



Monthly Funding Information December 2024

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

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

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

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

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

Grant Fund	Closest Deadline
Sported - Cash4Clubs (New)	12 th Dec 2024
Armed Forces Covenant – Family Focus Programme *	18 th Dec 2024
Thomas Wall Trust	6 th Jan 2025
Veterans Capital Housing Fund – Major Capital Grants	8 th Jan 2025
Armed Forces Covenant -Supporting Partners Programme	8 th Jan 2025
Concertina Charitable Trust – Music Grant for Elderly (New)	30 th April 2025
Pink Ribbon Foundation	30 th May 2025
Charles Hayward Foundation – Small Grants	Open
Wolfson Foundation - Hospice Care Home Training Programme	Open

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

Grant Fund	Closest Deadline
<u>YHA Breaks Programme</u>	10 th Dec 2024
<u>The Ironmongers Company – Young People’s Charities</u> (New)	15 th Dec 2024
<u>The Adamson Trust – Disable Children’s Holiday Charity</u> (New)	31 st Dec 2024
<u>Dept. For Education – Senior Mental Health Lead Training</u>	31 st Dec 2024
<u>Wolfson Foundation - Special Schools and Colleges Grants</u> * (New)	5 th Jan 2025
<u>Art Fund – Student Opportunities</u> (New)	10 th Jan 2025
<u>Universal Music UK Sound Foundation – School Awards</u> (New)	22 nd Jan 2025
<u>7 Stars Foundation</u> (New)	5 th Feb 2025
<u>Kelly Family Charitable Trust</u>	1 st March 2025
<u>BRIT Trust Grants</u>	30 th April 2025
<u>Family Action - National School Breakfast Programme</u> (New)	Open
<u>Youth Endowment Fund</u>	Open
<u>Wooden Spoon Society – Capital Grants</u>	Open
<u>LoveReading4 Kids – Funding for Schools</u>	Open

Funding for projects which support broader community outcomes

Grant Fund	Closest Deadline
Rosa – Voices from the Frontline Fund (New)	9 th Dec 2024
International Tree Foundation – UK Community Tree Planting *	13 th Dec 2024
Woodward Charitable Trust (New)	13 th Dec 2024
Bentley Motors – Advancing Life Chances	20 th Dec 2024
Arnold Clark Community Fund	31 st Dec 2024
Yorkshire Building Society – Small Change Big Difference Fund	31 st Dec 2024
Delamere Dairy Foundation	1 st Jan 2025
OPCC – Commissioners Safety Fund 2024-2025 (New)	6 th Jan 2025
National Lottery – Community Power Fund (Development Phase) * (New)	8 th Jan 2025
Woodland Trust – Free Trees	13 th Jan 2025
Do It Now Now - Make It Big with Pathway Fund (New)	14 th Jan 2025
Arts Council England - Creative People and Places 2026-29	16 th Jan 2025
The Big Give - Green Match Fund (New)	17 th Jan 2025
Market Harborough Building Society – Community Fund (New)	19 th Jan 2025
Lloyds Bank Foundation – Specialist Programme (New)	23 rd Jan 2025
One Stop – Community Partnership Programme (New)	24 th Jan 2025
AB Charitable Trust – Human Rights Funding (New)	31 st Jan 2025
The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust	4 th Feb 2025
Harborough District Council – Community Grant Fund	16 th Feb 2025
The Royal Countryside Fund (New)	21 st Feb 2025
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council – Warm Welcome Grant	28 th Feb 2025
Crowdfunder - Energy Efficiency Sharematch Fund (New)	March 2025
Turning Point – Community Innovation Fund	24 th March 2025
Sport England – Movement Fund Emergency Relief Fund (New)	Open
Moto in the Community Trust – Community Grants (New)	Open
British Gas Energy Trust – Energy Support Fund (New)	Open
British Gas Energy Trust – Individual and Families Fund (New)	Open
Social Investment Business – Energy Resilience Fund (New)	Open

Funding for projects which support Adults

[Sported - Cash4Clubs](#) – NEW GRANT

Summary

The Cash4Clubs programme offers community sports clubs and organisations the opportunity to access unrestricted funding to improve facilities, buy new equipment, gain coaching qualifications and invest in the sustainability of their club.

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

Key Criteria

- Applicants must be delivering activities to adults (18+) to be eligible for funding
- It will prioritise applications focused on 18 - 25-year-olds
- Applicants must demonstrate that they are using sport for a wider social purpose with a goal to increase participation of adults from under-represented groups.
- An organisation cannot apply if it runs junior activities
- Funding should be spent within a six-month period
- Organisations who received a Cash4Clubs grant in 2023 are unfortunately not eligible to reapply.

Amounts available: Maximum £2,000

Application deadlines: 12th December 2024

[Armed Forces Covenant – Family Focus Programme](#) *

Summary

Funding for projects lasting between twelve and eighteen months to support family members who care for wounded, injured or sick serving personnel and Veterans.

Projects should achieve one or more of the following outcomes:

- Improved access to support for families, through information, advice & guidance.
- Improved family bonds, through meaningful opportunities together
- Increased resilience for family members with a caring role, through wellbeing activities
- Family members feel that their needs are recognised and that they can receive targeted support that addresses these changing needs over time
- Parents are better supported to respond to changes in family life, where there are children within the family unit
- Family carers have enhanced employability, through access to skills development which enables them to plan for the future
- Organisations and agencies can demonstrate that they are equipped with the skills and knowledge to address the specific needs of the families of wounded, injured and sick serving personnel and/or Veterans

Key Criteria

- Awarded projects to start between 1st April 2025 and 1st July 2025
- Local authorities and other statutory organisations would be expected to work in partnership with other relevant organisations.
- Charities and CIC's should have been registered or incorporated for at least three years at the time of applying
- Organisations cannot apply more than once to this programme in 2024-25

Amounts available: Between £50,000 and £100,000

Application deadlines: 18th December 2024 (decisions notified by the end of March 2025).

[Thomas Wall Trust](#)

Summary

Grants are available to registered charities to support projects that equip people (18 or older) from disadvantaged groups with the critical life skills necessary to gain employment.

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

Key Criteria

Applicants must:

- Be a UK charity that has been registered with the Charity Commission for at least 3 years
- Be a project or running costs for a charity that equips people (aged 18 and over) with the skills ready for employment
- Have an annual turnover of between £25,000 - £500,000

Amounts available: Maximum £5,000

Application deadlines: 6th January 2025 (deadline for stage one /expression of interest)

Veterans Capital Housing Fund – Major Capital Grants

Summary

Grants for charities and registered social housing providers with at least five year's housing experience to support new builds and significant refurbishments, including extensions, of rental accommodation offering high quality support for veterans with a housing need.

