**COMMUNITY FUNDING BULLETIN (FUNDING WITH A DEADLINE)**



**Edition 56 MAY 2025**

**Welcome to Derry City & Strabane District Council’s monthly Community Funding Bulletin!** It can also be found on-line [here](https://www.derrystrabane.com/about-council/strategic-finance-funding)

* **Derry City & Strabane District Council** provides **free** access to a **Community Funding Portal** **for those residing within the Council area**. This online tool allows you to browse, search and create tailored searches to identify your own funding opportunities. Follow the links to register and/or log-in [here](https://funding.idoxopen4community.co.uk/derrystrabane_com)
* If you wish to be added to the e-mail mailing list or have any other queries, please e-mail: [karen.dyson@derrystrabane.com](mailto:karen.dyson@derrystrabane.com)

***USEFUL INFORMATION BOARD***

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| ***HELP WITH COST OF LIVING ADVICE***  ***For advice on help with Finance, Food, Fuel and Bills and other useful info see:***   * [***www.derrystrabane.com/helpwithcostofliving***](http://www.derrystrabane.com/helpwithcostofliving) * ***NI Direct’s Cost of Living Info and Advice*** [***here***](https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/cost-living)   ***ESMEE FAIRBAIRN FOUNDATION – SOURCES OF FUNDING HELP***  [***Other sources of funding help | Esmée Fairbairn Foundation (esmeefairbairn.org.uk)***](https://esmeefairbairn.org.uk/applications/other-sources-funding-help/)  ***NISRA WEBSITE FOR STATISTICS***  ***The NI Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) provides statistics, census results and other information which can be useful for funding applications, see:***  [***https://www.nisra.gov.uk/***](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/)  ***BUSINESS SUPPORT INFORMATION***   * ***Derry City and Strabane District Council’s Business Support Section*** [***https://www.derrystrabane.com/Business/Business-Support***](https://www.derrystrabane.com/Business/Business-Support) * ***NI Business Info*** [***https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/***](https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/) * ***Invest NI is the regional business development agency:*** [***https://www.investni.com/***](https://www.investni.com/)   ***CROWDFUNDER***  ***Crowdfunding is a way of raising money through the collective effort of family, friends, customers, individual investors and the public at large via social media and crowd-funding platforms. You can crowd-fund through donations, rewards, community shares and equity.***  [***Crowdfunder UK - Where Ideas Happen | Crowdfunder UK***](https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/)  ***ON-LINE: CHAT TO THE FUNDER EVENTS***  ***Useful funder events,*** ***including those organised by the Community Foundation NI, appear on this Eventbrite site.***[***Chat to the funder Tickets, Multiple Multiple Dates | Eventbrite***](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/dk-kCW7LVuL4XoF6EEFta?domain=nwcn.us3.list-manage.com)  ***GENERAL SCOPING FORM FOR POTENTIAL FUNDING APPLICATIONS***  ***Please find below a General Scoping Form, developed by the Council’s Funding Advice Unit, which may assist you to scope out your project ideas before applying for any funding. Please note, this is not an application form and is just for your own use.***    ***GRANTS FOR SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER***  ***For free access to SOME latest funding opportunities for schools scroll downwards on this link:*** [*Grants4Schools*](https://www.grants4schools.info/) |

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**USEFUL INFO FOR (SMALL) CHARITIES**

**\*\*\*\*NICVA free training: Governance Health Check for Boards & Committees\*\*\*\***

The Developing Governance Group will deliver **five online workshops** this year, one for each of the Code's five principles, to help organisations start reviewing their practices.  
   
**11 June 2025:** Workshop 3, Principle 3: Maintaining control, making effective decisions and managing risk  
**24 September 2025:** Workshop 4, Principle 4: Acting with integrity  
**12 November 2025:** Workshop 5, Principle 5: Being open and accountable  
   
These seminars are open to trustees and employees of voluntary and community organisations and those who advise them.  
   
To register for any of the workshops, visit the [NICVA website](https://url.uk.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/gn3kCnrx1iGx50gt9kIVSJoImM?domain=nwcn.us3.list-manage.com)

**\*\*\*\*\*FREE NICVA Membership for small organisations (income of less than £20k pa)\*\*\***

Membership of the NI Council for Voluntary Associations is free for small organisations with an income of less than £20,000 per year. They can provide you with a lot of useful help and information. See link below for details:

[Free NICVA membership for small organisations | NICVA](https://url.uk.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/N2KVC32QNfmWq1jHgf9SQ1-wK?domain=nicva.org)

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| **Association of Chairs – A Toolkit for Financial Leadership for Small Charities**  The Association of Chairs has published a [**toolkit for chairs of small charities**](https://url.uk.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/j4TJCzKvkfRO6o0T4ySoS9Xdkq?domain=esmeefairbairnfoundation.cmail19.com). It offers reflections and recommendations on the chair's role when it comes to the financial stewardship of their charity; and signposts to further resources and guidance. <https://www.associationofchairs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/AOC-Finance-Guide-Dec-2024.pdf> |

**GENERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES WITH VARIOUS DEADLINES**

**Public Health Agency NI: Work Well Live Well Project (workplace health support for businesses)**

We are excited to announce that 2025 registration for the **Work Well Live Well** program is now open! This is a Public Health Agency **fully funded workplace health and well-being support service, which is designed to help organisations create healthier, happier, and more productive work environments.**  
The program offers tailored support, including:

* **Health and well-being initiatives to meet the needs of your workforce.**
* **Expert guidance to develop sustainable workplace health strategies.**
* **Access to resources and training that prioritize employee well-being.**

Whether you’re looking to address mental health, physical health, or overall workplace culture, Work Well Live Well can help your organisation achieve its goals. Don’t miss this opportunity to invest in your team’s well-being for 2025.   
  
[Find out more](https://url.uk.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/CZV7CJqyBT8X57qSV5sjcy_6ki?domain=nwcn.us3.list-manage.com) and [Register now](https://url.uk.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/qBkHCKZ1DtqJmj2SM7tVc5fLm1?domain=nwcn.us3.list-manage.com)

**Eden Project Communities: Free Food Vouchers for “The Big Lunch” on 7-8 June 2025**

The Big Lunch is bringing millions of people together in their communities to share friendship, food and fun on 7 - 8 June.  From a bite to eat with a few neighbours to parties for the whole street, and everything in between, get together and make your community the place to be this June!  
Download your free party planning pack -  [TheBigLunch.com](https://url.uk.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/bmvJCE98whW9oNXhNlc7c7CadG?domain=nwcn.us3.list-manage.com)  
  
**Free food vouchers are available** to help people get started with The Big Lunch in Scotland and Northern Ireland this June, see:

[The Big Lunch: free food vouchers - Eden Project Communities](https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/big-lunch/free-food-vouchers)

**National Lottery NI – Strengthening Communities**  (no deadlines – apply anytime)

This new fund is available to voluntary and community organisations across Northern Ireland and will invest £20 million each year in support of NLCF’s 2030 strategy  ‘[It starts with community](https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/about/our-strategy)'.

