

Monthly Funding Information June 2019

Below is a list of 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.

This information can also be accessed via the Leicestershire Communities [website](#) .

Please note that 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. You can also sign up for further e-bulletins from VAL, including, news, information, events, funding opportunities and job vacancies. More details can be seen on the VAL [website](#).

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

| Funding for projects which support Adults (including older people, veterans and with disabilities) | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Grant Fund | Closest Deadline |
| SHIRE Community Grant | 8 th July 2019 |
| Futures – Community Grants | 17 th May 2019 |
| Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust Launches Removing Barriers to Family Life Programme | 18 th July 2019 |
| Funding for projects which support Young People (including young people with disabilities) | |
| Grant Fund | Closest Deadline |
| Nesta - Solving Together Fund | 24 th June 2019 |
| SHIRE Community Grant | 8 th July 2019 |
| Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust Launches Removing Barriers to Family Life Programme | 18 th July 2019 |
| Home Office's Youth Endowment Fund * | 23 rd July 2019 |
| Angus Irvine Playing Fields Fund | 31 st July 2019 |

| <u>Funding for projects which support broader community outcomes</u> | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Grant Fund | Closest Deadline |
| <u>SHIRE Community Climate Change grant</u> | 28 th June 2019 |
| <u>SHIRE Recycling Grants</u> | 28 th June 2019 |
| <u>Lloyds Banking Group Credit Union Development Fund</u> | 30 th June 2019 |
| <u>Illegal Money Lending Team - Proceeds of Crime Fund</u> | 30 th June 2019 |
| <u>WRAP - Resource Action Fund</u> | 1 st July 2019 |
| <u>Great British High Street (GBHS) Awards *</u> | 4 th July 2019 |
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| <u>A B Charitable Trust</u> | 28 th July 2019 |
| <u>HM Treasury - Urban Tree Challenge Fund *</u> | 28 th July 2019 |
| <u>Wesleyan Foundation - Large Grants</u> | 31 st July 2019 |
| <u>William and Jane Morris Fund - Church Conservation Grants</u> | 31 st Aug 2019 |
| <u>Trusthouse Charitable Foundation - Community Centres & Village Halls Grants</u> | Open |
| <u>Rural Community Energy Fund</u> | Open |
| <u>Government Announces £9.4m to Retrofit Houses to New Build Standards *</u> | Opens June 2019 |
| <u>Cultural Impact Development Fund</u> | Aug 2021 |
| <u>The Reach Fund</u> | Open |
| <u>Support available for organisations interested in social investment</u> | |

Funding for projects which support Adults

[SHIRE Community Grant](#)

Eligible organisations, including charities, community groups, social enterprises and Town/Parish Councils, can access grants of up to £10,000 and/or smaller grants of up to £3,000 for community-based projects and activities that are specifically focused on supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged people and communities.

Leicestershire County Council are particularly interested in funding new and innovative projects that will:

- improve the lives, health and wellbeing of vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals and communities in Leicestershire
- provide early intervention and prevention-based solutions which help to reduce demand on Council and other public services
- complement existing services already being delivered

There are three remaining deadlines for applications for 2019-20:

Monday 8th July

Monday 9th September

Monday 11th November

[Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust Launches Removing Barriers to Family Life Programme](#)

Armed Forces charities, Community Interest Companies (CIC) and Armed Forces units can apply for £7.5 million of funding for projects supporting Armed Forces families in the UK who are facing challenges.

The UK Armed Forces Families Strategy states that some families will experience challenges associated with relocation and separation, while those who are most unfortunate may experience injury, illness or bereavement. The Removing Barriers to Family Life programme aims to address these issues by offering support for projects that will be of practical benefit to, and address specific needs of, three key groups of people:

- Young people from Armed Forces families
- Families and carers of veterans
- Serving families

Two levels of funding are available towards projects' revenue costs:

- Medium grants of £30,000-£100,000 to support existing or new projects that meet a clear need for Armed Forces families.
- Large grants of £100,001- £300,000 (up to £500,000 for exceptional projects) to support projects that address substantial challenges and will have a transformative and sustainable effect.

Lead applicants must be Armed Forces charities, Armed Forces CICs or Armed Forces units with a UIN (Unit Identification Number) but partnership working is encouraged, both informally or with official Delivery Partners who will help develop and deliver the overall project.