Projects should:

- Enable major refurbishments of existing social rented or affordable rented homes for veterans.
- Enable extensions of existing buildings to increase the availability of veteran housing.
- Increase the number of new build, homes/housing units available to veterans at affordable or social rents.
- Ensure properties meet decent homes and energy efficiency standards.

Key Criteria

Applicants must:

- Be either a registered charity, that has been registered in the UK for at least three years and can show it works with Veterans or a registered social housing provider that can show it works with Veterans.
- Have ownership of the facility or a lease of 10 or more years.
- Have at least five years' relevant social housing experience.
- Be able to show the majority of their organisation's work is with veterans or the predominant beneficiaries of this specific project would be veterans.

Amounts available: Between £75,000 and £500,000

Application deadlines: Round 3 is now open for Expressions of Interest with a deadline of 8th January 2025

Armed Forces Covenant - Supporting Partners Programme

Summary

Grants are available for projects that find ways to reduce the challenges of service life for partners of serving armed forces personnel, including reservists.

Projects should look to address one or more of the following outcomes:

- Improve the mental health and wellbeing of spouses and partners of serving personnel
- Raise awareness, including (potential) employers, of the unique challenges spouses and partners can face, and improve access to provision to help overcome these challenges
- Identify and address known and emerging gaps in provision for spouses and partners of serving personnel, including spouses and partners who are non-UK nationals
- Provide opportunities for spouses and partners to explore new ways of working, upskill and/or change careers

Key Criteria

- Applications are accepted from Armed Forces units or bases, charities, community interest companies and universities or colleges in the UK
- Charities and CICs which do not have substantial recent experience of working with the Armed Forces community can apply. However, you must be planning for your project to be delivered in partnership with another organisation or organisations with substantial recent experience of working with Armed Forces communities or are Armed Forces-specific
- Organisation must have been registered or incorporated in the UK for at least three years at the time of your application and able to provide published accounts for all three years if requested
- Projects should start by 1st July 2025 and last between 12 and 24 months

Amounts available: Between £10,000 and £60,000

Application deadlines: 8th January 2025

Concertina Charitable Trust – Music Grant for Elderly – NEW GRANT

Summary

Grants are available for charitable bodies, including care homes, that provide musical entertainment and related activities for the elderly. The charity is particularly keen to support smaller organisations which might otherwise find it difficult to gain funding.

Key Criteria

- Applicants must include a set of accounts or a financial statement with the application
- Applications are in writing only (hard copy by post only)

Amounts available: Maximum £250

Application deadlines: 30th April 2025

[Pink Ribbon Foundation](#)

Summary

Grants are available to UK charities and constituted not-for-profit organisations to support practical projects and initiatives that aim to deliver good physical and mental health to individuals with and recovering from breast cancer.

For the 2025 grant period and with requests for assistance growing, the Foundation has decided to focus in the main on organisations with limited financial resources to deliver their services.

Key Criteria

- 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 event then only one report is required.
- The Pink Ribbon Foundation will only accept one application per organisation for each year
- The Pink Ribbon Foundation does accept partnership bids

Amounts available: Maximum £6,000

Application deadlines: 30th May 2025 (Grants are awarded annually in late July).

[Charles Hayward Foundation – Small Grants](#)

Summary

Grants are available to charities in the UK to support preventative and early community-based intervention programmes that focus on helping older people stay in their own homes and maintain their independence.

The scheme is looking to support projects that:

- Address isolation and depression in older people through activities like informal daycare or social and recreational programmes
- Provide support and assistance for older individuals living in their own homes
- Cater to the emotional and practical needs of older caregivers
- Meet the specific requirements of people with dementia.

Key Criteria

- The Foundation favours projects that offer a consistent and sustained benefit rather than one-off events or short-lived activities.
- Applying charities income must be less than £350,000
- Charities that have previously received a grant are asked to wait two years from the date of the grant payment before re-applying.
- Charities that have applied unsuccessfully must wait one year from the date of declination before re-applying.

Amounts available: Maximum £7,000

Application deadlines: Open

Wolfson Foundation - Hospice Care Home Training Programme

Summary

Hospices across the UK are invited to apply for funding to deliver courses and study days specifically focused on dementia care for people nearing the end of life.

Grants are available to a hospice to run a training course at no cost or heavily discounted cost to local care home staff to raise the level of dementia care, knowledge, and skills in the hospice's area of operation.

Key Criteria

- Funding will be allocated on a first come, first served basis until the budget is fully allocated.
- Courses need to be CPD accredited.
- A hospice may submit more than one application during the year and may apply for funding to run repeat sessions of courses that have taken place before – or that have received funding previously.
- Hospices are eligible for a maximum of two grants per year
- Applications must be received at least one month before the training takes place as funding will not be awarded retrospectively.

Amounts available: Maximum £2,000 per course

Application deadlines: Open

Funding for projects which support Children and Young People

[YHA Breaks Programme](#)

Summary

Charities, community groups and home education network groups can apply to take groups of young people (under 26) or groups of families who need additional support on residential trips to YHA hostels.

The Breaks Programme is arranged via application or referral from partner organisations and are tailored to beneficiaries.

Key Criteria

The programme cannot fund transport (home to hostel/back) or salary/expenses of volunteers or leaders.

The programme does not offer funding to individuals or individual families

Amounts available: Not disclosed, but the fund is intended to cover the cost of the stay at the YHA hostel either fully or partly depending on the group's circumstances and funding availability.

Application deadlines: 10th December 2024

[The Ironmongers Company – Young People's Charities](#) – NEW GRANT

Summary

Funding for registered charities to support projects that deliver clearly defined educational benefits to a specific group of children or young people.

Projects must:

- Be for children and young people under the age of 25 who are disadvantaged
- Consist of educational activities that develop learning, motivation and skills
- Have clear aims and objectives to be met within a planned timescale
- Be carried out within the UK.

The Company is particularly interested in enabling primary age children to develop a strong foundation for the future.

Key Criteria

- Grants must be spent within twelve months from the date of the award.
- Recipients are expected to submit a written evaluation report within three months of the completion of the project.
- The Ironmongers' Company's support should make a recognisable difference. Therefore preference will be given to requests where the grant would cover a significant element of the cost, and to those from smaller charities.