* **Grants of between £20,001 and £500,000 are available for up to five years.**
* **Grants of between £20,001 and £200,000 are available to organisations with an annual income of under £500,000.**
* **Grants of between £200,000 and £500,000 are available to any size of organisation.**

The Fund has a targeted approach distinct from previous programmes, as it is intended for **projects focused on early intervention with a particular focus on people who experience poverty, disadvantage or discrimination.** The Fund will start by targeting two of the NLCF's mission areas:

* **Help children and young people thrive.**
* **Enable people to live healthier lives.**

Projects must align with at least one of the following outcomes:

* **Communities help to reduce health inequalities.**
* **Communities support people’s physical health, mental health and wellbeing.**
* **People have positive relationships and connections.**
* **Communities help young people to reach their potential and thrive as adults.**
* **Children and young people develop good social and emotional skills.**

Organisations are encouraged to consider how to make their **projects accessible to vulnerable and excluded communities.** The Fund is interested in vulnerable or excluded communities that struggle to access support for reasons such as:

* Living in an isolated area.
* They are socially excluded.
* They can't use online services.

**Organisations are encouraged to make their project inclusive and accessible for these groups.**

The following costs are eligible for funding:

* Equipment.
* Staff costs.
* Training costs.
* Transport.
* Utilities.
* Volunteer expenses.
* Small refurbishment projects that are needed to deliver a service.
* Overheads for the project.

**Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis (no deadlines).**

[Strengthening Communities | The National Lottery Community Fund (tnlcommunityfund.org.uk)](https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/strengthening-communities)

**The Arts Council / Chomhairle Ealaion (Republic of Ireland)**

**Eligible** arts organisations, artists, and groups working within the arts can apply for The Arts Council / Chomhairle Ealaíon (ROI) funding. **This is mostly for organisations in Republic of Ireland but some cross-border projects may be eligible.** Discover what funding is available and if you are eligible, see website below (scroll down). You can also register for

[online services](https://onlineservices.artscouncil.ie/) to submit an application on this website.

<https://www.artscouncil.ie/available-funding/>

**PRS Foundation: Funding Opportunities for Music**

The Performing Right Society (PRS) Foundation is the UK’s leading charitable funder of **new music and talent development**. Check out all their great funding opportunities below:

See the upcoming deadlines for all upcoming opportunities at PRS Foundation here:

<https://prsfoundation.com/funding-s0upport/deadlines/>

Before applying to any of our initiatives, we highly recommend you read the respective FAQs. **All deadlines are 6:00pm**unless otherwise stated.

If you are a music creator, to find out which funds you might be eligible for, click [here](https://prsfoundation.com/funding-support/funding-music-creators/).

If you are an organisation, to find out which funds you might be eligible for, click [here](https://prsfoundation.com/funding-support/funding-for-organisations/).

Any queries: [email us](mailto:info@prsfoundation.com).

**BBC Charity Appeals**  
If you would like a chance to reach BBC audiences with the story of your charity and toapply for a BBC Radio 4 or BBC One Lifeline Appeal, please email the [BBC Charity Appeals Unit](mailto:charityappeals@bbc.co.uk) telling us:

* Name of your charity
* Your Charity Registration number (you **must** be registered with the UK Charity Commission to be eligible)
* Name of **charity contact** (email + phone no.) i.e.the person who is going to fill out the application form.

| **Application Deadline** | **Transmission Dates** |
| --- | --- |
| **12th May 2025** by 23:59 | **3 May 2026 - 26 Jul 2026** |
| **1st September 2025** by 23:59 | **2 Aug 2026 - 25 Oct 2026** |
| **7th December 2025** by 23:59 | **1 Nov 2026 - 24 Jan 2027** |

The Appeals Advisory Committee meets quarterly to discuss and approve applications. You should be informed of their decision approximately 3 months after the application deadline. Please note you **must**meet the criteria to be eligible for an appeal.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/charityappeals/apply>

**BBC Radio Ulster/Foyle – Apply for a Broadcast Appeal**

The BBC provides **up to 11 broadcast slots** to **local charities each year on BBC Radio Ulster/Foyle.** These opportunities are available to **local charities and organisations that operate at regional or sub-regional level, or which are involved in international work**.

Appeals are accompanied by **short ‘explainer videos’** which are published on the BBC’s digital platforms and can be used to promote awareness of a charity’s work, or to make a request for volunteers and/or financial support. The latter requires additional information about your charity’s finances. All Broadcast Appeals are subject to the BBC’s Editorial Guidelines and its Broadcast Appeals Policy.

Application forms and assessment criteria for Broadcast Appeals can be downloaded by clicking on the website link below. Completed application forms should be submitted to [**paula.gilmurray@bbc.co.uk**](mailto:paula.gilmurray@bbc.co.uk)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/aboutthebbc/northernireland/appeals/apply>

**FUNDING WITH DEADLINES**

**Ultach Fund (Irish Language)**

**Grants of up to £4,000** are available to registered charities and constituted grassroots community and voluntary groups in Northern Ireland wishing **to use and promote the Irish language.** Applications are now being invited **for projects taking place in 2025/26.**

Funding is intended for projects that **promote and encourage the use of the Irish language at community level and demonstrate cross-community aspects**. Examples include:

* Irish language classes, courses and other relevant learning opportunities.
* Structured Irish language social events to improve fluency and/or support fluent Irish language speakers, including families.
* Production of Irish language learning or awareness resources, such as innovative publications and relevant digital resources.
* Irish language arts-based activities.

Eligible costs include:

* Small capital costs, where essential to the project.
* Running costs may be deemed eligible for Irish language centres.

**Deadline: 2 May 2025 (13:00)**

<https://communityfoundationni.org/grants/the-ultach-fund/>

**BFI National Lottery Discovery Feature Funding (for films) – Round 6**

The BFI National Lottery Discovery Feature Funding is administered by the British Film Institute (BFI) with funding provided by the National Lottery. The programme **supports original live action and animation feature filmmaking by debut directors.**

Grants of up to £1 million are available for features with budgets of up to £3.5 million. It is expected that most awards will range between £500,000 and £850,000.

The funding is a contribution towards the total budget of the film, and can be used for crew and cast payments, production fees, legal costs etc. Applications must be made by the film's producer through a limited company, registered and centrally managed in the UK.

**Deadline: 6 May 2025 (17:00)**

[Making an application for BFI National Lottery Discovery Feature Funding | BFI](https://www.bfi.org.uk/get-funding-support/create-films-tv-or-new-formats-storytelling/discovery-impact-feature-funding/making-application-bfi-national-lottery-discovery-feature-funding)

**Irish FA/SDCMS Grassroots Facilities Investment Fund**

The Grassroots Facilities Investment Fund is administered in Northern Ireland by the Irish Football Association (IFA), with funding provided by the UK Government's Department for Media, Culture and Sport (DCMS). On 21 March 2025, DCMS announced **a further £3 million for this NI fund in 2025/26.** **Grants of between £100,000 and £500,000 are available.**

The funding is intended to support facility development projects that meet the **following objectives**:

* **Improve the capital infrastructure of grassroots football clubs across Northern Ireland.**
* **Increase participation in sport and physical activity across Northern Ireland, improving mental and physical health of participants.**
* **Increase participation in non-football sports through funding multi-sports facilities (40% of available investment).**
* **Reduce the 'postcode lottery' for quality facilities by directing at least 50% of available investment to disadvantaged or areas of deprivation and boost participation in sport.**
* **Deliver improved access for women and girls and other under-represented groups, to increase participation in these groups and improve availability and accessibility of facilities.**

The **minimum match funding expectation is:**

* **40% for local authorities and schools, colleges and universities.**
* **10% for all other applicants (including football clubs and community organisations).**

Applications will be accepted from community providers of football and multi-sport facilities in Northern Ireland. This includes:

* **Football clubs** based in Northern Ireland that are:
  + Accredited under the Irish FA’s People and Clubs programme.
  + In the process of accreditation (to be completed before final grant claim).
  + Licensed for the 2025/26 season (NIFL clubs).
* **Local authorities.**
* **Schools, colleges and universities.**
* **Football-focused sports community/charitable organisations.**

The following are not eligible for funding:

* Projects that have already commenced.
* Retrospective costs.
* Non-capital related costs incurred pre award of Letter of Offer including but not limited to feasibility studies, or consultancy fees associated with the 'working up' or development of projects.

