

Monthly Funding Information February 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
Smart Energy GB – in Communities Grants Programme *(New)	9 th Feb 2024
Veterans Foundation	23 rd April
Wolfson Foundation – Hospice Care Home Training Programme	Open

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

Grant Fund	Closest Deadline
Masonic Charitable Foundation - Hospice Grants	5 th Feb 2024
LandAid - Routes Out of Homelessness Programme (New)	23 rd Feb 2024

Funding for projects which support broader community outcomes

Grant Fund	Closest Deadline
Forestry Commission Seed Sourcing Grant *	13 th Feb 2024
VAL – Neighbourhood Mental Health Café Grant	14 th Feb 2024
MSE Charity	16 th Feb 2024
National Forest Company – Forest Society Grants	19 th Feb 2024
Rothschild Foundation – European Jewish Heritage Programme *	19 th Feb 2024
Energy Saving Trust - Energy Redress Scheme (New)	20 th Feb 2024
Energy Saving Trust – Carbon Emissions Reduction & Innovation Fund (New)	20 th Feb 2024
Naturewatch Foundation Pet Rescue Grant (New)	21 st Feb 2024
Charles Plater Trust (New)	22 nd Feb 2024
PRS Foundation - Talent Development Network (New)	26 th Feb 2024
Shoosmiths Foundation (New)	26 th Feb 2024
Boots Charitable Trust	28 th Feb 2024
Blaby District Council – Community Grants	28 th Feb 2024
Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust (New)	28 th Feb 2024
Rewilding Britain – Rewilding Innovation Fund *	29 th Feb 2024
Kelly Family Charitable Trust	1 st March 2024
Jerwood Foundation – Arts Grants	1 st March 2024
Bailey Thomas Charitable Fund (New)	1 st March 2024
Leeds Building Society Foundation	4 th March 2024
Nuffield Foundation Research, Development & Analysis Fund (New)	11 th March 2024
The Hedley Foundation (New)	13 th March 2024
Arts Council England - Cultural Development Fund * (New)	15 th March 2024
Sport England – Small Grant Scheme	31 st March 2024
British Gas Energy Trust	31 st March 2024
UnLtd - Awards for Social Entrepreneurs	31 st March 2024
Thomas Wall Trust (New)	29 th April 2024
NFU Mutual Charitable Trust (New)	24 th May 2024
Theatre Trust – Small Grants Scheme	7 th June 2024
Groundwork - VCSE Energy Efficiency Scheme	August 2024
HM Govt. – Community Automated External Defibrillators Fund	21 st Sept 2024
We Are Undefeatable In The Community Small Grants	20 th Oct 2024
Green King IPA – Proud to Pitch In (New)	1 st Nov 2024
MyCommunity - Community Ownership Fund	March 2025

Flexible Finance Fund - for Black & Racially Minoritised Groups (New)	Open
Utilita Giving Grants	Open
Action for Race Equality - Windrush Justice Programme	Open
SIB - Thrive Together Fund	Open
National Archives – Skills Bursaries *	Open
Crowdfunder - Cost of Living Resilience Fund	Open

Funding for projects which support Adults

[Smart Energy GB – in Communities Grants Programme](#) * – NEW GRANT

Summary

Smart Energy GB working with National Energy Action (NEA) is offering grants to regionally based voluntary and public sector organisations (preferably with local networks) that can help engage people and communities across Britain with information about how to get and use smart meters.

Funding can support both direct contact activity (face to face events or phone advice) and indirect activity (marketing and communication channels to indirectly reach the target audience such as leaflets and radio adverts)

Projects need to address the fund's objectives, which are to support those who might find it difficult to engage with the smart meter rollout.

This year, the funding is aimed at partners who can evidence reaching people with a number of these characteristics, including:

- Aged 75+.
- Have at least one disability or impairment (for example, but not limited to, relating to sensory, physical, mental health or learning/memory).
- From lower socioeconomic groups.
- Lower literacy.

Key Criteria

All projects must start by 1st April 2024 and finish by 4th December 2024.

Previous applicants, both successful and unsuccessful, are eligible to apply.

Organisations which have been in receipt of funding from this programme for the last three consecutive years are not eligible to apply this year.

Amounts available: Between £7,500 and £25,000 (depending on the number of target beneficiaries)

Application deadlines: 9th February 2024

Veterans Foundation

Summary

The Foundation offers grants to charities and not-for-profit organisations that provide support to those in need among serving Armed Forces personnel, veterans, operationally qualified seafarers and their immediate families.

A potential, qualified beneficiary “in need” is one or all of the following:

- At a disadvantage compared with non-armed forces citizens due to their service
- Someone who is experiencing challenges such as the following: unemployment, homelessness, mental and physical ill-health, injuries, poor welfare, old age, a child's loss of parent, or addiction

The funding can be used to cover a range of costs directly related to projects covering a range of aspects of social care for the Armed Forces community.

Key Criteria

The Foundation has introduced an online eligibility quiz. This must be completed in order to access the application form.

Amounts available:

Grants up to £30,000 - can be for one year or a multi-year grant for up to three years.

Grants up to £50,000 - for the exclusive use of salary costs for up to over a two year period

Application deadlines: 23rd April 2024 (also 30th July and 15th October 2024)

Wolfson Foundation – Hospice Care Home Training Programme

Summary

Funding is available for training to encourage greater collaboration and interchange of ideas amongst staff in hospices and in care homes, particularly around dementia care for those approaching the end of life. The purpose of the education and training is to:

- Encourage increased collaboration, sharing of knowledge and good practice across hospice and care home.
- Address unmet education and training needs cost effectively within hospices' immediate region.
- Have a direct impact on patient care for those with a diagnosis of dementia who have palliative care needs.