Amounts available: Between £500 and £10,000

Application deadlines: 15th December 2024 (Decisions by end March 2025)

The Adamson Trust – Disabled Children’s Holiday Charity – NEW GRANT

Summary

Families and groups of children, schools, organisations, and other registered charities can apply for grants to assist with the cost of holidays or respite breaks for disabled children aged between 3 and 17 with physical, mental or emotional impairments.

Key Criteria

The Trust requires evidence of their disability or illness from a medical or social services professional

Amounts available: Not disclosed.

Application deadlines: 31st December 2024 (Decisions by end February 2025)

Dept. For Education – Senior Mental Health Lead Training

Summary

The Department for Education (DfE) is offering grants for eligible state-funded schools and colleges in England to train a senior mental health lead to develop and implement a whole school or college approach to mental health and wellbeing.

This training is not compulsory, but it is part of the government’s commitment to offer this training to all eligible schools and colleges by 2025.

Grants will be provided to cover (or contribute to) the cost of attending a quality assured course and may also be used to hire supply staff whilst leads are engaged in training.

Key Criteria

All state-funded education settings that are in receipt of ESFA pre-16 revenue, high needs block, or 16 to 19 programme funding are eligible.

The training course must be a DfE assured senior mental health lead training course and the training must start by 31 March 2025.

Amounts available: Maximum £1,200

Application deadlines: 31st December 2024 (deadline to submit the initial application and reserve a grant for training). A second form needs to be submitted by 31st January 2025 to then claim the grant.

Wolfson Foundation - Special Schools and Colleges Grants * – NEW GRANT

Summary

Special needs schools and colleges can apply for grants for new buildings, refurbishment projects, or equipment.

The funding is available for projects focused on helping pupils at secondary level develop skills that will help them gain employment or live independently after leaving school or college.

One or more of the following outcomes must be achieved:

- Increased access to services for new and existing users
- Improved quality and range of services
- Improved financial stability of the organisation

Key Criteria

Projects requesting £50,000 or more need to have matched funding in place

Applying organisation must be:

- A registered charity or local authority
- Registered with the relevant regulatory authority, where applicable, and have at least a good rating

Amounts available: Between £25,000 and £75,000

Application deadlines: 5th January 2025 (Applications successful at this stage will have until 1st March 2025 to complete the Stage 2 application).

Art Fund – Student Opportunities – NEW GRANT

Summary

Funding is available to help public museums, galleries, historic houses, libraries, and visual arts organisations in the UK to provide meaningful paid work experience opportunities for full-time university students that enable them to further explore their interest in the arts and related future career options before they graduate.

It will fund the costs associated with paying students for the time they spend supporting the organisation in delivering projects.

Key Criteria

Applications will be considered from UK public museums, galleries, historic houses, libraries, archives, agencies and other visual arts organisations that:

- Have a public presence (e.g. a building open to the public) or a public outcome (e.g. a festival or public art programme)
- Can demonstrate that they operate to standards of best practice within the sector (e.g. through Arts Council England Accreditation)

Please note that a project must not have started/employment commenced before a decision has been made on the application.

Amounts available: Maximum £10,000

Application deadlines: 10th January 2024

Universal Music UK Sound Foundation – School Awards – NEW GRANT

Summary

The Universal Music UK Sound Foundation (UMUKSF) has launched a new funding round to enable schools across the UK and Ireland to apply for grants to improve their pupils' access to music.

The UMUKSF School Awards will fund schools teaching the national curriculum to improve their music departments by purchasing or upgrading musical instruments and equipment.

Key Criteria

The Foundation will not fund retrospectively and you are not eligible for financial assistance if you have already purchased your resources or if you buy them after you submit your application, but before an offer of funding is made.

The Foundation is unable to accept applications on behalf of Trusts/Academies for multiple schools, each school must submit their own application form.

If you have applied for funding in the past, please wait for 2 funding rounds (which take place in March and October) to pass before re-applying

Amounts available: Maximum £1,000

Application deadlines: 22nd January 2025

7 Stars Foundation – NEW GRANT

Summary

Grants are available to charitable organisations supporting challenged and vulnerable young people under 16 in the UK.

The programme provides funding for projects which support young people living in areas of deprivation and socioeconomic disadvantage who are challenged by abuse or addiction, who are young carers, or who are homeless.

The programme will fund projects aligned with selected awareness days, including Human Rights Day, Race Equality Week, PRIDE Month and Children's Mental Health Week. The full list of awareness days is on the web page.

Key Criteria

- A maximum of three charities will be shortlisted for each award linked to one of the selected awareness days.
- Applying charities must have an annual turnover of under £1.5m

Amounts available: Maximum £1,500

Application deadlines: 5th February 2025

Kelly Family Charitable Trust

Summary

Registered charities whose activities support and encourage the family to work as a cohesive unit in tackling problems that face one or more of its members can apply for both capital and revenue grants.

The Trust is happy to support requests for core funding as well as project-based grants, and actively encourages applications from relatively new organisations to help them become established.

The three areas of activity that the charity wishes to support are:

- Interventions that support families and help them in ways that prevent the fracture of the family unit, e.g. practical family support, relationship counselling, mediation.
- Families where sexual abuse, physical abuse, domestic violence, alcohol abuse and drug abuse threaten the integrity of the family unit.
- Prisoners and in particular their families, during and after the period of imprisonment.

Key Criteria

The Trust prefers to support charities with an annual income below £500,000

The Trust will consider repeat funding requests, on receipt of satisfactory progress reports

Unsuccessful applicants must wait for 1 year before resubmitting an application

Amounts available: Maximum £5,000

Application deadlines: 1st March 2025

BRIT Trust Grants

Summary

Funding is available from the BRIT Awards and Music Industry Trust Awards for organisations that use the power of music and the creative arts to improve the lives of young people of all backgrounds across the UK.

This funding supports music and arts initiatives that promote education, wellbeing, and community engagement, helping individuals realise their full potential, regardless of ability, ethnicity, gender, or sexuality.

Key Criteria

- The BRIT Trust it is not able to consider grants for individuals/scholarships nor make grants for any activity outside of the UK.
- Applicants must be a Registered Charity or a Charity Incorporated Company and have the support of a Music Industry contact to apply.

Amounts available: Not disclosed

Application deadlines: 30th April 2025 (NB the decision process completes in November 2025)

Family Action - National School Breakfast Programme – NEW GRANT

Summary

The National School Breakfast Programme (NSBP), funded by the Department for Education and delivered by Family Action, supports schools in England to provide children with a healthy breakfast at the start of the school day.

To be eligible to participate, schools will have 40% or more pupils in bands A-F of the income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI). This can include state-funded primary, secondary, special schools and alternative provision.