The 2025 - 26 grassroots facilities **capital funding will focus on delivering quality pitches and improving existing pitches that are not fit-for-purpose, as well as addressing the deficit in pitch supply throughout NI.**

The following are eligible for funding:

* New or improved natural or artificial grass pitches.
* Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs).
* Associated infrastructure eg, changing pavilions, goals, fencing, dugouts, floodlights (LED only), access paths, parking.

**Successful projects must be completed by 31 March 2026.**

**Deadline: 8 May 2025 (noon)** [Irish FA/ DCMS Grassroots Facilities Investment Fund...](https://www.irishfa.com/irish-football-association/irish-fa-dcms-grassroots-facilities-investment-fund-2025-26)

**Derry City & Strabane District Council – Various Grants**

Our [Sports Development Derry & Strabane](https://url.uk.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/Y6NRCxvngiJOw21S8gIZcyiKKL?domain=nwcn.us3.list-manage.com) team have opened the grant aid applications for the 2025/26 period.  
   
Here's your chance to make a real difference in your local area!  
   
**Grants available for:**

* **Community Support Fund for Rural DEAs 2025-2026**
* **PCSP Small Project Support Programme 2025-2026**
* **Good Relations Strategic Priority Fund 2025-2026**
* **Support for Sport Grant Aid Programme 2025-2026**
* **Sports Committee Maintenance Fund 2025-2026**

**Deadline: 9 May 2025 at 3pm**  
   
[https://www.dcsdcgrantaid.com](https://www.dcsdcgrantaid.com/index.asp?fbclid=IwY2xjawJ--vRleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHrK5S8K71lCeiJRYOre1hR-2zgRxqUxdMx-w5GETdtPPAjcOuQleXDeQ8sKT_aem_5P9qSycZ0k88BiISG_qY5g)

**Community Foundation NI: Fibrus Community Fund (digital inclusion)**

Funding is available for community groups and voluntary organisations **to address digital poverty in rural communities in Northern Ireland. Grants of a maximum of £2,000** are available **to assist local groups and organisations in certain areas to improve digital access for the most marginalised members of the community, with a particular focus on older people, people on low income and people with disabilities.**

Examples of the types of projects that could be funded include:

* Projects that provide access to engage with a range of digital devices (laptops, tablets, iPads, smart phones, etc), such as a community loan facility, etc.
* Projects that strengthen the capacity of individuals to use a range of available digital services, such as training workshops or courses.
* Projects that provide access to enhance connections with others, such as a community-use internet hub, or internet café, etc.

 The Fibrus Community Fund will have one round of funding in 2025. Applications will be accepted from community groups, voluntary organisations and other local, grassroots or community-led organisations **with an annual income below £50,000**. Eligible postcodes are as follows:

**Eligible postcodes:** BT5, BT6, BT8, BT9, BT12, BT13, BT14, BT16, BT17, BT18, BT19, BT20, BT21, BT22, BT23, BT24, BT25, BT26, BT27, BT28, BT29, BT30, BT31, BT32, BT33, BT34, BT35, BT36, BT37,  BT38, BT39, BT40, BT41, BT42, BT43, BT44, BT45, BT46, BT47, BT48, BT49, BT51, BT52, BT53, BT54, BT55, BT56, BT57, BT60, BT61, BT62, BT63, BT64, BT65, BT66, BT67, BT68, BT69, BT70, BT71, BT74, BT75, BT76, BT77, BT78, BT79, BT80, BT81, BT82, BT92, BT93, BT94.

**Deadline: 9 May 2025 (13:00)**

[The Fibrus Community Fund - Community Foundation Northern Ireland](https://communityfoundationni.org/grants/the-fibrus-community-fund/)

**Take Part in European Heritage Open Days 2025**

The Department for Communities is inviting **heritage venues, historic buildings, gardens and houses, community groups, and event organisers** to take part in European Heritage Open Days (EHOD) on **Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th September 2025**.

**Deadline to apply: 11 May 2025**

[European Heritage Open Days 2025 - Event Registration Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8BHJ8TB)

**Community Foundation NI – Thriving Futures Fund**

Grants are available to NI not-for-profit organisations that **support refugees and asylum seekers, people experiencing domestic abuse and those leaving the criminal justice system**. Grants of between **£30,000 and £50,000 per year for up to three years** are available (maximum grant of £150,000). It is anticipated that **8 to 10 awards** will be made.

Funding is intended for organisations working in one or more of the following areas:

**People Leaving the Criminal Justice System**

* Impact on services
* Systems and policy change.

**Refugees and People Seeking Asylum**

* Impact on services
* Systems and policy change.

**People Experiencing Domestic Abuse**

* Impact on services
* Systems and policy change.

Priority will be given to services that are:

* **Informed by lived experience and evidence, Holistic, Person centred, Relational, Focused on lasting impact, Focused on improving systems.**

**Any associated costs, including core costs, are eligible for funding**, provided organisations clearly outline how these costs support work that meets the fund criteria and priorities.

There is a two-stage application process:

* **Stage One Deadline**: Initial applications must be submitted by **12 May 2025 (13:00)**
* **Stage Two:** Shortlisted applicants will then be invited to present to a panel **early to mid-June 2025.**

<https://communityfoundationni.org/grants/thriving-futures-fund/>

**Esmee Fairbairn Foundation: Online PreApplication Webinar**

Join us for our next webinar where our funding team will talk through the guidance and application process. If you're interested in applying for funding, it's a chance to ask questions to help you decide whether to invest the time in applying.

The webinar will take place via Zoom on **12 May from 2.00pm to 3.15pm**.

[Register for the webinar.](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HVLJI-mtTom2-2L3BRNqcQ)

[Pre-application Q&A Webinar: 12 May 2025 | Esmée Fairbairn Foundation](https://esmeefairbairn.org.uk/latest-news/pre-application-qa-webinar-12-may-2025/)

**Stephen Lloyd Awards (for UK social & environmental projects for systemic change)**

This fund **support early-stage projects aiming to achieve social or environmental change** in the UK. The awards were established in memory of charity and social enterprise lawyer Stephen Lloyd, reflecting his commitment to innovation in these sectors. Successful applicants will receive **at least £25,000 in funding, alongside pro bono support from experts in social enterprise. Shortlisted candidates will be awarded up to £2,500 to develop their ideas and may also access expert guidance.** The funding aims to help ideas progress from concept to implementation.

Individuals who are resident in the UK, as well as UK-registered organisations and charities, are eligible to apply. **Proposals should address a problem systemically and can take various forms, including new enterprises, expansions of existing initiatives, lobbying efforts or policy change campaigns**.