Key Criteria

- Retrospective costs and in-house training cannot be funded
- Hospices are eligible for a maximum of two grants per year
- A grant may be for a series of events, e.g. a series of workshops on dementia and palliative care in care homes.
- Applications must be received at least one month before training commences.

Amounts available: Max £2,000

Application deadlines: Open - applications are accepted on a rolling basis

Funding for projects which support Children and Young People

Masonic Charitable Foundation - Hospice Grants

Summary

The funding is intended to support adult hospices in testing approaches to improve transitional care for young people with the aim of addressing gaps in the access to and provision of short break/respite care as well as enabling equity.

For the purpose of this grant programme, a 'project' is considered to be a discrete range of activities with a clear purpose, designed to bring about change.

Projects could include:

- Co-ordination, support and advocacy – staff and peer led approaches during transition to adult orientated service.
- Training - staff at all levels should have the skills and capabilities to support young people, as well as developing the skills and knowledge about the range of complex health conditions and their implications.
- Tackling inequality, understanding the gaps in care locally and implementing a project to address these.
- Trialling short/break respite care with clear plans to evaluate benefits.
- Capital/Refurbishment - to improve areas within the hospice building, making it more age appropriate.

Key Criteria

- Applying organisations should be adult hospices who are Hospice UK members
- Hospices awarded a grant in the April 2023 Masonic Charitable Foundation/Hospice UK Tackling Poverty and Deprivation programme are not eligible to apply in this round.
- Projects should run over a period of 18 months. This allows for up to three months setup phase and 12 months project delivery – with a further three months to cover any unforeseen delays mid project.

Amounts available: Max £40,000

Application deadlines: 5th February 2024

LandAid - Routes Out of Homelessness Programme

Summary

Grants are available to small-medium sized charities for building work as part of the refurbishment or creation of bed spaces for young people who are homeless, or at severe risk of homelessness in the UK.

There are three funding streams offered within the Routes Out of Homelessness programme, as follows:

- Safe Places Grants - to create new/additional hosting bedspaces, generally bedspaces in the homes of individuals or families who may be volunteers or paid. There are no funding limits, but bedspaces are expected to cost anywhere between £1,000 and £3,500.
- Capital Grants - to create bedspaces in properties owned by, or on a long-term lease to charitable organisations. Awards between £20,000 and £100,000 will usually be made under this stream
- Move-on Grants - To unlock bedspaces in the private, or social, rental sector. These bedspaces will be for move-on accommodation. It is anticipated that the average move-on bedspace in the private sector will generally cost £1,000 to £2,000 to unlock.

Key Criteria

UK organisations with charitable objectives are eligible to apply, including registered charities, Community Interest Companies (CICs), Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs) or other not-for-profit organisations.

Applicants must work with young people aged 16 to 25 who are homeless, or who are at risk of, or have experienced homelessness. This does not need to be the sole focus of the organisation, but LandAid funding can only cover projects which specifically support this age group.

Partnership applications, with an identified lead partner who will hold the funding and monitoring duties associated with the grant, are welcome.

In 2024, there is particular interest in projects that will create bedspaces with the following attributes:

- Based in the North-East of England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.
- For groups of young people who may be disproportionately at risk of homelessness. This would include young people of colour, young refugees and young people identifying as LGBTQ+.
- Which would be transformational for the charity and/or local area.

Please note, work that is a statutory responsibility cannot be funded.

Amounts available: Not specified

Application deadlines: 24th February 2024

Funding for projects which support broader community outcomes

Forestry Commission – Seed Sourcing Grant *

Summary

The Forestry Commission's Seed Sourcing Grant (SSG) aims to enhance the quantity, quality, and diversity of Seed Stands and Seed Orchards in England. The funding is designed to boost domestic tree seed production and the grant also aims to improve the diversity of England's seed supply.

Key Criteria

The following groups are identified as potential applicants to the SSG:

- Public and private sector tree nurseries and tree seed suppliers.
- Research institutes including public sector research establishments.
- Landowners including private and public landowners and NGOs.
- NGO's working on tree improvement and other aspects of seed and tree production.

To be eligible for funding:

- The project proposal must be relevant to the production of tree seed from species covered by the UK FRM scheme (including those in the voluntary scheme).
- The seed stand or seed orchard must be in England.
- The work to be funded must not have commenced.
- Activities must be associated with an eligible FRM category.

Eligible activities include:

- Management of existing seed stands, to ensure they are productive for seed collectors.
- Desk studies and field studies to identify and bring additional seed stands onto the National Register of Basic Material.
- Planning and planting of new seed stands and/or new seed orchards, and their registration on the National Register of Basic Material.

Previous applicants to the SSG, whether successful or unsuccessful, are able to reapply in the current round.

Amounts available: Maximum £75,000

Application deadlines: 13th February 2024

VAL – Neighbourhood Mental Health Café Grant

Summary

Neighbourhood Mental Health Cafes (formerly known as Crisis Cafés) are a safe space for individuals struggling with emotional and mental wellbeing who do not require immediate medical care, they are places that people can go to if they are experiencing a crisis, usually to access mental health support and advice as an alternative to attending A&E.

Voluntary Action LeicesterShire (VAL) is working in partnership with the NHS Integrated Care Board (ICB) to disseminate grants to groups across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

Key Criteria

- Applications will be welcomed from organisations who will deliver Cafés in one or more of the following specific locations/areas: Leicester University DeMontfort University, Loughborough University, Thurnby Lodge, Earl Shilton, Wigston, Melton.
- Organisations are eligible to apply for funding to run more than one Neighbourhood Mental Health Café
- Applying organisations must be either registered with the Charity Commission or Companies House. Smaller organisations can be part of a partnership bid.
- Each provider will deliver 6 hours of support per week, ideally running two, 3 hour sessions.

