forces Day Grant

Summary

Funding is available to a range of organisations including local councils, voluntary and community organisations, schools and ex-service organisations, for events that honour and thank the Armed Forces community, as part of Armed Forces Day on the 27th June 2026.

The funding can be used for:

- Road closures required to hold an event, including to allow for parades and marches
- Decorations, flags and banners
- local or national newspapers/social media/radio advertisements to promote the event
- Marshalling, security and first aid arrangements for the event
- Insurance
- PA and communications systems such as hand-held radios or other forms of communication for event organiser

Key Criteria

- Organisations must first register their event on the Armed Forces Day website to apply. Once approved, a link to the grant application will be provided via email
- The event must be held within 2 weeks of the Armed Forces Day, which falls on 27 June 2026
- Eligible events must include "Armed Forces" in their title, provide free access to members of the Armed Forces community
- Events must focus on thanking rather than fundraising or recruitment
- The grant is match-funded and paid post event on submission and approval of event receipts and expenditure

Amounts available: Maximum £10,000 (Up to 50% of the eligible costs of the event).

Application deadlines: 30th April 2026

Leathersellers' Foundation ACEs – Main Grants (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for UK-registered charities or Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs) working to prevent or reduce the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) by delivering trauma-informed, evidence-based services to children, young people, or adults.

Key Criteria

Particularly interested in hearing from organisations working in Northern Ireland, North West England and the East Midlands.

Eligible organisations should:

- Have an annual income between £200,000 and £2,000,000
- Have at least one year's published accounts
- Use a trauma-informed approach and evidence-based interventions
- Demonstrate that the vast majority of people using the service have experienced ACEs/ are supporting people who have experienced ACEs, such as parents and caregivers

Amounts available: Between £20,000 and £25,000 (per year for up to four years)

Application deadlines: 30th April 2026 (For expressions of interest)

England Athletics – Club Improvement Fund (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available to England Athletics affiliated clubs across England for projects that address barriers to growth, retention and member development.

England Athletics are particularly interested in funding projects that cover one or more of the following areas:

- Recruitment and training of new volunteers to add capacity or enhance member experience
- Supporting members to reach their potential through the development of existing volunteers or provision of new club experiences
- Increasing retention of junior athletes through the modernisation of the club and competition experience
- Enhancing how clubs recruit and engage with new members
- Supporting clubs with the transition to the new age group categories

Key Criteria

- Priority given to clubs that have not received funding in the past 12 months
- Applicants must be compliant with all seven Club Standards and be actively embedding those standards in day-to-day club operations

Amounts available: Maximum £500

Application deadlines: 30th April 2026

North West Leicestershire District Council – Month of Action Grant (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for community groups across North West Leicestershire from the Love Your Neighbourhood Month of Action Grant to support activities taking place during June 2026.

Projects should bring people together and make a visible difference locally.

Activities could include planting and preparing areas for wildflowers, larger-scale litter picks, recycling initiatives, communal composting or brightening up community buildings with hanging baskets.

Key Criteria

Applicants must:

- Be able to complete your project during June 2026.
- Be a non-profit* delivering activities/services in North West Leicestershire or be a Parish or Town Council.
- Benefit residents of North West Leicestershire only
- Have a constitution or formal set of rules

Hold a bank account in the group's name

Amounts available: Maximum £500

Application deadlines: 30th April 2026

Anglian Water – Thriving Communities Fund (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for projects across the East of England that improve the natural water environment and deliver community benefits.

Projects must nurture, repair, protect or sustain the natural water environment. This means projects must deliver physical interventions or capital work that makes a positive difference to the natural water environment.

Projects could include work to reduce flood risk, improve water quality, improve biodiversity, expand green spaces, protect wildlife and boost wellbeing.

Key Criteria

- Eligible organisations include charities, community groups, environmental organisations, and schools.
- Funding is available to projects in the entire [Anglian Water region](#). The black boundary line on the map is the eligible area. This includes the extreme eastern side of Leicestershire.
- Please use the [postcode checker](#) to ensure you are in an eligible area, i.e. your water or sewerage services are delivered by Anglian Water

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

Application deadlines:

- For applications under £50,000 deadline of 1st May 2026
- For applications over £50,000 expressions of interest can be submitted between 27th April and 8th June 2026

Music For All Awards

Summary

Funding is available for individuals, community groups, charities and schools to support projects that increase participation in music within disadvantaged and marginalised communities.

Grants are specifically to support the purchase of the following instruments and equipment:

- Electro acoustic guitars (to suit varying abilities/levels)
- Pbuzz instruments
- Ukuleles
- Keyboard bundles
- Drum kits
- Orange crush mini amps

Key Criteria

- Organisations should be registered and be delivering the proposed activities in the UK
- Individuals are not able to request support with purchasing Pbuzz instruments or Ukeleles

Amounts available: Not disclosed

Application deadlines: 7th May 2026 (Decisions within three months).