**Deadline: 14 May 2025 (24:00)**

<https://www.stephenlloydawards.org/>

**PEACEPLUS Strategic Planning and Engagement (Investment Area 6.1) - Main Call**

This **objective**will support activity that will **reduce the legal and administrative barriers to cross-border co-operation through joint development and management of strategies; co-operation capacity building; and identification of solutions**. It will **result**in the improved capacity for co-operation at strategic level in relevant sectors.

**A total value of €18m is available under this Call. The indicative budget allocation per broad area of interest is broken down as follows:**

* €6M - Cross Border Collaboration: strategy development, data collection, identifying cross-border knowledge.
* €3.5M - Cross Border Working: aimed at employment market or skills collaboration.
* €3.5M - Cross Border Service Provision: examining the barriers which prevent essential services from closer working ties.
* €3.5M - Cross Border Risk Management: incorporating emergency service collaboration.
* €1.5M - Skills Hub: exploring cross-border research and innovation driven by the social, economic and skills development needs of the Programme Area.

**Deadline: May 15 2025 at 5pm**  
  
<https://peaceplussupport.seupb.eu/op/p/67db14c5f31e2a2050bffbe3/__detail/>

**Community Foundation NI: Openreach Community Fund**

Grants of **£500 to £2,000** are available to support projects that **aim to directly support young people, older people or people with disabilities** in NI. Constituted grassroots voluntary and community groups are eligible to apply. Priority will be given to applications from small groups, typically with an annual income of less than £200,000.

Funding is available for projects that support one of the following groups:

* Young people.
* Older people.
* People with disabilities.

Priority will be given to projects that benefit **groups dealing with disadvantage (eg rural isolation, low income, social exclusion, reduced access to services) and projects that involve the beneficiaries in their development and delivery.**

Examples of types of projects that may be supported are as follows:

* Community education and training opportunities.
* Communication and leadership skills.
* Local initiatives to improve resources and community facilities.
* Creativity and self-expression through drama, music or a range of arts activities.
* Inclusion and involvement of disadvantaged communities.
* Out of school projects for young people.

The funding can be used for the following costs:

* Facilitators/tutor fees.
* Venue hire (not the organisation's own premises).
* Small items of equipment, eg craft/arts materials.
* Transport, if approved as part of larger project.
* Refreshments, if approved as part of a larger project.
* Ingredients for healthy eating course.
* PR costs, including materials such as leaflet design and printing.

**Deadline: 16 May 2025 (13:00)**

<https://communityfoundationni.org/grants/openreach-community-fund/>

**Developing Healthy Communities NI: PHA Making Life Better Through Short Term Funding**

This Public Health Agency initiative is administered by Developing Healthy Communities Northern Ireland through the Clear Project, which is facilitating the process in each Health and Social Care Trust area.

The funding is intended to support strategic themes such as **'Making Life Better,' the Suicide Prevention Strategy, and the Mental Health Strategy.** Projects will **promote positive mental health, address health determinants, reduce health inequalities, enhance community capacity to prevent suicide, build resilient communities, and encourage innovative mental health interventions**.

The following levels of funding are available:

* Award One: **grants of up to £1,000 for non-constituted and constituted non-profit taking community/voluntary sector groups**.
* Award Two: **grants of between £1,001 and £5,000 for constituted, non-profit taking community/voluntary sector groups.**

**Organisations can apply for either Award One or Award Two, but not both. Only one application per organisation for delivery within the area (per Trust area) stated on the application will be accepted.**

It is not envisaged that monies available under these funding streams will be used as gap funding for projects which are already in development. The full list of ineligible costs and activities can be found in the programme guidance notes on the website.

Grants can be used to support the following costs and activities:

* Defined training programmes that meets the programme objectives and outcomes outlined within the PHA Mental and Emotional Health and Wellbeing and Suicide Prevention Training Framework.
* Existing staff costs may be considered where work undertaken is in addition to current duties, and where monies are not currently being received from another funder for the provision of same.
* Current PHA funded programmes and providers can be funded through this short term funding scheme, if funding is not duplicated.
* Expenditure applicable and integral to the programme.
* Self-help and life skills initiatives, for example:
  + Guided programmes that can support individuals and communities manage eg anxiety, worry and general wellbeing.
  + Initiatives linked to the 'Take 5' Steps to Wellbeing.
  + Mood management.
  + Coping skills.
  + Self-esteem/resilience building.
  + Practical support to boost and protect mental health and emotional wellbeing.

All projects must be **completed by 27 February 2026**.

**Deadline: 16 May 2025 (15:00)**

<https://dhcni.submit.com/>

**Leeds Building Society 150th Anniversary Grants (charity housing work)**

Leeds Building Society is offering £150,000 to UK registered charities and not-for-profit organisations to mark its 150th anniversary. The programme is offering **unrestricted grants of up to £30,000 for work that supports vulnerable people to find a place to belong through housing and their community.** Organisations must be constituted and have an annual income of £5 million or less.

Guidance notes and a link to the online application portal are available upon request **by sending an email to:** [Fund150@leedsbuildingsociety.co.uk](mailto:Fund150@leedsbuildingsociety.co.uk)

**Deadline: 16 May 2025**

**Community Foundation NI: Openreach Community Fund (younger & older people with disability)**

This Fund was established with capital from BT, management and unions.  It exists to support **small, locally based, constituted grassroots community and voluntary groups with projects**. Priority will be given to applications from small groups, typically with **an annual income of less than £200,000, as evidenced in most recent set of accounts.**

Projects must aim to directly support one of the following specific groups:

* Young people
* Older people
* People with disabilities

**The Fund will not support projects targeting all ages.**

Priority will be given to projects that will **benefit groups dealing with disadvantage (e.g. rural isolation, low income, social exclusion, reduced access to services), and projects that involve the beneficiaries in their development and delivery.** In the event of oversubscription, priority will be given to lower income organisations.

**In 2024 the success rate for applications to this fund was 36%.**

If you have any queries regarding this fund, then please contact the Grants Team via e-mail: [applications@communityfoundationni.org](mailto:applications@communityfoundationni.org).

**Deadline: 16 May 2025 at 13:00**

<https://communityfoundationni.org/grants/openreach-community-fund/>

**Hinrichson Foundation: Multi-Year Grant Partnerships (Contemporary Music)**

Hinrichsen Foundation is offering multi-year grant partnerships **for organisations and charities across the UK for projects and activities that focus on the performance, commissioning, or recording of contemporary music.**

In this round, funding is exclusively for multi-year partnerships that:

* Align with The Hinrichsen Foundation's values and objectives for contemporary and experimental music.
* Establish stable and valuable contributions to the UK's new music ecology.
* Provide or create shared resources that benefit the wider new music community.
* Demonstrate and promote effective practices that balance quality and diversity in production and reception.
* Outline a clear potential impact on the contemporary music scene in the United Kingdom. Partnerships should aim to achieve at least regional, if not national, impact.
* Express a clear programme of activity and project timeline, parameters, and outputs.

Proposals should involve **thoughtful collaboration between composers, musicians, and those responsible for making the project public. Applications that take artistic risks, promote diversity, and consider sustainability are encouraged.**

**Deadline: 18 May 2025**

[Welcome to the Hinrichsen Foundation - Hinrichsen Foundation](https://www.hinrichsenfoundation.org.uk/)

**Community Foundation NI: Housing and Homelessness Fund**

Community Foundation NI is offering **capacity-building grants of between £10,000 and £25,000 for up to two years to NI charitable organisations** that **work with homeless and housing insecure individuals.** It is anticipated that seven grants will be awarded. Those who are successful will be invited to apply for further funding of up to £100,000 over two to three years for service delivery. **Applications from smaller local organisations will be prioritised**.