Amounts Available: Max £30,000 over 12 months

Application deadlines: 14th February 2024

MSE Charity

Summary

A small number of grants are available for not-for-profit organisations in the UK for projects that relate to the delivery of financial skills to different defined groups. The January round is for groups supporting those “Living with Long Term challenges” such as Dementia, Autism, Learning Difficulties, Disabilities, Caring Responsibilities, Mental illness, Brain injury / stroke.

Key Criteria

Please note that each grant round is limited to the first 40 accepted applications. Previous rounds have closed within a couple of weeks of opening.

Eligible applicants must:

- Be based in the UK and looking for funding for UK based activities
- Have an annual income of less than £750,000 and unrestricted reserves that are less than six months of their running costs.

Amounts available: Max £8,000

Application deadlines: Expected to open 15th January 2024 and close on 16th February 2024

National Forest Company – Forest Society Grants

Summary

Grants available to businesses, voluntary and community groups and charities for projects that:

- Improve the health and wellbeing of residents and communities within the National Forest by connecting people with nature through local woodlands and greenspaces.
- Encourage Participation through imaginative and engaging ways to inspire people to access the natural environment, gain new skills and knowledge, and benefit from new experiences outdoors.

Key Criteria

Activities must be carried out within the National Forest boundary, which covers parts of Leicestershire, Derbyshire, and Staffordshire.

Projects will need to be completed between 1st April 2024 and Friday 7th March 2025.

Amounts available: Between £2,000 and £4,000 (only four or five grants will be awarded)

Application deadlines: 19th February 2024

Rothschild Foundation – European Jewish Heritage Programme*

Summary

Grants for institutions and organisations with materials relating to Jewish heritage to conserve, organise, and protect collections, develop exhibitions, and support the professional development and training of staff working with Jewish material heritage.

The following strands of funding are available:

- Collections Management – Grants of up to £60,000 per year for up to three years to ensure collections are conserved, organised and accessible to diverse audiences.
- Exhibition Support – Grants of up to £75,000 per year for up to three years for exhibitions based on material and collections relating to Jewish history and culture.
- Professional Development Language – Grants of up to £2,000 for professionals working in a Jewish heritage institution for online courses in a Jewish language (e.g. Yiddish, Judeo-Spanish).

Key Criteria

- Any organisation or institution active in Europe (EU and non-EU states alike), whose activities are deemed charitable under UK charity law, is eligible to apply.
- This includes organisations which are either not-for-profit or publicly funded and qualifying institutions are usually state or private libraries, archives, museums, research institutes, or universities.
- Match funding of at least 30% is required

Amounts available: Max £75,000 (per year for up to three years)

Application deadlines: Expressions of interest for the Collections and Exhibitions strands should be submitted by 19th February 2024. Applications for Professional Development Grants are considered on a rolling basis throughout the year.

Energy Saving Trust - Energy Redress Scheme – NEW GRANT

Summary

Grants are available to registered charities for projects that support vulnerable households in England, Scotland and Wales that are most at risk from cold homes and high energy bills.

Projects should aim to:

- Support energy consumers in vulnerable situations.
- Deliver benefits to the types of consumers that were negatively impacted by the specific issues that triggered redress payments.

The grants can be used for capital or revenue funding and can provide up to 100% of the project cost. Projects lasting up to two years can be funded.

Key Criteria

- Before applying, organisations need to pre-register by visiting the Energy Redress registration page.
- Organisations that have not yet registered with the scheme must do so 10 working days before the relevant fund closes to allow time for eligibility checks to take place.
- Other organisations can be involved in delivering the project, but the projects must be led by a charity who must submit the application and be responsible for the funding and project delivery.
- The scheme does not cover energy saving measures or installation costs for renewable energy technologies that can be funded from another source, such as the Energy Company Obligation (ECO)

Amounts available:

Small Project Fund between £20,000 and £49,999

Main Project Fund between £50,000 and £2 million

Application deadlines: 20th February 2024

Energy Saving Trust – Carbon Emissions Reduction & Innovation Fund – NEW GRANT

Summary

Grants are available to not-for-profit groups in Great Britain for projects that empower householders to reduce their carbon emissions and engage positively with the transition to net zero and for the development of innovative products and services related to energy.

The funding is for projects that demonstrate measurable and lasting reductions in the carbon intensity of energy use and accelerate the transition to net zero. Projects must also have a realistic prospect of delivering broadly replicable benefits to existing and future energy consumers.

Projects funded through both schemes can benefit all domestic energy consumers, not just households in vulnerable situations.

- **Carbon Emissions Fund** - for initiatives principally aimed at reducing the climate change impact associated with domestic energy use, which relate to Ofgem's regulated areas of energy generation, distribution, supply and use.
- **Innovation Fund** - Funding for the development of innovative products or services related to domestic energy

Key Criteria

- Before applying, organisations need to pre-register by visiting the Energy Redress registration page.
- Organisations can reapply in the next open funding round, whether they have been successful or unsuccessful in previous rounds.

Amounts available: Between £20,000 and £1 million

Application deadlines: 20th February 2024

Naturewatch Foundation Pet Rescue Grant – NEW GRANT

Summary

The Pet Rescue Grant is a new fund provided and administered by Naturewatch Foundation, a registered animal welfare charity whose mission is to end animal cruelty and advance animal welfare standards. The Foundation is offering grants to help frontline animal welfare services in the UK to provide a second chance to pets who have been exploited for profit.