The contract for the programme will be delivered through Family Action, who will source and deliver breakfast food products to participating schools. All breakfast products offered through the programme meet the school food standards.

Key Criteria

Schools currently receiving support for their breakfast provision from Magic Breakfast or Gregg's will not qualify for the National School Breakfast Programme.

Amounts available: Eligible schools can apply for a 75% subsidy for breakfast club provision.

Application deadlines: Open (The scheme will close in July 2025)

Youth Endowment Fund

Summary

The Youth Endowment Fund's Open Call funding round invites proposals from delivery organisations that work to reduce young people's involvement in violence and are ready for rigorous evaluation.

The Fund welcomes proposals that will help fill evidence gaps and build a robust understanding of what works to prevent children becoming involved in violence

Applications are open to projects working in one of the following sectors Youth sector, Children's services, Youth Justice, Policing, Neighbourhoods, Health and Education

Key Criteria

Projects must primarily support children and young people aged 10–18 who are either:

- At risk of crime or violence ('secondary prevention'), or
- Already affected by violence, offending or exploitation ('tertiary prevention').

Projects must recruit a minimum number of children and young people for evaluation. The exact number will depend on the intervention type, but as a guide:

- Secondary prevention projects should deliver the intervention to at least 200 participants and recruit 200 more for a control group (400 total).
- Tertiary prevention projects should deliver the intervention to at least 400 participants and recruit 400 for a control group (800 total).

Amounts available: Not disclosed

Application deadlines: Open

Wooden Spoon Society – Capital Grants

Summary

Schools and not-for-profit organisations can apply for funding to support projects that help mentally and physically disadvantaged children under the cognitive age of 25. Each year, the charity supports around 70 projects.

Projects must fall within Wooden Spoon's Vision Statement: "Through the power of rugby, every child and young person has access to the best life opportunities, no matter what their background"

Through the programme, funding is available for:

- Buildings and extensions
- Equipment and activity aids
- Sensory rooms and gardens
- Playgrounds and sports areas
- Soft playrooms

Key Criteria

- The grant contribution may be up to 100% of the cost, though beneficiary organisations will be encouraged, where practicable, to raise a proportion themselves.
- The Fund will not support revenue costs such as staffing and other ongoing costs.
- If a project is educational or disability sports focused there must be a key sporting element (preferably rugby) to engage children and young people
- If a project is a physical, tangible asset, of a permanent nature, it must have a minimum predicted life-span of five years (preferably ten years)
- It is considered unlikely that a project of a physical nature that is under £5,000 will have sufficient substance and scale to qualify under the 'projected lifespan' rule.

Amounts available: No maximum grant limit is provided but projects under £5,000 are unlikely to be considered

Application deadlines: Open

LoveReading4 Kids – Funding for Schools

Summary

UK schools and early years' settings can apply for grants to buy books for their libraries and encourage more children to read for pleasure. The Scheme will help schools to provide children with a range of non-curriculum books to improve their reading standards, particularly amongst children experiencing disadvantage or underrepresentation.

The Scheme accepts applications from state funded schools in the UK. Primaries, secondaries and early years' settings are all eligible to apply.

Key Criteria

PTAs are not eligible to apply, the application needs to come directly from the school.

If an application is declined, the school is eligible to reapply 12 months after the previous application date.

If an application is approved, the school is ineligible to apply for the Scheme for three years after the approval date due to intense competition.

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

Please note that any grant awarded will be awarded as credit to be spent on www.lovereadinq.co.uk or www.lovereadinq4kids.co.uk and should be spent within six months of being awarded.

Application deadlines: Open

Funding for projects which support broader community outcomes

[Rosa – Voices from the Frontline Fund](#) – NEW GRANT

Summary

Grants are available to support the work of grassroots women's and girl's organisations in achieving change in the UK through awareness-raising, momentum-building, and campaigning.

This can include:

- Campaigning for changes in policy and laws including activities such as petitions, social media campaigns and lobbying
- National campaigns that address issues that affect women and girls
- Influencing community leaders and power holders about issues that affect women and girls in a particular place or community
- Gathering evidence or producing tools and reports which enable women and girls and women's organisations to campaign for change
- Video and media campaigns about specific issues facing women
- Training activists in campaigning, advocacy, lobbying or public speaking

Key Criteria

- Rosa defines women's and girls' organisations as those which are run by, for and with women and girls.
- Organisations must have been active for one year and be able to produce annual accounts for a whole year.
- Applicants must not have received a grant through Voices from the Frontline round 6

Amounts available: Between £500 and £10,000 (over 18 months)

Application deadlines: 9th December 2024

[International Tree Foundation – UK Community Tree Planting](#) *

Summary

Grants are available for community-based organisations across the UK to deliver tree-planting projects that protect and restore indigenous trees and woodlands, support community engagement in tree planting, and increase awareness of the importance of trees and forests to environmental and human well-being.

There are two funding streams:

- Grants for community woodland/hedging projects that range from 100 to 25,000 trees planted per year, with a maximum price equivalent to £1.95 per tree.
- Grants for community orchard projects of up to 30 trees planted per year.

Key Criteria

Community-based organisations, such as a school, community group, social enterprise, non-governmental organisation, or parish council, can apply.

Projects should meet the following essential criteria:

- Plant trees in public/publicly accessible spaces: sites that are readily accessible to the public, including schools, parks, rights of way, and sites managed by community groups.
- Plant indigenous tree species: this may include traditional fruit trees and 'honorary' natives where appropriate.
- Engage community members in tree planting and enjoying the benefits of woodlands.
- Have clear plans for maintenance and sustainability.
- Have a signed permission from the owner or manager of the land indicating that their project meets legal requirements.

Amounts available: Grant amounts are per tree planted. Maximum amounts not disclosed

Application deadlines: 13th December 2024

Woodward Charitable Trust – NEW GRANT

Summary

Funding to help cover core organisational running costs is available for UK charities and social enterprises supporting the following groups:

- Children and young people (up to 25 years) - who are isolated, at risk of exclusion or involved in anti-social behaviour and projects to help those who have been in the care system.
- Disadvantaged families - this covers parenting support and guidance, mental health, food poverty, refuges and domestic violence projects
- Prisoners, and ex-offenders - projects that maintain and develop contact with prisoners' families and help with the rehabilitation and resettlement of prisoners and/or ex-offenders after their release.

The funding will support small-scale, local initiatives that effectively use volunteers, encourage past and current users to participate, and ensure that funds awarded will promote community cohesion and the development of skills that will change the outlook and outcomes for their users.