The Fund aims to increase the resources of organisations to work to support the following outcomes:

* More renters can access their housing rights and live in decent, affordable housing.
* Increased supply of new and existing genuinely affordable and decent homes.
* People are supported to avoid homelessness.

Funding is flexible to suit organisational needs. However, examples of potential uses include:

* Consultants.
* Research.
* Service delivery to free up senior management time for strategic planning.
* Education, training or coaching.
* Convening/building networks.

There is a two-stage application process.

**Deadline: 23 May 2025**

<https://communityfoundationni.org/grants/oak-foundation-transformation-and-growth-stage-one-fund-2025/>

**NFU Mutual Charitable Trust (support for rural/agricultural communities)**

The Trust is offering grants for organisations working in **agriculture, rural development, and insurance** across the UK **to deliver projects and activities across one or more** of the Trust’s main objectives outlined below. Funding is at the discretion of the Trust. However, **most grants fall within the range of £1,000 to £50,000.**

* To advance the education of the public using research and the dissemination of information concerning agriculture.
* To advance the education of young people within rural areas.
* To relieve poverty within rural areas.
* To promote the benefit and social welfare of inhabitants of rural communities by associating together with the inhabitants and local authorities, voluntary and other organisations to advance education and leisure.
* To promote research into agricultural-associated activities.
* To advance the education of the public using research and the dissemination of information concerning insurance.

**Priority will be given to larger initiatives that would have a significant impact on rural communities, as well as initiatives in the areas of education of young people in rural areas, relief of poverty within rural areas, and support for the next generation of farmers.**

**The next deadline for applications is 23 May 2025**

(Trustees met twice a year to consider applications, typically in June and November).

[NFU Mutual Charitable Trust: What do we do | NFU Mutual](https://www.nfumutual.co.uk/about-us/charitable-trust/)

**Asda Foundation: Local Community Spaces Fund**

Grants from £10,000 to £20,000 are available for grassroots groups, charities, VCSEs and other not-for-profit organisations **to create, improve or repair local community spaces where people can socialise and reduce loneliness, and boost wellbeing. The project should benefit people of all ages and from all communities. Improved accessibility to the community space is also funded.**

Applications to the Local Community Spaces Fund must address **at least one** of the following funding priorities:

* Carry out essential repairs to enable the space to continue to function.
* Renovate an existing space to accommodate more users/activities.
* Create a new community space where groups can meet and undertake activities.
* Improve accessibility to, or within, a community building.

**The Asda Foundation must contribute at least 50% of the total project cost (up to £20,000) and can fund up to 90% of the total project cost.** It is anticipated that approximately 70 projects will be funded. **Applicants must already have 10% of the total project cost (demonstrated in submitted accounts).** Match funding of between 10% and 50% is therefore required.

A range of project costs are supported. Examples of eligible projects include (but not limited to):

* Kitchen and bathroom refurbishments.
* Creation of a new permanent space.
* Roof and floor repairs.
* Building extensions.
* Disabled access ramps to a community building Upgrades and replacements to windows and doors.
* Boilers and heating.
* Essential building security upgrades.
* Transformation of a disused space into a functional space.
* Removable items (e.g. soft furnishings, tables and chairs, white goods and electrical items, garden machinery) provided they only make up a small portion of a wider application to repair, renovate, or develop a community space.

The scheme **opens 10am on 7 May and closes 10am on 28 May 2025**.

Applications will be reviewed in August 2025. Projects must be completed by December 2026.

Applicants are advised that the scheme may close early if demand for funding is high.

Application forms are available at the Asda Foundation website: applicants can check eligibility and will then be directed to the Foundation's grant management system, SmartSimple, to register and complete the application form. A number of other supporting documents must be submitted (see website). <https://asdafoundation.org/our-grants/local-community-spaces-fund/>

**The Big Give: Women and Girls Match Fund**

A **seven-day online match funding campaign** working with exceptional charities dedicated to serving the women and girls in our communities, fostering a future where every individual can thrive without limitations. The Fund utilises their **‘1:1’ Model of match funding** meaning a public donation of £50 becomes £100 during the campaign. Open to UK-registered charities with charity number or tax-exempt status and have an annual income of at least £25,000 (as per last filed accounts on the Charity Commission). Free to register with BigGive and raised funds are unrestricted.

Application window open now until **May 30th 2025**

[Women and Girls Match Fund – The Big Give](https://biggive.org/women-girls-match-fund/)

**The Pink Ribbon Foundation Grants (Breast Cancer)**

The Pink Ribbon Foundation provides **grants of up to £6000 for practical projects and initiatives, which aim to help registered charities to deliver good physical and mental health to individuals with and recovering from breast cancer.**  They expect projects that receive funding to be delivered within 12 to 18 months. For the 2025 grant period and with requests for assistance growing, the Foundation decided to focus in the main on organisations with limited financial resources to deliver their services. Applications are now open to receive a grant in 2025.

**Deadline: 30 May 2025**

[The Pink Ribbon Foundation](https://www.pinkribbonfoundation.org.uk/getsupport-apply)

**British Council: Architecture, Design and Fashion Biennales and Festivals Grants**

The British Council invites biennales and festivals to apply for the 2025–26 Architecture, Design & Fashion Biennales and Festivals Grants **to showcase UK and international designers**. You can apply for **grants of up to £10,000 to facilitate showcasing, exhibition building, travel, presentation of completed design work, networking and skills building**. All projects must foster collaboration between UK-based and international designers, ensuring at least one party (designer or festival) is UK-based.

**Deadline: 1 June 2025 (23:59 BST)**

[Architecture, Design and Fashion Biennales and Festivals Grants | British Council Arts](https://arts.britishcouncil.org/get-involved/opportunities/architecture-design-and-fashion-biennales-and-festivals-grants)

**National Churches Trust’s Treasure Island Grants (FINAL ROUND)**

**Listed and unlisted Christian places of worship, of any denomination, in Northern Ireland** can apply now for **grants of up to £10,000 for urgent and essential church maintenance and repai**r work taking place in 2025/26.

To be eligible, the church building must have been constructed as a place of worship at least 30 years ago. The building must be open for regular public worship for a minimum of six services per year and must be open to the public beyond worship for at least 100 days per year. Applicants must be the owners of the building or have the right to carry out the work. If the church is not part of a main denomination, or registered with Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, they must be a registered charity.

**Grants of between £500 and £10,000 are available for projects that cost up to £100,000 overall (including VAT and fees). Match funding of at least 50% is required.**

The funding is for maintenance and repair works, such as repairs to stonework, roofs, window and door structures, non-compliant lightning projection systems, to a main church building or an attached hall.

**This is the final Treasure Grant round**. Future applications will fall under the National Churches Trust’s Medium Grant Programme, which is competitive across the UK.

**Deadline: 2 June 2025 (midnight)**

<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/treasure-ireland/grants>

**SPAR NI: Community Cashback Grant Scheme**

SPAR shoppers can apply for a grant of up to £10,000 for a local voluntary or community organisation or charity they feel deserves funding.