Key Criteria

One or two grants are available each year for not-for-profit frontline animal welfare projects in the UK (including charities and Community Interest Companies) that directly help with the rescue or rehabilitation of dogs, cats or rabbits affected by the illegal pet trade. Grants can be used for the following:

- Veterinary care
- Behavioural support
- Specialist facilities or equipment
- Training for personnel

Amounts available: Maximum £5,000

Application deadlines: 21st February 2024

Charles Plater Trust – NEW GRANT

Summary

Grants available to local charities with an annual income of less than £10 million for projects which promote social justice through education, supporting leadership, social action, and applied research projects.

Key Criteria

The trust wants to encourage three different types of change through its funding support:

- Change for individuals - achieving significant change for individuals who are the most marginalised in the UK today.
- Change for organisations - enhancing the capacity of organisations to respond more effectively to social needs.
- Change for wider society - generating social or systemic change through policy or practice change.

The funding will cover the following types of activity:

Leadership for Laypeople - Projects that deepen the awareness of Catholic Social Teaching and Catholic Social Thought to better equip people to take on leadership roles in tackling poverty, exclusion, economic inequality and environmental concerns.

Social Action - Projects that deliver tangible outcomes to tackle poverty, exclusion, economic inequality and environmental concerns for marginalised people and communities.

Applied Research - Projects that develop and apply Catholic Social Teaching and Catholic Social Thought, in partnership with those who are delivering social action work, to ultimately improve public policy and practice.

Organisations do not need to be Roman Catholic or Christian, but their objectives should be clearly aligned with Catholic Social Teaching principles

Amounts available:

Applications for large grants (min £5,001, max £60,000) currently being accepted.

Small Grants round will open in autumn.

Application deadlines: 22nd February 2024

PRS Foundation - Talent Development Network – NEW GRANT

Summary

Funding is available for not-for-profit organisations based in the UK to support talent development programmes involving the creation, performance and promotion of new music by living, UK-based music creators.

Key Criteria

The programme offers:

- Up to three consecutive years of grant support providing organisations the opportunity to plan longer term initiatives.
- Between £10,000 and £25,000 each year to organisations to provide crucial, transformative, and impactful support to the UK's most talented music creators to develop their careers.
- Access to a network of pioneering talent development organisations across the UK where organisations can share and learn from each other.

UK based not-for-profit organisations, with a track record of transformational talent development of at least 18 months can apply for a range of music creation and associated costs,

PRS Foundation does not 100% fund programmes and expects that a certain proportion of the applicant's income will come from sources other than the Talent Development Network.

PRS Foundation expects organisations to contribute at least 10% cash income towards the funded programme. More established organisations with multiple income streams and partners are expected to contribute significantly more.

Amounts available: Maximum £25,000

Application deadlines: 26th February 2024

Shoosmiths Foundation – NEW GRANT

Summary

Shoosmiths Foundation is offering grants for UK-based registered charities with an annual income of less than £1 million to support projects in the following categories:

- Advance social mobility in the legal sector, and across the UK, in line with the Shoosmiths social mobility action plan.
- Advance a carbon net zero UK.
- Advance access to justice in the UK.

Key Criteria

The current application round is for projects and activities that will advance a carbon net-zero UK that progress any of the following:

- A just transition within a net-zero context by supporting people disproportionately impacted by climate change.
- Provide skills development for UK carbon net-zero relevant roles.
- Provide net-zero awareness and training for specific groups working in the UK.
- Aid vulnerable members of the community to assist them to switch to renewable energy sources for their home energy consumption.
- Assist charities in switching to renewable energy sources for properties where they operate.

Amounts available: £50,000

Application deadlines: 26th February 2024

Boots Charitable Trust

Summary

Funding is for registered charities across the UK undertaking projects which meet at least one of Trust's four funding priorities:

- Health: Community healthcare, such as homecare or support for sufferers of medical conditions, and health education and prevention
- Lifelong learning: Local literacy and numeracy projects
- Community development: For example, supporting councils in providing voluntary services
- Social care: Personal, social or community activities or schemes.

Key Criteria

Applications are now accepted from registered charities benefiting people across the UK as well as Nottinghamshire.

Smaller voluntary organisations whose income and expenditure is less than £5,000 per year and who are not yet required to register with the Charity Commission may apply for up to £5,000

Organisations can only reapply after 12 months from the date of the last donation or rejection.

Amounts available: Between £500 and £10,000

Application deadlines: Applications can be submitted between 1st February and 28th February 2024. (There are three other application windows per year – May, August and November)

Blaby District Council – Community Grants

Summary

The scheme supports the local voluntary and community sector (VCS) to develop and strengthen community facilities and activities for the benefit of Blaby district residents.

The following grants are available:

- Capital Green Grants – energy efficiency improvements, low carbon heating and electricity adaptations, low carbon transport projects
- Large Capital Grants – purchase of higher value items, works to community buildings or outdoor spaces
- Small Capital Grants – purchase of lower value items, website development
- Revenue Grants – venue or transport hire, promotional activities, events
- Everyone Active Grants – sports equipment, tutor /coach fees, set up a new activity

Key Criteria

Organisations can only be awarded one grant per financial year (April-March)

Organisations should submit a copy of various documents including a governing document, safeguarding policies, equality policy or statement, bank statements and 3 quotes for any single item over £1,000

Each grant has quite specific criteria and priorities

Amounts available: Max grant £4,000 (but this varies across the different grant schemes)

Application deadlines: 28th February 2024 (final round for the 2023-24 financial year)

Austin and Pilkington Hope Trust – NEW GRANT

Summary

The Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust offers funding to UK registered charities whose work takes place in the UK. The funding is intended to support those in society who face the greatest challenges and whose opportunities are the most limited.

Key Criteria

Rounds 1 in 2024 is focussed on supporting disability projects, specifically employment and training for people living with disabilities to ensure better access.