Projects should last between one and three years, be based within the UK, or a region of the UK, and should focus on supporting the family rather than serving personnel or veterans. The Trust is particularly interested in ideas and activities that reduce isolation and loneliness for the key groups.

There are two different deadlines:

- **18 July 2019 - Expressions of Interest for large grants.**
- **12 September 2019 - Applications for medium grants.**

Futures – Community Grants

Grants Available for East Midlands Community Organisations to Support Unemployed People

Jointly funded by the SFA and the European Social Fund, Community Grants give small voluntary and community organisations with a turnover of less than £300,000 an opportunity to access funds to deliver projects that help engage and progress 'hard to reach' individuals towards the labour market. The grants will support participants' progression so that they are confident in their ability to move into employment.

Grants of between £5,000 and £20,000 are available for projects or initiatives that help people take steps towards a future career and reduce unemployment and inactivity, including:

- initial help with basic skills
- taster work experience including voluntary work
- training, advice and counselling
- confidence building
- job search assistance and other help necessary to secure employment
- first contact engagement activities

Priority will be given to applications that demonstrate an ability to meet the LEP Priorities and target participants who are:

- Over 50 (learners must be over 16)
- With Learning Difficulties and Disabilities
- From Ethnic Minority Backgrounds
- Are women
- Unemployed for over 6 months
- Furthest removed from the labour market with significant barriers to employment

There are two remaining application rounds in 2019/20:

Round 2

15th Nov 2019 – 15th Dec 2019

Round 3

15th June 2020 – 15th July 2020

Funding for projects which support Young People

[Nesta - Solving Together Fund - to Boost Maths Outcomes for Secondary Students](#)

Organisations working in parental engagement can apply for grants to carry out early-stage, digital tech interventions to improve parental engagement in maths for young people.

Nesta's new Solving Together Fund aims to support two high-potential, early-stage interventions which can improve parental engagement in maths and maths outcomes for secondary students (11-16 years old), using digital technology.

Interventions could be aiming to have an impact on a number of different outcomes relating to maths, including improving a young person's confidence in the subject, improving attitudes and interest in maths and improving attainment.

The outcome should help provide teachers with the right information to make evidence-based decisions on which interventions to use in their schools, and help to guide further development of interventions.

There are two grants of £20,000 available. Non-financial support will be provided by Nesta and Tata, depending on the needs of the funded projects. This could include advice on business modelling, measuring of impact or marketing.

The funds can be used for direct project costs, related staff costs, evaluation, project-related marketing and programme and business development.

A range of organisations are eligible to apply, including social enterprises, charities and private enterprises. Interventions can be delivered within the school curriculum, in non-curriculum time or outside of/separate from school. The projects should be delivered in the UK.

The deadline for applications is 9am on 24 June 2019.

[SHIRE Community Grant](#)

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There are two different deadlines:

- **18 July 2019 - Expressions of Interest for large grants.**
- **12 September 2019 - Applications for medium grants.**

[Home Office's Youth Endowment Fund *](#)

£200 million is available to support organisations in England and Wales with interventions aimed at preventing at-risk children aged 10-14 from being drawn into crime and violence. The Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) has been launched as part of the Government's Serious Violence Strategy and is being run by the charity Impetus, working in partnership with the Early Intervention Foundation and Social Investment Business.

In this initial funding round, two-year grants are available for charities; social enterprises; public sector agencies, such as councils, schools, health or police forces; and for-profit companies and community partnerships with a track record of working with young people, to fund and evaluate promising approaches to preventing youth offending that have not yet gathered strong evidence of their impact.

Eligible applicants will:

- Primarily target young people aged 10-14 years old.
- Be operating in England and/or Wales.
- Be working to prevent young people's involvement in crime and violence, or the risk factors associated with these outcomes.
- Be willing to be independently evaluated.
- Be willing to share learning to benefit others in the sector.
- Be planning to deliver their intervention for at least 12 months.
- Have the capacity to absorb the funding quickly. In this round, grantees will need to spend £100,000 or more by March 2020.

Interventions will be expected to have a robust and clear theory of change, which explains how they will reduce offending and is informed by the available evidence. YEF will evaluate the effectiveness of funded interventions, with the aim of scaling up those that are shown to work, in order to reach more young people.

The deadline for round one applications is 23 July 2019 (midday).