Harborough District Council – Community Grant (UPDATED)

Summary

Funding is available to community organisations for capital projects which create lasting assets across the Harborough district, such as improvements to buildings, facilities, or purchasing and installing equipment.

There are two webinars planned for April to help support potential applicants:

- Webinar A - Step by Step - How to complete the online application form – 14th April at 2.30pm.
- Webinar C - Open forum - an opportunity to ask general questions about the Community Grant process or discuss a potential project – 20th April at 10.00am

Please use the [Booking Form](#) to register to attend the webinars.

Key Criteria

- Applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as their project is ready, rather than waiting for later rounds, as early applications may be approved in full or partially depending on available funds. Grants officers can give further guidance about individual areas.
- Applications will only be accepted from town and parish councils, constituted parish meetings and constituted community groups/organisations.
- Before applications are submitted, all applicants must seek the views of their Ward Councillor(s) and include these within their application. This link is helpful for finding contacts: [Find my councillor Harborough District Council](#).
- Community organisations outside Market Harborough who wish to apply will also need to provide a letter of support from their Town/Parish Council or Meeting, which specifies the exact value of the grant they are supporting.
- 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, consisting of the ten ward councillors, before the organisation submits an application.

Amounts available: The available funding has been proportioned across the District by settlement size. Please see the [Community Fund Allocation Document](#) to see the amount available in your area.

Application deadlines: 11th May 2026

SPAR – Community Cash Back Scheme (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available to voluntary or community organisations, schools and charities which make a difference within their local area.

The scheme allows shoppers across the UK to apply for a grant for an organisation or charity they feel deserves funding.

Key Criteria

- Applicants will need to share the exceptional contribution a local organisation has made to their community and what the grant would be put towards
- Limited information available prior to the launch on 9th April

Amounts available: Maximum £10,000 (NB: a total of £20,000 is available in this round).

Application deadlines: Applications open on 9th April and close on 13th May 2026.

Museums Association - Health and Wellbeing in Museums Fund

Summary

Funding is available for museums to support innovative health and wellbeing programmes including mental health initiatives, projects addressing loneliness or physical health, creative engagement activities, partnerships with health and community organisations, and staff training.

Key Criteria

- Interested museums should complete the application quiz to check eligibility before getting in touch via the link provided at the end of the quiz
- The final submission deadline will be shared with invited applicants and will provide adequate time to complete an application.
- The museum should be able to demonstrate a track record and strategic commitment to health and wellbeing.

Museums must:

- Have an existing, excellent health and wellbeing programme to develop and embed
- Build on an established and evidenced track record of health and wellbeing work
- Fit within a strategic commitment to future health and wellbeing work

Amounts available: Between £50,000 and £75,000 (Around ten grants will be awarded).

Application deadlines: 20th May 2026

Charles Hayward Foundation – Social and Criminal Justice Grants

Summary

Funding is available to UK registered charities for projects that prevent criminal activity and rehabilitate offenders.

The Foundation will fund projects in the following sub-categories:

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

Key Criteria

- Organisations should have an annual income between £350,000 and £4 million
- Smaller charities with incomes under £350,000 are encouraged to apply through the Foundation's separate Small Grant programme
- The Foundation does not fund, policy and research, short term interventions, generic youth programmes or capital projects

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

Application deadlines: 22nd May 2026

Sported – Barclays Community Sport Fund (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for a range of community-based organisations, including youth groups and sports clubs, to support projects that increase access to football, cricket and tennis for women and girls, particularly in disadvantaged or remote communities.

Funding is unrestricted and can cover delivery and core revenue costs such as equipment, coaching and venue hire.

Key Criteria

- Organisations should be primarily operating in Indices of Multiple Deprivation areas 1–3
- The programme will consider applications from groups engaging women and girls with disabilities or facing challenges of rural isolation, that are not in deprived areas.
- Only one application is allowed per organisation

Amounts available: Maximum £1,000

Application deadlines: 27th May 2026 (The scheme may close early if a high volume of eligible applications is received).

Material Focus - Electrical Recycling Grant * (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for community sector organisations, including registered charities and local authorities, to run one year pilot projects that make it easier for households to recycle small unwanted electricals.

The scheme is looking to support pilots that introduce or expand local recycling options – including on-street collection banks, community collection points in high-footfall locations such as libraries and leisure centres, and refurbishment of existing bring banks.

Key Criteria

Projects must show long-term potential beyond the funded period

Amounts available: Maximum £100,000

Application deadlines: 31st May 2026

The DPO Centre – Charity and Community Fund (NEW GRANT)

Summary

The DPO Centre is a data protection consultancy firm. The funding available is to provide access to the data protection consultancy services at a discount of 80%.

The support is available to a wide range of not-for-profit organisations irrespective of income or work area.