Amounts available: Maximum £1,000 for Round 1, for charities with an operating income of between £100,000 and £1 million

Application deadlines: 28th February 2024

Rewilding Britain – Rewilding Innovation Fund *

Summary

Rewilding Britain is offering grants to help remove barriers to rewilding projects across Britain, whether they are at the early planning stage or wish to scale up pre-existing projects.

It will support rewilding projects on land and at sea, at a scale of more than 40 hectares (an individual landholding or a cluster of landholdings), that adhere to Rewilding Britain's rewilding principles, and could potentially unlock further funding or move a project in scale.

Key Criteria

- Applicants must first become a member of the Rewilding Network before submitting a full application
- Priority will be given to applicants who are taking an innovative approach to land and marine rewilding, and applicants that will help develop learning and evidence for others within the Rewilding Network.
- Funding cannot be provided for land purchase or capital costs, such as fencing.

Amounts available: Max £15,000

Application deadlines: 29th February 2024

Kelly Family Charitable Trust

Summary

The funding supports registered charities whose activities involve all or most family members, where possible, in initiatives that seek to tackle problems facing one or more of its members. The objective is to reinforce the benefit and support that family members as a unit can give to each other.

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

Funding is available for both capital and revenue grants as well as grants for core funding and projects-based grants

Key Criteria

- The trust prefers to support charities whose income is below £500,000
- Unsuccessful applicants must wait for 1 year before resubmitting an application.

Amounts available: Max £5,000

Application deadlines: 1st March 2024

Jerwood Foundation – Arts Grants

Summary

Grants are available for arts organisations across the UK to support a variety of projects and activities that make the arts available for public benefit.

Key Criteria

For the current funding round, the trustees will only consider applications for projects starting more than three months, but less than 12 months, from the funding round closing date (1st June 2024 to 1st March 2025).

Amounts available: Max £180,000 (most grants range between £1,000 and £25,000)

Application deadlines: 1st March 2024 (Further rounds close on 14th June and 4th October)

Bailey Thomas Charitable Fund - NEW GRANT

Summary

UK charities, Parent Teachers Associations, and schools can apply for grants to help both children and adults with severe learning difficulties, together with autism.

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

Key Criteria

- A further application from an organisation will not normally be considered for a period of at least two years after consideration of a previously successful grant (if your previous application was unsuccessful, this period is one year).
- The Trustees will not consider more than one application from an organisation at any one meeting at a time.

Amounts available:

Small Grants max £5,000

General Grant Programme min £9,000

Application deadlines: 1st March 2024 for General Grants Programme. Small grants are considered on a monthly basis.

Leeds Building Society Foundation

Summary

With a focus on supporting those in need of a safe and secure home, Leeds Building Society Foundation is now offering grants to UK registered charities for projects which address one or more of the following themes:

1. Financial stress - projects that help with bills or debt stress.
2. Security and refuge - projects that support emergency accommodation.
3. Quality and suitability of housing.
4. Health and wellbeing support for those experiencing homelessness.

Applications are welcome from those who take a Housing First and/or relationship-based approach

Key Criteria

The funding is to be used as follows:

- Small Grants - provide funding to projects being delivered anywhere in the UK that support those in need of a safe and secure home. Grants may only be used for capital expenditure (that is, to purchase items used to directly help those in need).
- Large Grants - can support new work or existing work, providing they are not requesting retrospective funding and fund core, project and/or capital costs. These grants are only available to organisations with a turnover of £5 million or less who are based in or delivering work in Yorkshire and/or the North East of England.

Amounts available:

Small Grants of between £250 and £1,000 for projects.

Large Grants of between £25,000 and £100,000. The grant can be a one year grant, or split across two or three years.

Application deadlines: 4th March 2024

Nuffield Foundation Research, Development & Analysis Fund – NEW GRANT

Summary

Funding is available for rigorous research proposals for pioneering ideas which have the potential to change lives. The Nuffield Foundation funds qualitative, quantitative and mixed-methods projects to inform social policy and practice across Justice, Welfare and Education.

Key Criteria

The Foundation's main focus is to fund research around the areas of education, welfare and justice.

More details can be seen in the [Guide for Applicants](#).

There are two stages to apply for funding:

Stage 1: Submit an outline application form online

Stage 2: Shortlisted applicants will be invited to complete a full application form for peer review and Foundation consideration.

Amounts available: Maximum £750,000

Application deadlines: 11th March 2024

The Hedley Foundation - NEW GRANT

Summary

Grants to support small-to-mid-size registered charities to help to improve the quality of life of young people, disabled people, elderly people, the terminally ill and otherwise disadvantaged people and their carers.

Key Criteria

- Applications for building construction, general running costs, transport, financial deficits or overseas projects are not eligible
- Applications on behalf of a church, museum or an individual are not eligible
- Applicants cannot have received a previous grant from The Foundation within the last 2 years (or submitted an application which was unsuccessful within the last 12 months)

Amounts available: Maximum £5,000

Application deadlines: 13th March 2024 (at least 6 weeks before the next review meeting on 24th April 2024. Further application review meetings are on 17th July and 13th November 2024)

Arts Council England - Cultural Development Fund * - NEW GRANT

Summary

The aim of the Fund is to level up through investment in culture across England. The fund will unlock local growth and productivity, increase access to excellent creativity and culture, and regenerate communities. It will achieve this through capital investment in transformative place-based creative and cultural initiatives.

Round Four of the programme will support places to achieve the following outcomes:

- Unlock local economic growth and productivity.
- Become more attractive places in which to live, work, visit and invest.
- Strengthen local leadership, partnerships and capability.

Key Criteria

Applications are accepted from partnerships between formally constituted organisations from both the public and private sectors (and the voluntary sector where appropriate).