Applicants for grants are open to UK residents (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland mainland only) aged 16 years or over.

All applicants need to do is share the exceptional contribution that a local organisation has made to their local community and what the grant would be used for.

The grants will be given based on the strength of the applicant’s story, the recipient’s levels of dedication to their community and the credibility of what the grant would be spent on and its impact for the local community.

The following are **not** eligible for funding:

* Individuals
* Community Interest Companies with shares (CICs).
* Community Interest Companies with guarantee that are less than two years old.
* Profit-making organisations.

The short application form and Terms and Conditions can be found on SPAR’s website.

Please note there is a different website for Northern Ireland groups.

Once the closing date of 4 June 2025 has passed, SPAR will carry out a shortlisting process, where the successful organisations will be selected by SPAR, at SPAR’s discretion and so as to provide a broad representation across Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The proportion of the grant being allocated to each region shall be decided by SPAR once the successful applicants have been chosen.

**Deadline: 4 June 2025 (midnight)**

<https://www.spar-ni.co.uk/community/community-cashback-grant/>

**Tourism Ireland: International Programming Ireland (for TV projects)**

Tourism Ireland is inviting applications for **the second and final round** of its International Programming Ireland Fund for 2025. The initiative supports **factual and unscripted television projects that promote the island of Ireland to international audiences through content that highlights its landscapes, heritage, culture, food and people.**

The fund is open to **producers applying for up to £170,000 (€200,000) per project. The requested amount must not exceed 50% of the total global budget**. Applicants must demonstrate support from an overseas broadcaster or distributor and ensure the programme will air in one or more of Tourism Ireland's key markets, including the USA, Great Britain, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Nordics, Belgium, the Netherlands, Canada and Australia/New Zealand.

Projects should focus on themes such as exploration, authentic local experiences and connection with nature. **Applications profiling Northern Ireland, and regional locations, particularly with content suited to autumn, winter or spring, are prioritised in this round.**

**Deadline: 11 June 2025 (15:00)**

[Tourism Ireland - International Programming Ireland 2025](https://www.tourismireland.com/news-and-press-releases/press-releases/article/tourism-ireland---international-programming-ireland-fund-2025#:~:text=Since%20launching%20in%202021%2C%20Tourism,Channel%204%2C%20Sky%2C%20PBS%2C)

**The Three Guineas Trust: Access to Legal Advice for Disabled People**

The Three Guineas Trust is a grant making Trust that currently funds work **to support the autonomy, liberty and civil rights of autistic, neurodivergent and disabled people.**

The Access to legal advice for disabled people programme aims to **increase access for Disabled or neurodivergent people to advice and advocacy towards benefits and debt, housing and homelessness, community care, personal liberty and equal access to goods and services**. Open to not-for-profit organisations, they can award **a maximum annual grant of £50,000 a year for up to 3 years’ funding.**

**Deadline: 12 June 2025 (6pm)**

[Three Guineas Trust](https://threeguineastrust.org.uk/)

**Barclays Community Sport Fund 2025-2027 (deprived and under-represented groups)**

This new fund, delivered in partnership with Sported, aims to reduce inequalities in sport – with a focus on **football, tennis, and cricket**. The funding **supports community groups, youth groups, traditional clubs and grassroots sports organisations** who are working within **the most deprived areas of the UK** and are **making sport more accessible to:**

**women and girls, as well as engaging people from other under-represented groups including people with disabilities, from racially diverse communities and from the LGBTQ+ community.**To be eligible, applicants must:

* **Deliver football, cricket, or tennis activities for women and girls – or are applying for funding to start.**
* **Operate in an area of high deprivation. Only organisations located in or supporting people from IMD areas 1-3 are eligible to apply.**

**(Disability applications from groups that sit outside of IMD areas 1-3 will be considered as long as they groups offer activities for women and girls).**

The following funding is available:

* **Grants of £1,000 which can be split across football, tennis or cricket activities**.
* **Female Coaches for Girls Grants** (Football - £160 grant; Tennis - £200 grant; Cricket - £200 grant) to support coaching courses to help increase the number of female coaches delivering sport to girls.

The **£1,000 grant is unrestricted and can be used for anything that will support delivery of football, cricket, or tennis activities for women and girls. Ideally the funding should be spent within a six month period.**

The fund also offers:

* Exclusive match tickets, mascot places, and promotional opportunities.
* Access to advice and support and signposting to training and resource.

The fund is expected to be popular and may close early if heavily over-subscribed.

**Deadline: 22 June 2025**

<https://home.barclays/who-we-are/sponsorship/Barclays-Community-Sport-Fund/>

**Universal Music UK Sound Foundation – School Funding**

Schools in the UK and Republic of Ireland can apply for **grants of up to £1,000 to support music education through the purchase or upgrade of musical instruments and equipment**. The funding is provided by the Universal Music UK Sound Foundation, which focuses on improving access to music for young people.

Applications are assessed by trustees, with funding awards now being made three times per year in September, January and April. **To be eligible, schools must teach the national curriculum. Each school must apply individually.** Previously successful applicants must wait two years before reapplying. Unsuccessful applicants may apply again after one year.

**Deadline (for applications for September funding awards): 25 June 2025 (13:00)**

<https://www.umuksoundfoundation.com/awards/>

**Museums Association: Health and Wellbeing in Museums Fund**

The Museums Association is launching a programme of grant-making, networking and learning dissemination for health and wellbeing programmes in museums, funded by the [**Julia Rausing Trust**](https://url.uk.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/aRynC4RQOfJLO2ptxrtWU4YFSc?domain=nicva.us2.list-manage.com).

There will be around **10 grants of £50,000 to £75,000 per round.** There will be **two rounds of funding, one in 2025 and a second in 2026**. The fund is designed **to enable museums to build on their existing, leading health and wellbeing work. This means you should have: A proven track record for the work you are doing, A strategic commitment to health and wellbeing at your museum and a clear idea of how you would like to develop your work**.

First round of funding **opens on 28 April 2025**.

Deadline for final submissions: **26 June 2025**

[Health and Wellbeing in Museums Fund - Museums Association](https://www.museumsassociation.org/funding/health-and-wellbeing/)

**The Different Foundation: “Artificial Intelligence for All” Funding/Mentoring Programme**

The Different Foundation, a charity registered in 2024, **'exists to embrace diversity, empower the underrepresented, and shape an inclusive future'.**

'AI for All' is the Foundation's 'flagship programme' which offers **one-off grants of up to £2,500 and four hours of specialised mentorship with respected leaders in AI. This mentorship provides practical guidance to enhance impact, improve programme delivery, and strengthen organisational capabilities.**

The funding is intended to **promote access and opportunity for members of underrepresented and diverse communities in AI innovation. It supports organisations committed to diversity in technology.** The current focus is addressing **digital bias, elevating diverse voices, and developing AI that works for everyone.**

Applications will be accepted from UK registered charities, based and working within the UK, with a turnover of between £150,000 and £1.15 million and one to ten employees. There will be **two funding rounds in 2025 and two rounds in 2026.**

**The first round opens for applications on 1 May and closes on 30 June 2025**

<https://www.thedifferent.foundation/ai-for-all>

**Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust: Northern Ireland Programme**

This funding is for UK registered, excepted or exempt charities whose work **to promote peace, equality, inclusion and human rights contributes to the ongoing transformation of the Northern Ireland conflict.**

While the primary focus of the programme lies within Northern Ireland, the committee will consider applications for initiatives that **work on an all-island basis, or that will strengthen civil society relationships on an East-West or North-South basis (in partnership with organisations in Britain and Ireland).**

**Local work** will be supported **only where it is likely to have a wider impact**, for example if it is testing a model which can then be replicated or is addressing a local issue that has wider social or political implications.