The website has information on the [data protection consultancy services](#) that the DPO Centre provides.

Key Criteria

- Organisations should be based in the UK, have a management committee in place of at least 3 unrelated people and have a bank account in its name
- Only one application per organisation in each 12-month period will be considered

Amounts available: Maximum £10,000

Application deadlines: 31st May 2026

Leeds Building Society – Small Grants (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for registered charities to support people experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity. Grants can contribute towards core, project or capital costs.

Alongside the purpose of supporting those in need of a safe and secure home, applications must meet one or more of the following funding priorities:

- Financial stress
- Security and refuge
- Quality and suitability of housing

Applications can also apply under the theme 'Health and wellbeing support for those experiencing homelessness' if it's part of wraparound support and the application also meets at least one of the other themes.

Key Criteria

Charities should have an income of under £500,000

Amounts available: Maximum £2,500

Application deadlines: 1st June 2026 (Decisions 24th June 2026)

OPCC – Community Action Fund – UPDATED INFORMATION

Summary

The Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) has announced further information on its rounds of funding for 2025-26. The next round to open will be:

Violence Against Women and Girls

Work in the following crime types will be supported:

- Domestic Abuse
- Sexual Violence and Harassment
- Forced Marriage and Honour-Based Abuse
- FGM
- Stalking and Online Abuse
- Sexual Exploitation

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: Violence Against Women and Girls opens on 20th April 2026 and closes on 14th June 2026.

The Matthew Good Foundation – Grants for Good Fund (NEW GRANT)

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 June 2026 (Deadline every three months)

War Memorials Trust - Grant (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available to community organisations including councils and individuals for the repair and conservation of non-freestanding and freestanding war memorials in England.

The grants support the care and preservation of war memorials to a high standard and prevent the decay of this important part of our built heritage. Grants will normally cover 50% of eligible costs.

Key Criteria

- If the grant applicant is not responsible for the war memorial, they must provide written proof that they have the custodian's consent to carry out the proposed works
- The scheme does not fund new war memorials, maintenance, inappropriate works and works to graves

Amounts available:

- Non-freestanding maximum £5,000
- Freestanding maximum £20,000

Application deadlines: 30th June 2026 (Decision by 31st August 2026). There are generally three grant rounds per year.

Worshipful Company of Weavers – Charitable Grants (NEW GRANT)

Summary

Funding is available for UK charities and charitable incorporated organisations (CIOs) to support projects that:

- Support offenders into work
- Help specific groups in the criminal justice sector
- Supporting young people already involved in the Criminal Justice System to ensure they are given every chance to realise their full potential and to participate fully in society

Key Criteria

- Organisations can have an annual income of up to £5 million
- Young people are defined as being aged 16-25 years

Amounts available:

- Small grants up to £5,000
- Main grants have no formal upper limit, but most awards are between £10,000 and £15,000

Application deadlines: 2nd July 2026 (Applications considered for decisions in October 2026).

School for Social Entrepreneurs – Trading for Good

Summary

Funding is available to support community businesses to strengthen their impact through enterprise.

The scheme offers ten learning days across a year with expert advice, specialist support and mentoring. Some sessions will take place online and some in-person. There will be a Midlands cohort to minimise travel.

Training will support skills to:

- Generate income to be invested in your community through trading
- Create a resilient, growing community business
- Adapt to changes in external environments
- Develop emotional resourcefulness
- Build and benefit from new networks
- Positively impact your community

In addition, there will be a Match Trading grant which can be used flexibly, helping you to attend the programme and to put your learning into practice by developing your trading and community business.

Key Criteria

- Organisations must first register their interest on the [School for Social Entrepreneurs website](#)
- To claim the full grant, organisations will need to show that their trading income has increased by £4,000 over the year
- Organisations must be:
 - A community business or committed to and working towards being a community business (see below)
 - Based in England
 - Planning on starting or growing the income it makes from trading
 - Be at an earlier stage (see below)
 - Be for public benefit rather than private benefit

Amounts available: Maximum £4,000 (Match Trading)

Application deadlines: Scheme runs from 31st March to 30th September 2026

HM Govt. – School-Based Nursery Capital Grant *

Summary

Funding is available for Local Authorities to expand early-years education capacity in areas where demand for childcare exceeds available provision.

Local Authorities may bid on behalf of state-funded primary schools, maintained nursery schools and Best Start Family Hub sites.

The route for submitting funding proposals will be confirmed through an update to the grant guidance by spring 2026.

Key Criteria

- Eligible activity includes new nursery provision, facility expansion or refurbishment, and projects increasing childcare capacity.
- Projects should be delivered between 2027 and 2030

Amounts available: Not disclosed but projects are expected to cost under £1 million.

Application deadlines: 30th September 2026

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.

Please check the [Upcoming Events](#) page for the latest information on training opportunities.

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 over 8000 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.