The lead should be a local authority, combined authority, mayoral authority, Local Enterprise Partnership, university, cultural organisation, or other appropriate body in England

It is expected that at least one partner would be from the cultural, heritage or commercial creative industries, depending on who is most appropriate to meet the aims and outcomes of the proposed activity

The minimum partnership funding amount for this programme is 15% of the total project cost. A minimum of 50% of that partnership funding should be cash.

Amounts available: Between £2 million and £5 million

Application deadlines: Expressions of Interest for Round Four will be accepted between 9am on 5th February 2024 and 12pm (midday) on 15th March 2024.

Sport England – Small Grant Scheme

Summary

Sport England has extended its Small Grants programme to not-for-profit organisations who have been impacted by the October/November 2023 storms and flooding and are seeking storm relief funding. Funding is only designed to help with the initial clear up to enable activity to resume.

Example costs 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.

Key Criteria

The available funding will be focused on those areas worst affected, and priority will be given to sports and activities that need to return quickly.

Amounts available: Between £300 and £15,000

Application deadlines: 31st March 2024

British Gas Energy Trust

Summary

British Gas Energy Trust is offering grants to support vulnerable energy consumers to pay off their energy debts. The Individuals and Families Fund is intended to tackle fuel poverty by clearing the energy debts of struggling, eligible households and respond to the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

Key Criteria

Applicants must:

- Be British Gas credit or pre-payment meter customer.
- Live in England, Scotland or Wales.
- Not have received a British Gas Energy Trust grant 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 own name or be a member of that household.
- Have electric and/or gas debt of £250 to £1,500 on an active energy account for a main residence.
- Be in or facing Fuel Poverty.
- Have received help from a money advice or guidance agency.

Amounts available: Maximum £1,500 per household

Application deadlines: 31st March 2024 (or until the funding runs out, whichever is sooner)

UnLtd - Awards for Social Entrepreneurs

Summary

Funding and specialist support are available for UK social entrepreneurs to help them develop as social leaders, and to start up or grow their idea for a social venture. UnLtd is inviting applications from social entrepreneurs aged 16 and over who are living in the UK and who are the founder of the social business.

Start Up funding (not including wages) and support is available for social entrepreneurs with an idea or who are in the early stages of development.

Scaling Up funding (to support wages and living costs) and support is available for social entrepreneurs to grow their existing social venture to help it make a bigger difference.

Key Criteria

The social entrepreneur must:

- Have identified a social issue and developed a business model that works to solve it.
- Be committed to, and have a track record of, delivering local, regional or national social impact at scale.
- Be experienced, ambitious and capable of growing their venture.
- Have a realistic growth plan.
- Be committed to working full-time in their social venture.

The social venture must:

- Be at least one year old and less than four years old.
- Have a turnover of less than £250,000 in their last financial year.
- Be dynamic and ready to grow to local, regional or national scale and have a logical and appropriate plan to deliver this.
- Have a compelling performance to date and/or a logical and appropriate plan for rapid growth to reach local, regional or national scale.
- Not solely exist to secure investment in the year ahead.
- Target beneficiaries predominantly based in the UK.

Amounts available:

Maximum £8,000 for Start Up Support

Maximum £18,000 for Scaling Up Funding

Application deadlines: 31st March 2024 (followed by further deadlines on 30th June 2024 and 30th September 2024)

Theatre Trust – Small Grants Scheme

Summary

The grants will support small capital improvements to theatres run by charities and not-for-profit groups that will make a big impact to a theatre's resilience, sustainability or accessibility, or to improving the diversity of audiences.

Priority will be given to improvements to buildings that protect theatre use and remove barriers to participation and attendance.

Eligible projects include:

- Improvements and repairs to the building fabric.
- The installation of key plant and machinery.
- The purchase of key equipment (not software) to improve digital infrastructure.

Key Criteria

Applicant organisations must:

- Own or manage theatres with titles or signed leases of more than five years on buildings in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.
- Demonstrate that they run a regular theatre programme of professional, community and/or amateur work presenting no less than 30 performances a year.
- Have a bona fide UK charitable or not-for-profit legal structure and be able to provide certified or audited accounts for at least two years.

Amounts available: Max £5,000

Application deadlines: 7th June 2024 and 17th January 2025

HM Govt. - VCSE Energy Efficiency Scheme

Summary

The scheme will help voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations (VCSEs) across England to deliver more efficient services for people and communities by saving money on their energy bills. The scheme has two elements:

- Free independent energy assessments - this will help organisations identify how to reduce their bills and where to get further support.
- The installation of energy efficiency measures - organisations with an energy assessment may then be eligible to apply for a capital grant to install recommended energy efficiency measures in their premises. This element will open in January 2024.

Key Criteria

- All measures will need to be installed and paid for by March 2025.
- Priority will be given to organisations for whom energy is the biggest concern and those directly supporting individuals and communities with critical needs, particularly those related to the rising cost of living.
- Organisations must be able to demonstrate that they are financially sustainable but require support around energy
- Organisations must not be suitable for blended finance or loan support through other schemes
- Please note that the two scheme elements have slightly different eligibility criteria

Amounts available: Between £2,000 and £150,000

Application deadlines: Scheme closes August 2024

HM Govt. – Community Automated External Defibrillators Fund

Summary

Grants are available for community organisations across England to buy automated external defibrillators (AED) to install in a public place.

The funding will be allocated on the following basis:

- 100 applications will be selected by DHSC to receive a fully funded AED - selection is based on areas that are most in need of AED throughout England. Applicants will be advised in mid-October and units shipped in mid-November.
- 1,900 applications will receive partial DHSC funding for an AED - organisations will be required to provide their own match funding (£750)

The funding for the scheme is based on a first come first served basis.