Angus Irvine Playing Fields Fund

Local community groups, sports clubs and charities can receive grants for projects that will increase opportunities for young people in disadvantaged areas of the UK to play outdoor sport.

The Angus Irvine Playing Fields Fund continues the work of the Playing Fields Legacy Fund, a charity that was established in 2012 by the late Angus Irvine with the aim of getting more people, especially the young and disadvantaged, playing sport.

Following a decision by its trustees, the Playing Fields Legacy Fund has been merged with Access Sport to create the new fund. Access Sport, which is a UK charity that works with young people (with an emphasis on those who are disabled) in deprived communities to improve their health and wellbeing, is administering the fund.

Grants of between £2,500 and £5,000 are available towards the following types of projects:

- The development and improvement of playing fields and other facilities.
- The development and training of volunteers including the provision of qualifications.
- The purchase of specialist disability equipment.
- The development of long-term sustainability, for example marketing and finance expertise.

The deadline for applications is 31 July 2019.

Dept. For Education - Strengthening Families Protecting Children Fund *

Local Authorities in England are invited to apply for an £84m fund to reduce the number of children entering care. The Department for Education (DfE) is seeking applications from local authorities in England to a new programme which will invest £84 million over 5 years to support up to 20 local authorities to improve work with families and safely reduce the number of children entering care.

The Strengthening Families, Protecting Children (SFPC) programme will support selected local authorities to adapt and adopt one of 3 [children's social care innovation programme](#) projects in their own area.

These projects aim to improve the safety and stability of vulnerable children and to reduce the need for families to access services. They will do this by:

- strengthening local practice systems
- developing services that build resilience in families
- facilitating a confident social work ethos that manages risk safely within the home.

Local authorities who join the programme will be fully supported to help implement their chosen model in their areas. They will receive funding and on-the-ground support to do this from the local authorities who designed the projects (Leeds, Hertfordshire or North Yorkshire).

DfE are looking for up to 20 local authorities with high or rising numbers of looked after children to take part in the programme.

Local authorities are eligible to join the programme if they have:

- an Ofsted rating of 'requires improvement to be good'
- high rates of looked after children compared to their local authority statistical neighbour median over for the last 3 years, and/or rising rates of looked after children in each of the last 3 years

DfE will select local authorities to join the programme based on their need, suitability and commitment to make a whole-system change such as this. These criteria will be assessed over the summer, with local authorities announced from September.

DfE will contact local authorities that are eligible to join the programme with further information and detail on how they can register their interest to get involved.

For more information about the strengthening families, protecting children programme, email strengthening.families@education.gov.uk.

Funding for projects which support broader community outcomes

SHIRE Community Climate Change Grant

Voluntary and Community Groups and organisations are being encouraged to apply to help them to reduce their carbon emissions by improving their community buildings.

The grant fund is for community projects in Leicestershire (not Leicester City or Rutland) that help to improve the energy efficiency of community buildings and make local environmental changes to help reduce carbon emissions.

A maximum grant of £5,000 per applicant is available for projects in any one financial year. Grants are available for:

- EPC's (Energy Performance Certificate) or DEC's (Display Energy Certificate) of community buildings
- Installation of energy efficiency measures such as new heating systems, roof or cavity wall insulation or low energy lighting
- Installation of renewable energy systems

The first closing date for applications is Friday 28th June 2019

SHIRE Recycling Grants

Leicestershire County Council is committed to minimising the amount of waste that is thrown away. In order to help achieve this, the Council is offering up to £3,000 in the form of SHIRE Recycling Grants.

These grants will be available for eligible community-based organisations to deliver local waste prevention, recycling and composting projects and activities.

We are particularly interested in funding new and innovative projects that will:

- Reduce household waste, divert waste from disposal and optimise levels of recycling and composting in a cost-effective way.
- Reduce the amount of waste produced in Leicestershire by waste reduction, reuse and recycling and encouraging resourcefulness through repairing, refurbishing, repurposing, sharing, swapping and composting.
- Enable residents and communities to get involved in waste related initiatives and support permanent changes in individual behaviours.

The first closing date for applications is Friday 28th June 2019.

Lloyds Banking Group Credit Union Development Fund

Funding is available for existing credit unions in the UK to help strengthen their financial position and to give them the capacity to develop new strategies for sustained and effective growth.