Priority will be given to applications that demonstrate ‘**upstream’ characteristics**:

* **Dealing with root causes.**
* **Systemic impact.**
* **Long-term impact.**
* **Intersectional.**
* **Done by communities**.

**No minimum or maximum amount of grant is specified.** Funding is available for work in the following priority areas:

**Strengthening human rights and equality**- work which:

* Aims to ensure the implementation of human rights commitments by the state.
* Promotes policy initiatives and advocacy campaigns aimed at achieving equity and inclusion for marginalised or minoritised communities.
* Strengthens the anti-racist voice in systems of power and accountability in Northern Ireland.

**Reimagining society** - work which:

* Fosters a positive, forward-thinking political landscape in Northern Ireland, emphasising participation, inclusion and sustainability.
* Promotes inclusive, evidence-based and responsible public discourse.
* Facilitates the growth of progressive social movements within Northern Ireland.

**Cultivating peace and reconciliation**- work which:

* Promotes a shared understanding of the root causes of past violence.
* Encourages groups engaged in armed struggle to take steps towards exclusively non-violent strategies and to engage in comprehensive processes of transition from paramilitarism to civilian life.
* Assists communities heavily influenced by paramilitarism in cultivating democratic, anti-sectarian, and non-violent methods for expressing and managing political differences.

Applicants are advised to **contact the programme staff before they apply** with any queries or questions regarding the application guidelines and/or process or if their work is a fit with the programme areas. Groups who have not **registered on the JRCT grants management system** need to do so **by 18 August 2025 in order to submit an application for the current round**.

**Deadline: 1 September 2025 at 12 noon** (for decisions the week commencing 8 December 2025)

<https://www.jrct.org.uk/northern-ireland>

**Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust – Power & Accountability Programme**

The Trust is interested in funding work which:

* **Is about removing problems through radical solutions, and not simply about making problems easier to live with.**
* **Has a clear sense of objectives, and of how to achieve them.**
* **Is innovative and imaginative.**
* **Shows the grant has a good chance of making a difference.**

The Fund aims to support people to create a world in which power is more equally shared, and in which powerful institutions are responsive and accountable to wider society and aligned with the long-term public interest. **No minimum or maximum amount of grant is specified.**

Applications will be accepted from a range of organisations. It is not necessary to be a registered charity to apply to the Trust, however, the Trust can only support work which is legally charitable as defined in UK law. Organisations should be undertaking work at a national level. This means work that seeks to make positive change across the UK as a whole, or across one or more of its member countries - England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.

**Organisations that are a registered, excepted or exempt charity based within the UK** and all of their work fits within the published programme are encouraged **to apply for unrestricted or core support, although they may apply for programme or project funding if they prefer**.

Funding is available for work in the following areas:

* **Strengthening corporate accountability**- the Trust is interested in funding work which:
  + Develops and promotes mechanisms which increase the accountability and responsiveness of companies to shareholders, stakeholders, regulators and the long-term public interest, for example through improvements to corporate governance, corporate structures (including alternative corporate forms), company reporting or regulation.
  + Develops and promotes mechanisms whereby those who suffer severely as a result of company actions, particularly marginalised groups, can gain access to justice.
  + Promotes the application of the same standards of accountability to large digital companies as other commercial organisations, for example with respect to taxation, consumer protection, treatment of minorities and the protection of rights.
  + Encourages a constructive dialogue across private, public and civil society sectors to define and develop values and norms of corporate accountability and transparency in relation to new digital technologies.
* **Strengthening democratic accountability** - the Trust is interested in funding work which:
  + Develops and promotes mechanisms which ensure an accountable, transparent and proportionate relationship between the private sector and government.
  + Develops and promotes mechanisms which enable civil society and the general public, including marginalised groups, to engage appropriately and effectively with government policy making.
  + Encourages government, parliament and other statutory agencies to be more representative of the wider public they serve.
  + Supports the modernisation of the democratic infrastructure to increase its accessibility, relevance and resilience in a digital age.
  + Promotes greater transparency by digital intermediaries in relation to their impact on democracy and elections.
* **Encouraging responsible media** - the Trust is interested in funding work which:
  + Encourages accurate and responsible media, with appropriate safeguards.
  + Helps to develop a relevant and proportionate response to the risks of misinformation and disinformation in commercial media.
  + Explores and promotes ways for all forms of media to play a constructive role in holding government, companies and other powerful actors to account.
  + Helps to develop and strengthen infrastructure to support new forms of community journalism for the public benefit.

Groups **who have not registered on the JRCT grants management system** need to **do so by 18 August 2025** in order to submit an application for the current round.

**Deadline: 1 September 2025 (10am)** (for decisions the week commencing 8 December 2025)

<https://www.jrct.org.uk/power-and-accountability>

**The Theatres’ Trust/Wolfson: Theatre Improvement Scheme**

The Theatres Trust's Theatre Improvement Scheme, in association with the Wolfson Foundation, offers **capital funding for theatres**. The theme for the fund for the **current three-year partnership is Improving Environmental Sustainability** as this is an urgent priority for the sector. Theatre operators can apply for grants of **up to £20,000 towards their building or equipment as part of the scheme**. **Deadline: 5 September 2025**

<https://www.theatrestrust.org.uk/how-we-help/grants-funding/theatre-improvement-scheme>

**Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation Grants (for UK/Japan collaboration)**

The Foundation is offering **grants of up to £5,000 for cultural and educational activities that foster good relations between the UK and Japan by advancing the education of the people of both nations in each other’s culture, society, and achievements.**

Funding is available to support activities in the following fields:

* Arts and culture.
* Science, technology, and the environment.
* Humanities and social issues.
* Japanese language.
* Medicine and health.
* Youth and education.
* Sport.

Grants can be used to pump-prime a range of projects, such as:

* Visits between the UK and Japan by academics, professionals, creative artists, teachers, young people, journalists, and representatives of civic and non-governmental organisations
* Research and collaborative studies, seminars, workshops, lectures, and publications in academic and specialist fields.
* Teaching and development of Japanese language and cultural studies in schools, Further Education colleges and universities.
* Exhibitions, performances and creative productions by artists, musicians, filmmakers, writers, and theatre groups.

Priority will be given to projects in the fields of science and technology, medicine and health, environment and social issues, Japanese studies, and the Japanese language.

Applications originating from the UK and Japan are considered separately at different meetings by the Foundation’s London and Tokyo offices respectively.

**Next deadline for applications to the London office: 15 September 2025**

<http://www.gbsf.org.uk/grants/overview/>

**Heart Research UK: Healthy Hearts Grants NI**

Heart Research UK offer Healthy Heart Grants of **up to £15,000 for community projects aimed at supporting adults to reduce their risk of coronary heart disease, helping them to live healthier, happier and longer lives**. They currently only accept applications from small, registered charities and community interest companies with annual incomes of less than £1 million.