Key Criteria

- Preference is given to small to medium-sized charities (annual income of less than £200,000) where small grants can have more impact.
- Organisations with reserves that exceed 50% of their income from the previous year are not eligible
- At least 50% of the beneficiaries need to be in one of the three priority groups
- Large grants over £3,000 tend to only be awarded to organisations which are known by the Trustees

Amounts available:

Small Grants – up to £3,000

Large Grants – over £3,000

Application deadlines: 13th December 2024

Bentley Motors – Advancing Life Chances

Summary

Grants are for charitable organisations working with vulnerable, disadvantaged, or underrepresented communities within 20 miles of the 19 Bentley retail locations across the UK. This includes parts of Leicester and Leicestershire.

The programme's areas of focus are:

- Access - Remove the barriers and improve access to services, education and employability.
- Empowerment - Development of the life skills that enable people to be more self-confident, successful and thrive in life.
- Quality of Life - Provide support to live a healthier life both physically and mentally.
- Better Future - Safeguarding the environment, improving nature-deprived areas, driving improvement to "place" and boosting community spirit.

Key Criteria

- [Please check eligible postcodes](#)
- Grants must be spent within 12 months of the award
- Applying organisations should have an income of less than £1 million

Amounts available: Maximum £500

Application deadlines: Opens 7th October and closes 20th December 2024. There are four application windows per year.

Arnold Clark Community Fund

Summary

Grants are available for UK registered charities and other not-for-profit organisations for projects, including those whose work directly supports those most affected by the cost-of-living crisis, which are embedded in the communities in which Arnold Clark operates in England, Scotland or Wales.

Key Criteria

In 2024, the Arnold Clark Community Fund offers the following support:

- **Cost of Living Support** – funding to any registered UK charity or community group whose work directly supports those most affected by the cost-of-living crisis, such as foodbanks, accommodation, poverty relief and where people/communities in the UK are the primary and immediate focus of investment.
- **Our Communities Support** – funding to projects embedded in the communities in which Arnold Clark operates and is available to organisations who provide services widely accessible to those within Arnold Clark local communities, addressing the needs of those living within them.
- **Gear Up for Sport** – 150 sports kits given away each month to support youth sports teams across the UK. Any youth team with up to 30 members aged 4 to 15 years can apply.

Projects applying for 'Our Communities Support' must address one of the following categories:

- Animal welfare (benefiting humans)
- Arts and culture
- Community development
- Disability
- Education
- Recreation
- Relief support
- Mental health support

Applications are only eligible if they are made by an organisation that is based/operates solely in the UK and is located within 50 miles of an Arnold Clark branch.

Amounts available: Maximum £2,500

Application deadlines: 31st December 2024

[Yorkshire Building Society – Small Change Big Difference Fund](#)

Summary

Through the Fund, trustees consider nominations to charities that support its two priority areas:

- Alleviating poverty
- Improving health / Saving lives

Grants are unrestricted and can be used for project or core costs.

It particularly welcomes nominations of charities that are working in areas of deprivation, and charities that have an income turnover of less than £100,000.

Key Criteria

To be considered for a donation the charity must meet the following basic eligibility criteria:

- Registered with the Charity Commission,
- Nominated by a Yorkshire Building Society member or colleague
- Beneficiaries in the UK Have not received a YBS Charitable Foundation donation in the last 2 years
- Annual returns submitted to the Charity Commission

Amounts available: Between £250 and £2,500

Application deadlines: 31st December 2024

[Delamere Dairy Foundation](#)

Summary

The Foundation will provide support for charities, community groups, social enterprises and other not-for-profit organisations delivering projects that fit the objectives of the Foundation:

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

Key Criteria

- There is no limit on the number of applications that an organisation can submit during a grant round. However, it is preferable to share just one.
- New groups without a constitution or bank account will need to nominate an established group that will be responsible for holding and administering the grant on their behalf.
- Applicant organisations do not need to be registered charities but their constitution or other governing document must show that they are set up for community benefit and their aims are broadly charitable.
- If project-based funding is being applied for, then the project must last no more than 12 months

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

Application deadlines: 1st January 2025

OPCC – Commissioners Safety Fund 2024-2025 – NEW GRANT

Summary

The grant scheme channels funding into community projects that help reduce the risk of crime and abuse and increase public safety. The Commissioner is keen to hear from organisations that can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those residing in Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland. This is a general funding round. Projects should meet the Police and Crime Plan priorities:

- Violence and Vulnerability
- Road Safety
- Violence Against Women and Girls
- Neighbourhood Crime
- Business Crime
- Rural Crime

Key Criteria

- Organisations can submit more than one application, however if more than one of the applications score above the threshold, only the highest scoring application will be awarded funding.
- Organisations with a Full Time Equivalent staffing level of 30 or more (not including volunteers) are not eligible to apply.
- Applications submitted will not be considered if they exceed the funding limit of £10,000.
- Applications with projects that fail to support any of the Police and Crime Plan priorities will not be considered.
- Applications for projects currently funded will not be considered if the current funding overlaps with the start date of this round (March 2025).

Amounts available: Maximum £10,000

Application deadlines: 6th January 2025

National Lottery – Community Power Fund (Development Phase) * – NEW GRANT

Summary

The National Lottery Community Fund has announced a new Community Power Fund to empower local communities across England.

Before launching the programme, the NLCF will work with partners during a one-year development phase. This phase, supported by up to £1.2 million in funding, will shape the fund's future operations.

Between 10 and 15 partner organisations will be supported in running new or existing initiatives to strengthen community power, particularly amongst excluded, marginalised, and underrepresented groups. The Lottery is keen to hear from smaller community groups as well as larger or national organisations.

Successful organisations will work together on evaluating effective strategies, identifying barriers, and determining the resources needed for sustainable community power-building efforts.

Key Criteria

A wide range of organisations can apply including constituted community groups, registered charities, CIC's, school and local authorities.

To be a partner organisation you must:

- Have experience of going beyond engaging communities by doing work to increase their community power
- Work in and with communities that are the most excluded and marginalised, and the least empowered
- Have experience of working in communities where the conditions are currently least suited to growing community power. For example where people have less trust in each other, do not feel they belong, or do not have places to meet
- Show how the values and approaches of community power are central to your work.

Amounts available: Between £50,000 and £80,000

Application deadlines: 8th January 2025 (expressions of interest)

Woodland Trust – Free Trees

Summary

Hundreds of thousands of trees are being given away to help the UK reach its 2050 carbon net-zero target.

Schools, nurseries, colleges, universities, outdoor learning centres, and other groups such as resident associations, sports clubs, parish councils, scouts and guides from across the UK are among the organisations eligible to apply for up to 420 saplings to improve their local environment. There are a range of tree packs available including hedging, copse, wild harvest and urban trees.