Key Criteria

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be based in England.
- Not be an organisation that is eligible for the Department of Education scheme, e.g., a school.
- Locate the secure defibrillator cabinet outside in an area that is accessible to members of the public 24 hours per day.
- Be able to provide an electrical power source to ensure the defibrillator cabinet light and heater operate to keep the device at the right temperature.
- Provide match funding for their application (c. £750).

Amounts available: Max £750

Application deadlines: 21st September 2024 or until all the funding has been allocated, whichever comes first.

We Are Undefeatable In The Community Small Grants

Summary

Active Together are looking to support local groups and organisations in Leicestershire, Leicester or Rutland to grow an existing or to activate a new physical activity offer in the community and inspire more individuals living with a long-term health condition to get active.

Key Criteria

All projects that work directly with individuals living with a long-term health condition and that meet the criteria will be considered.

Applications will only be considered following completion of Active Together's World Cafe Events Evaluation, which can be found [here](#). If your organisation has not attended any of Active Together's World Cafe events this year, please [get in touch](#) with Active Together to discuss your application first.

Amounts available: Max £500

Application deadlines: Open - Applications will be assessed on a rolling first come first served basis until all funds have been fully allocated. The scheme closes on 20th October 2024.

Green King IPA – Proud to Pitch In – NEW GRANT

Summary

Grants are available for grassroots sports clubs and community organisations to deliver activities within local communities across the UK.

Individuals may nominate a sports club or organisation to receive a cash grant to continue delivering sports activities.

Examples of projects that have previously received funding include:

- Renovations of a club's facilities to make them more inclusive and accessible.
- Coaching qualifications and referee courses.
- New equipment and kit.

Key Criteria

- Funded projects should be delivered by 31st December 2024
- The project beneficiaries must be aged 18 and over.
- Priority will be given to organisations that can demonstrate how their sports club or project benefits members of the local community, and projects that will have a long-term impact.

Amounts available: Max £4,000

Application deadlines: Open to applications all year but the scheme closes 1st November 2024

MyCommunity – Community Ownership Fund

Summary

The fund is to help communities across the UK to take ownership of assets/properties at risk of closure.

There are two funding elements:

- Capital - to purchase or lease an asset and pay for refurbishment costs.
- Revenue - to fund project development costs, such as feasibility studies, or running costs in the first year of operation, such as staffing costs.

Key Criteria

- Applicants are required to contribute 20% 'match' funding towards the total capital required although in exceptional cases the amount of match funding can be 10%
- Revenue funding requests cannot be more than 20% of the capital funding request or £50,000, whichever is smaller
- Revenue funding does not need to be matched
- Parish and Town Councils can also now apply
- The asset/property must continue to provide community benefit in the future

Amounts available: Capital Grants maximum £250,000 / Revenue Grants maximum £50,000

Application deadlines: Expressions of interest can be submitted at any time. If successful, applicants will be invited to submit a full application. (The programme will run until March 2025)

Flexible Finance Fund (for Black & Racially Minoritised Groups) – NEW GRANT

Summary

The Flexible Finance Fund is a partnership between Social Investment Business (SIB), The Ubele Initiative and Create Equity. It will be providing £4 million of loans, grant funding and support to 15 to 25 Black and Racially Minoritised charities and social enterprises in England.

Key Criteria

Eligible organisations must:

- Be Black and Racially Minoritised-led, which means 51% or above of the organisation's board and senior management team must be from Black and Racially Minoritised backgrounds
- Be based in England
- Be legally constituted and a registered charity or social enterprise
- Be primarily constituted for social benefit improving people's lives or the environments they live in
- Have been operating for at least two years
- Have a minimum turnover of £200,000 in its last financial year
- Not be subject to any insolvency proceedings, e.g. winding-up, administration, insolvency, bankruptcy
- Have no previous repayable finance – organisations must not have received repayable finance of greater than £25,000. This excludes Bounce Back Loans

Amounts Available:

Loans are £50,000 to £1.5 million with a term of one to six years.

Unrestricted grants of £50,000 to £200,000 (ranges from 50% to 100% of the loan amount capped at £200,000).

Application deadlines: Open

Thomas Wall Trust – NEW GRANT

Summary

Funding is available for registered charities that are working to develop communication skills for people from disadvantaged groups who want to improve their employment prospects.

As an inclusive charity, the Trust welcomes proposals which target people experiencing multiple deprivation or other groups demonstrably facing major hurdles to employment, especially women, people with physical, mental, or learning disabilities, and refugees.

Key Criteria

The funding will support project costs for a charity that equips disadvantaged people (aged 18 and over) with the necessary communication skills ready for employment.

Priority will be given to:

- Match funded projects
- Self-sustainable projects, with a view to becoming less reliant on grants in the future

Amounts available: Maximum £5,000

Application deadlines:

There is a two-stage application process.

Stage one is to complete an online Expression of Interest form (available on the Trust's website) which requires some basic contact details and a description of what the funding is required for.

Stage two is by invitation only and involves completing a more in-depth application form and to submit a Project Plan, budget, latest set of financial accounts and any relevant policies.

The next deadline to submit a first stage application is 29th April 2024 for assessment at the July 2024 meeting.

NFU Mutual Charitable Trust – NEW GRANT

Summary

Grants are available to large charitable groups and organisations in the UK for projects that further the objectives of the NFU Mutual Charitable Trust, particularly those that educate young people in rural areas and the relief of poverty in rural areas.

The main objectives are to:

- Advance the education of the public using research and dissemination of information concerning agriculture.
- Advance the education of young people within rural areas.
- Relieve poverty within rural areas.
- 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.
- Promote research into agricultural-associated activities.
- Advance the education of the public using research and dissemination of information concerning insurance.