**Northern Ireland fund opens at 9am on 20 August 2025**

**Deadline: 17 September 2025 at 5pm.**

Online presentation date for shortlisted applications is **5 November 2025**

<https://heartresearch.org.uk/healthy-heart-grant-apply/>

**Maker Relief Fund (for craftspeople in need)**

The Maker Relief Fund is offering grants to **UK-based professional craftspeople facing financial hardship. Grants of £1,000 will be awarded to 50 eligible applicants over the course of a year, starting in November 2024 and running through to the end of October 2025.** These grants are intended to provide flexible financial support, allowing recipients to use the funds without restrictions. Practising professional craftspeople are eligible to apply if they identify with one or more of the following groups:

* Individuals on low incomes.
* Working-class people.
* Black and ethnically diverse people (including Gypsy, Roma, and Travellers).
* People with disabilities, neurodiversity or those managing chronic physical or mental health issues.
* LGBTQIA+ individuals.
* People with caring responsibilities.

The initiative aims to support these people in sustaining their careers during times of financial difficulty.

**Deadline: 31 October 2025**

<https://www.heritagecrafts.org.uk/makerrelieffund/>

**Community Relations Council – Community Relations/Cultural Diversity Grants**

Northern Ireland's Community Relations/Cultural Diversity Grant Scheme is inviting applications from **locally based voluntary and community organisations to develop their capacity to engage in community relations work and to enhance the community relations potential of projects they undertake.** Groups can apply for grants of **up to £10,000** but most grants awarded will be **between £2,000 and £5,000.**

The scheme is aimed at **community development groups, cultural organisations, women's and men's groups, faith-based groups, tenants' associations, youth groups and rural groups involved in community relations, reconciliation projects and cultural engagement for projects primarily involving adults.**

The funding is for projects which address **at least one** of the Community Relations Council's objectives:

* Develop opportunities for groups to explore their own cultures, beliefs and traditions increasing their capacities to develop relations with those from other cultures.
* Develop opportunities for groups to extend their knowledge and understanding of others' cultures, beliefs and traditions.
* To enable groups to challenge stereotypes of their own and other communities to acknowledge and address differences.
* To increase the ability and confidence of groups and organisations to identify issues which divide them.
* To develop networks of communication, trust and cooperation between divided communities.
* To promote models of good practice for community relations work in Northern Ireland.

**Deadline: 16 January 2026 (16:00)**

<https://www.community-relations.org.uk/funding-scheme/community-relations-cultural-diversity>

**Sport NI – Creating Opportunities (with Crowdfunding)**

This programme is provided by Sport NI and is designed to enable investment in new and additional projects to connect communities, enabling more people to take part in sport and physical activity.

**Please note this is a match-funding initiative delivered in partnership with Crowdfunder and thus not a traditional grant scheme (funds awarded are conditional upon applicants first securing crowdfunding via Crowdfunder's platform).** **Approved applicants will receive from Sport NI project match funding of 50%, up to a maximum of £5,000. Applicants are required to raise a percentage of their total project costs from crowdfunding.**

The focus of the programme is to 'level the playing field', so that accessibility and inclusion is felt and experienced by those **who have been traditionally excluded f**rom not only participating in sport, but playing an active role within the club (eg coaching, officiating and leading as part of a board).

To be eligible, applicants must be one of the following:

* A constituted sports club which is affiliated to a governing body of sport which is recognised by Sport NI or Sport Ireland.
* A community or voluntary organisation that delivers or enables sport and/or physical recreation as its primary activity. Sports and activities must be recognised by Sport NI.
* A charitable trust that delivers or enables sport and/or physical recreation as its primary activity. Sports and activities must be recognised by Sport NI.
* A constituted Parent Teacher Association (PTA) that delivers or enables new/additional extracurricular sport and/or physical activity including outdoor activity residentials. Sports and activities must be recognised by Sport NI.

The Creating Opportunities initiative is being administered by Sport NI through the Crowdfunder UK website. If the fund’s conditions are met, **Sport NI will pledge up to 50% of the applicant's target up to a maximum of £5,000. The applicant must then raise the remaining amount from their supporters to achieve 100% of their funding target.**

Applications should focus particularly on people from at least one of the following priority groups:

* **Women and girls.**
* **People with disabilities.**
* **Children and young people - especially those aged between 11-18 years.**
* **Older people aged over 50.**
* **Ethnically diverse communities.**
* **LGBTQ+ community.**
* **People living in areas of greatest need (based on NISRA postcode, quartile 1).**
* **People living in rural areas (based on NISRA postcode).**

Sport NI will consider supporting almost any project (within reason) providing it delivers the outcomes of the Creating Opportunities programme. Sport NI can also **consider reasonable running costs associated with the delivery of a Creating Opportunities project.**

All projects must be completed, and Sport NI funding spent by 31 March 2026.

**Deadline: 29 January 2026** (unless the funds are exhausted before this date)

Applications are made by setting up an eligible project on the Crowdfunder UK website.

To receive a pledge from Sport NI, applicants will need to do two things:

* Raise at least 25% of their initial target.
* Raise this from a minimum of 25 qualifying (unique) supporters.

If the application is approved by Sport NI, the applicant will get match funding of 50%, up to a maximum of £5,000. This offer will be valid for two weeks after the date of notification. If the applicant does not launch their crowdfunding campaign within two weeks of notification, the offer will be rescinded. Campaigns requesting from £4,000 to the maximum £5,000 must include a bespoke project video which outlines:

* Who the club is.
* What the project is about (how it will contribute to 'levelling the playing field').
* What the project will deliver.
* Why the funding is needed.
* How the money raised will be spent.

[Creating Opportunities | Sport NI](https://www.sportni.net/funding/creating-opportunities/)

**Duke of Edinburgh – Access Without Limits Funding**

This Fund aims to **open up access to the DofE Award to young people living in difficult circumstances, including those unable to afford to take part due to the cost of living crisis.**

**Grants of up to £10,250 are available**. The grant will be combined with support from a dedicated member of staff who will help the grant recipient set up, launch and deliver the Award programme. The package includes:

* Licence fee support for community and voluntary organisations.
* Access to staff and volunteer training courses.
* Free participation places for young people.
* Expedition kit start-up costs.

Not-for-profit voluntary, community or social enterprise organisations can apply. To be eligible, organisations must fit into several specific criteria – please check website for details. Note that for successful applicants, the first year will be covered by the grant and **50% will be required in the second year. All funding must be spent by 31 March 2026.**

**Deadline: 31 January 2026**

Applicants will need to initially discuss their project with an Operations Officer and should contact Georgina Harper at DofE for further information about how to go about this (e-mail: [georgina.harper@dofe.org](mailto:georgina.harper@dofe.org)) <https://www.dofe.org/access-without-limits/community/>

**Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme (UK) (extended)**

**The scheme gives grants towards VAT paid on repairs and renovations to the UK’s listed sites of worship, such as works to the foundations, masonry and monuments integral to the buildings.**The extension of the scheme recognises that listed places of worship represent an important part of UK heritage and provide spaces for communities to come together. Listed places of worship of any size or faith within the UK can apply to the scheme for support with repairs and renovations until the end of March 2026.  There will be **a cap of £25,000 that an organisation can claim during the year. This can still be spread across multiple claims.**

**Deadline: 31 March 2026** <https://www.lpwscheme.org.uk/>

***Compiled by: KAREN DYSON, DCSDC, FUNDING ADVICE OFFICER Last updated 1/05/2025***