The scheme is currently taking applications for tree packs to be delivered in March 2025.

Key Criteria

Applicants need to:

- Know the six-digit grid reference for the land you wish to plant using OS Maps
- Have permission from the legal landowner
- If you're applying as a school your trees should be planted on either the school grounds, land the school has arranged regular access to or in an area that is publicly accessible.
- If you're applying as a community group, the land needs to be accessible to the public. You should also make sure your local community are aware of your plans to plant and are happy for you to go ahead.
- The site must have genuine public access

Amounts Available: The scheme supplies young trees for free

Application deadlines: 13th January 2025

Do It Now Now - Make It Big with Pathway Fund – NEW GRANT

Summary

Grants are available to support Black and Global Majority-led charities and social enterprises in England, helping them scale their impact in tackling poverty and advancing racial equity.

The programme will support organisations to build their financial resilience and operational readiness, raise social investment and, in some instances, prepare for asset acquisition.

It aims to address the pressing needs intensified by the cost-of-living crisis, helping organisations enhance their impact within their communities.

The fund will focus on two impact areas:

- Poverty Alleviation
- Racial Equity

Key Criteria

Please note that funding will be prioritised for organisations active in Indices of Multiple Deprivation areas 1-3

Applying organisations must:

- Be a legally incorporated non-profit (not limited by shares).
- Have a clearly stated mission to support issues impacting Black and Global Majority Communities
- Be generating an annual income between £150,000 and £500,000 as evidenced by accounts submitted to Companies House or Charity Commission.
- At least one of the organisation's leaders must become a Do It Now Now member

Amounts Available: Maximum £25,000.

Please note, the funder uses a **Repayable Grant Model**. If you don't raise any social investment within the grant period, you don't have to pay back any money. But if you do, it asks that you pay-it-forward by repaying up to £8,500 of the grant.

Application deadlines: 14th January 2025

Arts Council England – Creative People and Places 2026-2029

Summary

The goal of the Arts Council's Creative People and Places programme is to ensure that everyone can access culture and express creativity, fostering thriving communities through inclusive and collaborative cultural approaches.

Funding is available to partnerships of organisations for a three-year period (from 1st April 2026 to 31st March 2029) for projects in the following eligible geographical areas:

- Leicester
- Hinckley & Bosworth
- North West Leicestershire
- Oadby & Wigston

Applications must be submitted by a consortium of partner organisations. Individual organisations cannot apply.

Key Criteria

Projects will need to achieve the following aims and outcomes:

- Engage more people from eligible places in a wide range of arts and cultural experiences as audiences and/or participants.
- Empower communities to lead and shape local cultural provision.
- Excellence and relevance in both the engagement process and the creative and cultural experiences on offer.
- Encourage partnerships between publicly funded, amateur, voluntary, community and commercial sectors, as well as collaboration across various cultural institutions.
- Take an Action Research approach to community engagement in arts, creativity, and culture; learn what works best and share that learning.

Amounts available: Minimum £750,000, Maximum £1 million

Application deadlines: Closes on 16th January 2025

The Big Give - Green Match Fund – NEW GRANT

Summary

The Green Match Fund is a seven-day match funding campaign run by the Big Give in partnership with the Environmental Funders Network and offers non-profit organisations an opportunity to enhance their funding for environmentally-focused projects.

Eligible organisations can apply for grants to support projects that aim to restore, protect, and enhance the natural environment, addressing critical ecological issues such as biodiversity, pollution reduction, and climate resilience.

The purpose of this initiative is to enhance the impact of environmental charities by matching public donations, allowing selected organisations to effectively double their fundraising through this match-funding scheme.

Successful charities are awarded a sum of match funding which is ring-fenced for their organisation. This match funding is unlocked by public donations given through Big Give's online fundraising platform during the week of the campaign (22nd to 29th April 2025).

Key Criteria

Eligible organisations:

- Are UK-registered charity with the Charity Commission or have a tax-exempt status that are working on environmental issues as part of their core mission (i.e. that the environment is mentioned in the organisation's charitable objects). This may include: biodiversity & conservation; climate change; agriculture & food; sustainable communities; energy; transport; trade & finance; consumption & waste; toxics & pollution.
- Have an annual income of at least £25,000

Amounts available:

- Up to £10,000 in match funding through the 1:1 Model
- Up to £50,000 in match funding through the Pledge Model

Application deadlines: 17th January 2025

Market Harborough Building Society – Community Fund – NEW GRANT

Summary

The fund aims to empower local initiatives, support grassroots projects, and foster a spirit of togetherness. Through the Community Fund, the Market Harborough Building Society aims to tackle the challenges faced by the community head-on and create lasting change where it matters most.

The grant can be used for things like equipment, staff costs, training, rent, or volunteer expenses.

The main need the fund will support is Poverty and Disadvantage (which includes):

- Food and fuel poverty
- Housing/homelessness
- Debt relief and financial resilience
- Antisocial behaviour/crime/gangs
- Rural issues/transport
- Abuse/violence/exploitation
- Ex-offenders/at risk of offending

Key Criteria

This funding prioritises projects addressing Poverty and Disadvantage within the eligible areas of Market Harborough, Kibworth, Corby, Kettering, Desborough, and Rothwell.

The grant must be used within one year.

Applying organisations will need to have:

- At least three management members who are independent and unrelated, with no more than 50% control by any one person.
- Adherence to Charity Commission guidelines where relevant.
- At least two bank signatories.
- Local branches of national charities must show local activity and be able to ringfence funding awarded for use only for the purposes set out in the grant offer

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

Application deadlines: 19th January 2025 (decisions in March 2025)

Leicestershire & Rutland Community Foundation – Making Local Life Better Fund – NEW GRANT

Summary

The Making Local Life Better Fund is made up of money from private donor grant-giving funds that the Community Foundation manages.

Donors choose different charitable aims, but all support local communities, and many particularly want to support smaller grassroots community, voluntary and charitable groups improving the lives of local people, particularly who are vulnerable, under-represented or disadvantaged.

The grant can be used for a range of costs including staffing, training, rent and core costs,

Key Criteria

- Grant monies must be spent within 1 year of the award
- Charities with large free reserves, surplus income, or over £1M income may be considered lower priority

Amounts available: Between £1,000 and £3,000

Application deadlines: 20th January 2025

Lloyds Bank Foundation – Specialist Programme – NEW GRANT

Summary

The Lloyds Bank Foundation for England and Wales has re-opened its Specialist grants programme. The Grant is available alongside a range of tailored development support.