Key Criteria

- It is not necessary to be a registered charity to apply as long as the funding is for charitable purposes.
- The Trustees generally provide support to organisations that have strong farming and insurance backgrounds.
- The Trustees do not provide funding for university fees, salaries or overseas appeals

Amounts available: Between £1,000 and £50,000

Application deadlines: 24th May 2024

Utilita Giving Grants for Charities and Organisations

Summary

Utilita Giving is the recently established charitable arm of Utilita. The charity will operate primarily by the making of grants to individuals, households and/or other charities with similar objects.

The funding is for projects that fall within Utilita Giving's purpose of supporting people in fuel and food poverty. The charity will prioritise funding that goes to:

- Relieve fuel poverty or food poverty.
- Educating the public in matters relating to fuel poverty or food poverty, including causes and impacts of such poverty and the things people can do to help prevent it.

Key Criteria

The funding can be used by charities for projects/activities which support people in fuel and food poverty.

Examples include:

- A new van or transport for foodbank charities to collect and redistribute food.
- Additional paid staff to support a fuel poverty advice phoneline.
- Additional money to feed disadvantaged families in a warm and welcome space.

Amounts available: Discretionary

Application deadlines: Open

Action for Race Equality - Windrush Justice Programme

Summary

The Programme supports not-for-profit organisations based in the UK who provide advocacy support to those wishing to access the Windrush Compensation Scheme, including work to regulate their status before being able to access the fund.

The funding can be used to pay for case workers, cover administrative costs, venue costs, run awareness raising events, and staffing costs.

Key Criteria

Applying organisations must:

- Have at least 51% of their Trustees/Governing body who are Black, Asian or mixed heritage.
- Be already providing advocacy support to those seeking to access the Windrush Compensation Scheme
- Have at least three unrelated individuals responsible for the governance of their organisation
- Have a bank account in their name, requiring two independent signatories.

Amounts available: Max £22,000 (over two years)

Application deadlines: Open

SIB - Thrive Together Fund

Summary

The scheme offers an unrestricted funding package for small and medium sized charities and social enterprises that are working to improve people's lives or the environment in which they live and who are looking to grow or diversify their business models. The scheme offers a blend of loan (75%) and grant (25%). Loans have a repayment term of between 1 and 6 years with an interest rate of 7.5% on the balance of the loan.

Key Criteria

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be registered in England as either a Charity, Community Interest Company or Community Benefit Society
- Have a viable borrowing request (that can reasonably be expected to meet its repayment obligations)
- Have a minimum of two years' operating activity
- Have a minimum turnover of £100,000 in their last financial year

Amounts Available: Between £25,000 and £150,000 (inclusive of 25% grant)

Application deadlines: Open

National Archives – Skills Bursaries *

Summary

Grants are available to individuals from public sector bodies, commercial organisations, registered charities and other not-for-profit organisations to support the development of the skills needed to ensure continued resilience of the archives sector in England and Wales.

Funding is intended to provide archivists with training, professional career development or mentoring that would not usually be available in their own organisational development programmes, including in areas such as:

- Digital archiving
- Environmental sustainability
- Diversity, equity and inclusion

Key Criteria

- Bursaries will be paid to the employer, rather than the individuals themselves
- The programme is open to any individual working with a recognised archive collection. This principally includes employees, but may also include trustees or volunteers.

Amounts Available: Max £500 for individuals, but group or network applications are accepted where the £500 per person award remains.

Application deadlines: Open

Crowdfunder – Cost of Living Resilience Fund

Summary

This is a match-funding initiative and thus not a traditional grant scheme (funds awarded are conditional upon applicants first securing crowdfunding via Crowdfunder's platform).

The fund aims to increase sustainability in social sector organisations by supporting them to deliver projects which build organisational stability and resilience to deliver.

Examples of the kind of project which would be match funded include:

- Refurbishment of premises to better serve the community and increase delivery capacity.
- Development of a new service or product to bring in additional revenue.
- Investment in current activity to allow growth or expansion of services.

Key Criteria

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Bring in over 33% of its income through trading activities.
- Be based in and support communities in areas of deprivation in England, as measured using the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD).
- Provide services supporting people with the cost of living.

The types of services being delivered may include (but are not limited to):

- Provision of advice, in particular debt and financial advice.
- Provision of warm spaces over winter, linked to the provision of wider advice & support services.
- Provision of free or low-cost food, through food banks or food delivery boxes.
- Support with housing needs whether that be through advice to those made homeless, provision of low/no cost home furnishings or provision of housing itself.
- Access to transport to enable people to access shops or facilities and employment.

Amounts available: A maximum of £50,000 of match funding is available for any organisation.

Application deadlines: The fund will close when all the funding is allocated.

Support available for Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise Sector organisations in Leicestershire

Voluntary Action Leicestershire

Leicestershire County Council has a contract with [Voluntary Action LeicesterShire](#) (VAL) to provide support to voluntary and community sector organisations in Leicestershire, including help with identifying and securing funding.



If you are a 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.

Events/Training:

[Recruiting and Managing Volunteers 20th February 2024 \(10.30 – 12.30\) Booking is Required](#)

The workshop is intended for those with responsibility for involving volunteers or for committee members of organisations who involve them. This course is free to Leicestershire based groups with County beneficiaries.

[Managing Remote Volunteers 7th March \(2pm - 4pm\) Booking is Required](#)

This online Zoom training session will cover the best practice and challenges of managing and supporting remote volunteers. Suitable for Volunteer co-ordinators or staff undertaking similar role who recruit and manage volunteers who are not based on-site. This course is free to Leicestershire based groups with County beneficiaries.

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@lrcfoundation.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](#)