The grants support the development and growth of specialist charities that understand the complexity of the issues people face and are best placed to make a genuine difference in people's lives. Eligible charities must address one of the foundation's open themes:

- Addiction
- Asylum seekers and refugees
- Care leavers
- Domestic abuse
- Homelessness
- Offending
- Sexual abuse and exploitation
- Trafficking and modern slavery

Key Criteria

Eligible Charities must:

- Have an annual income between £25,000 and £500,000
- Have at least one set of annual accounts showing as 'received' on the Charity Commission website
- Have a bank account in the name of the charity
- Have a track record of delivering services for at least one year, mainly to people aged 18 and over. If you are applying under Care Leavers, you must have a track record of working with people aged 16 – 25 years old
- If you have a live grant with Lloyds Bank Foundation, it must end before 23rd January 2026

Amounts available: Maximum £75,000 (over three years)

The Foundation can also fund up to £500 of accessibility support to enable you to apply for this programme, including: BSL interpreters; Language translation; Scribes and Dyslexia software.

Application deadlines: 23rd January 2025

One Stop – Community Partnership Programme – NEW GRANT

Summary

Community groups and other not for profit organisations within a two-mile radius of a One Stop shop can apply for a grant to support projects and initiatives that are:

- Tackling food poverty
- Supporting the vulnerable
- Supporting the elderly
- Supporting low-income families
- Supporting local sports teams
- Improving the local environment
- Reducing Waste in the community

Alongside a grant, the One Stop Community Team and One Stop Store Team create a long-term tailored support programme for successful applicants.

Key Criteria

- Applications will be welcomed from various organisations including voluntary/community organisations, registered charities, schools, health bodies, Parish/Town councils, social enterprises, Community Interest Companies.
- Each One Stop store is able to create a partnership with one group only. Before you start your application, please use the [Store Locator](#) to check the distance from your local store and whether funding is currently available there.

Amounts available: Maximum £1,000

Application deadlines: Applications open between 2nd December 2024 and 24th January 2025

AB Charitable Trust – Human Rights Funding – NEW GRANT

Summary

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

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

Both core and project funding are available

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

- Campaigning
- Advocacy
- Narrative change work

Key Criteria

Eligible organisations must:

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

Amounts available: Maximum £30,000 (over three years)

Application deadlines: 31st January 2025 (Decisions in April 2025)

The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust

Summary

Grants are available for UK-registered charities that seek to enhance and improve people's lives by advancing the arts, health and medical welfare, and the environment.

The services provided to communities could include promoting access to the arts, conservation activities, music and art therapy to improve mental health and wellbeing and providing breaks for carers.

The fund can be used for project or core costs.

Key Criteria

- Charities that have been unsuccessful in their application must wait 2 years before re-applying
- The majority of grants are one-off grants for one year
- The Trustees seldom join in major fundraising campaigns or capital projects, preferring to direct their donations to those charities where their contribution will make a major difference. The Trustees favour small-scale, locally based initiatives

Amounts available: Between £500 and £6,000

Application deadlines: 4th February 2025 (There are three grant making decision meetings per year. Applications by 4th February will be considered in March 2025)

Harborough District Council – Community Grant Fund

Summary

The Community Grant Fund is a capital grant scheme for town and parish councils/meetings and community organisations in the Harborough district.

A share of the £1m Grant has been allocated to parishes and towns based on the local plan. This gives more resource to the areas which were allocated greater growth in the last local plan.

The fund can be used to support other grants offered by the council, such as Section 106.

Key Criteria

- All applications outside of Market Harborough need to be submitted or supported by the Parish Council or Parish Meeting.
- The funding can only go to groups that are constituted and have held a bank account in the name of the group for three years – this relates to the group delivering the project. Although many Parish Meetings will not meet these criteria, they can support an application on behalf of another group who does meet the criteria.
- More than one application can be submitted subject to applications not exceeding the allocated grant amount for that parish or town.
- Grants must be spent within one year of receipt

Amounts available:

The amounts have been apportioned to give some relative recognition of scale of growth but also spread to ensure as many communities as possible have access to some funds without a bidding process. [There is a document available which sets out the allocation.](#)

Application deadlines: 16th February, 25th May and 24th August 2025

The Royal Countryside Fund – NEW GRANT

Summary

Voluntary and community organisations can apply for funding which delivers transformative, community-led initiatives in rural areas along the themes of:

- Keeping young people in the countryside
- Powering up rural communities
- Increasing environmental sustainability
- Building emergency resilience in rural areas

Grant opens on 10th January 2025

Prospective applicants can sign up to attend a [webinar](#) being held on Tuesday, December 17th at 18:00.

Key Criteria

Applying organisations must have an income of less than £500,000 a year

Amounts available: Maximum £25,000 (over 24 months)

Application deadlines: 21st February 2025 (deadline for expression of interest)

[Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council – Warm Welcome Grant](#)

Summary

Voluntary Community Sector (VCS) or not for profit organisations based in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough can apply for a grant to support the costs associated with providing a Warm Welcome provision during the winter of 2024 to 2025.

Key Criteria

The grant must be spent before 31st March 2025.

The Warm Welcome provision must:

- Operate within the Borough of Hinckley & Bosworth.
- Be offered for a minimum of 8 hours a month, for a minimum of 4 months during the period October 2024 and March 2025.
- Be open to the general public and not refused on grounds of gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, occupation, religious, political or other beliefs.
- Parish and Town Councils are not able to apply

Amounts available: Maximum £1,500

Application deadlines: 28th February 2025 (unless all the funding allocated to the project has already been used, in which case it will close sooner).

[Crowdfunder - Energy Efficiency Sharematch Fund](#) – NEW GRANT

Summary

Community organisations in England can apply for funding to reduce energy usage and carbon footprint. It can be used to install on-site energy generation measures like solar panels and heat pumps, improve building energy efficiency through insulation and LED lighting, and upgrade operational equipment to more energy-efficient alternatives.

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

To receive match funding eligible organisations must run a community share issue through the Crowdfunder platform.

Key Criteria

Applying organisations must:

- Be a Community Benefit Society, Charitable Community Benefit Society or Co-operative Society
- Own their buildings or have long (>10 years) tenancies in place.

Organisations can only access funding from the Energy Efficiency Sharematch once.

Amounts available: Between £5,000 and £30,000 (the final grant award would be based on 25-33% match of the total raised through the Crowdfunding platform).

Application deadlines: Closes March 2025

Turning Point – Community Innovation Fund

Summary

Charities, community groups and social enterprises in England can apply for seed funding to support initiatives aimed at reducing social isolation and enhancing wellbeing for vulnerable people in their local areas. Eligible activities should focus on promoting physical activity, fostering social connections, learning new skills, support people to volunteer or mindfulness activities.

Key Criteria

Projects should be:

- Connected to one of Turning Point services as a member of staff, peer mentors and volunteers or a community group that is local to a Turning Point service. (community organisations need to be nominated by the local Turning Point service)
- Able to demonstrate a legacy beyond the fund
- Supporting one of the 5 ways of wellbeing
- A new project idea – (the fund cannot support ongoing activity costs)

Amounts available: Maximum £2,500

Application deadlines: 24th March 2025

Sport England – Movement Fund Emergency Relief Fund – NEW GRANT

Summary

Grants are available to not-for-profit organisations, including community clubs, charities, and public bodies, to restore sports facilities damaged by Storms Bert and Conall. The fund aims to assist in the swift restoration of sports facilities and activities.

The type of costs the funding can be used for include:

- skip hire to remove sediment and rubbish
- minor electrical works to restore power
- decontamination works or clearing of blocked drains
- cleaning work to get showers and changing rooms back up and running
- securing buildings.

Key Criteria

- The [Movement Fund](#) eligibility criteria will apply to organisations seeking emergency relief funding
- Funding will be prioritised to support sports and activities that need to recover quickly, with spring and summer sports, or where activity is not scheduled to take place for several weeks, being a lower priority.
- Applications should submit evidence of damage which is directly attributable to the recent extreme weather. This should be in the form of photographs or reports of the damage that has occurred.

Amounts available: Maximum £15,000

Application deadlines: Open (no deadline provided)

Moto in the Community Trust – Community Grants – NEW GRANT

Summary

Charities, schools and community organisations operating within a 15-mile radius of a Moto Motorway Services site can apply for funding for projects and activities that deliver benefits to local communities.

Moto in The Community Trust will fund different types of projects provided they directly benefit the communities where Moto is present or where it has a significant staff catchment.

Key Criteria

Please note that any application that is submitted should have the endorsement of a Moto colleague; that is someone directly employed by Moto Hospitality Ltd.

Amounts available: Average grant is £1,000

Application deadlines: Open (The application to approval process can take up to 8 weeks to complete).

British Gas Energy Fund – Energy Support Fund – NEW GRANT

Summary

The British Gas Trust has reopened its Energy Support Fund to help British Gas customers in England, Scotland and Wales struggling to pay their energy bills.

The fund, set up in response to the rising cost of living and inflation, will provide eligible customers with grants to help clear outstanding arrears. Applications take up to four weeks to be assessed.

Key Criteria

Applicants must meet all the following criteria:

- Be British Gas credit or pre-payment meter customers living in England, Scotland, or Wales
- Have not received a grant from the British Gas Energy Trust within the last 12 months
- Be seeking a grant to clear an outstanding debt on a current or open gas, electricity or dual fuel energy account in their name or be a member of that household. The energy account must relate to their main residence
- Have a minimum debt of £50 as a pre-payment meter customer, or £250 as a credit account customer
- Have a maximum £2,000 gas and/or electricity debt
- Be in or facing Fuel Poverty
- Have received help from a money advice or guidance agency within the last 6 months

Amounts available: Maximum £2,000

Application deadlines: Open - will remain open until all available funds have been awarded

British Gas Energy Trust – Individual and Families Fund - NEW GRANT

Summary

The fund, set up in response to the rising cost of living and inflation, will provide eligible customers with grants to help clear outstanding arrears. Applications take up to four weeks to be assessed.

The fund is available to British Gas and non-British Gas customers with credit or pre-payment meter accounts.

Several suppliers have their own support fund which is restricted to their customers only. These are: OVO, Boost, Eon, Eon Next, EDF, Scottish Power, Octopus, Shell Energy, SSE and Utilita. If you are a customer of one of these companies, please apply to them directly.

Key Criteria

Applicants must meet all the following criteria:

- Pre-payment meter customers must have between £50 and £1,700 of energy debt
- Credit customers must have between £250 and £1,700 of energy debt
- You live in England, Scotland, or Wales
- You have not received a grant from the British Gas Energy Trust within the last 2 years
- You must be seeking a grant to clear an outstanding debt on a current or open gas, electricity or dual fuel energy account. The account must be in your name and relate to your main residence
- The trust does not consider awarding grants to closed accounts (e.g., if you have moved home)
- If your application is successful, your energy account will be credited with the grant. Please note the British Gas Energy Trust does not award cash payments
- You must be in or facing fuel poverty
- You have received help from a money advice agency or used our trusted partner's self-help Benefit Calculator tool within the last 6 months

Amounts available: Maximum £2,000

Application deadlines: Will remain open until all available funds have been awarded

Social Investment Business – Energy Resilience Fund – NEW GRANT

Summary

The fund offers unrestricted loans and grants to help charities and social enterprises in England improve their energy resilience.

Eligible uses include installing energy-saving measures or generation technologies for buildings and land (including new builds), and purchasing energy-efficient or environmentally friendly vehicles and equipment. If required, energy audit support will also be provided.

Key Criteria

To be eligible, organisations must:

- Demonstrate that they are unable to access mainstream bank lending for this purpose.
- Have a minimum of 2 years' operating activity.
- Have a minimum turnover of £100k in your last set of end of year accounts.
- Have fewer than 250 employees and either an annual turnover not exceeding £40m or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding £35m.
- Have Freehold ownership or a suitable written lease agreement with a minimum of 12 years remaining on it if you are applying to install energy saving/ generating measures to buildings/ land
- Note that vehicles/ equipment (any non-property related assets) should be intended to be purchased and owned by the applicant organisation and to therefore sit on the financial balance sheet of the applicant organisation

Amounts available: Between £25,000 and £250,000 (40% grant 60% loan) Loans are repayable over ten years at a fixed rate of 8.5% per annum.

Application deadlines: Not disclosed

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 VCS 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, 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.

Contact Details:

[VAL website](#)

Tel: 0116 2575050

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:

[CASE website](#)

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:

[Leicestershire & Rutland Community Foundation Website](#)

Tel: 0116 262 4916

Email: grants@llrcommunityfoundation.org.uk

Commissioning Opportunities



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

[Source East Midlands](#)

[Due North](#)

[Gov UK Contract Finder](#)

Easy Fundraising



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

[Easy Fundraising Website](#)

Leicestershire Communities Website



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.

[Leicestershire Communities Grants and Funding Webpage](#)