The Lloyds Banking Group Credit Union Development Fund is part of the Group's 'Helping Britain Prosper Plan,' which was launched in March 2014, and is part of its commitment to improve financial inclusion levels across the UK. A total of £1 million is being made available again this year.

Applications can be made for the following funding:

- Large Grants (of between £50,000 and £100,000) will provide a contribution to a credit union's reserves and help remove barriers to growth and innovation. Open to all credit unions including previous Large Grant winners (with some additional criteria).
- Seed Grants (of between £10,000 and £20,000) to help credit unions invest in resources and activities to improve sustainability and increased efficiency for lending, such as the costs related to a merger or investment in digital improvements. Please note there will be a very small number of these seed grant awards, totalling less than 10% of the total fund.

Existing credit unions that have recently merged or that are considering a merger in the future can apply as long as they are registered in England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland or Isle of Man and are fully compliant with all FCA and PRA regulations (including complying with all capital requirements).

Priority may be given to:

- Credit unions that are sharing data with credit reference agencies in order to help individuals to build their credit score, overall national credit scoring profiling and the credit union to manage their debt default exposure. (This will be a condition of grant if not already in place).
- Those credit unions that serve communities in the most deprived communities according to the National Indices of Multiple Deprivation.
- Credit unions seeking funding to support mergers.

The fund is being delivered in partnership with the Credit Union Foundation.

The deadline for applications is 30 June 2019.

Illegal Money Lending Team - Proceeds of Crime Fund

The Fund is formed of money seized from illegal money lenders under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA) and is awarded to groups who wish to invest in local community projects.

During 2018/19 the team granted **£141,269** for **37** crime-busting initiatives.

Groups can apply for up to **£5000** to spend on any worthwhile community project that meets the criteria:

- Contributes to raising awareness of the dangers of using loan sharks
- Prevents crime and disorder and makes a difference in local communities
- Promotes the work of the Illegal Money Lending Team (IMLT) in communities
- Encourages reporting of loan sharks and signposts victims to the team

Closing date for application is 30th June 2019

WRAP - Resource Action Fund - Grants for Food Waste Prevention

The £18 million Resource Action Fund has been established by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to support resource efficiency projects, with the goal of diverting, reducing and better managing waste. The overall programme is broken down into Large and Small Scale grants. The first strand to open to applications is the Waste Prevention Grant, which aims to improve how organisations handle and distribute leftover food, by investing in infrastructure such as weighing equipment, storage solutions, warehouses, industrial freezers and fridges, labelling equipment and vehicles.

The Large Scale strand will provide capital infrastructure to help address a current capacity gap for redistributing food produced by businesses that is currently being wasted, diverting this to people in need. The Small Scale strand will provide new small-scale capital infrastructure and revenue support to organisations redistributing surplus food from the likes of retailers and food manufacturers.

There is a budget of £5 million for Large Scale grants and individual awards of between £200,000 and £1 million will be provided. £1 million has been allocated for Small Scale grants, supporting projects ranging in value from £20,000 to £170,000.

Organisations based in England that supply surplus food from food businesses, either directly to those in need or to other organisations that do the same, may apply. Large Scale grants are only available to not-for-profit organisations, such as charities, community groups and social enterprises. The Small Scale grants are open to small and medium-sized enterprises (both commercial and not-for-profit).

The deadline for Small Scale applications is 11 July 2019.

The deadline for Large Scale applications is 1 July 2019.

[Great British High Street \(GBHS\) Awards *](#)

These awards recognise and celebrate the local achievements of high streets across the UK, supporting the communities they serve and offering a chance to win funding for local area improvements.

Communities across the UK are being urged to back their local high streets by entering them into the Great British High Street (GBHS) Awards, which are now open for 2019. The competition celebrates the work being done to revive, adapt and diversify the nation's high streets and is an opportunity for councils, businesses and local groups to come together and share knowledge and expertise.

This year's winners will receive a share of £60,000, coupled with dedicated support and mentoring from industry experts. Individual high streets are eligible to win up to £5,000 as a contribution towards a street party, a local community initiative or a sustainability programme. Two overall UK winners will receive an additional £10,000.

Winners will be named in each of the four UK nations – England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland – across two categories: Champion High Streets and Rising Star High Streets. The Champion High Street category will recognise the nation's best high streets whilst the Rising Star High Street category will recognise the most ambitious high streets, which are taking the lead and working together to revive, adapt and diversify.

To enter a high street, applicants will need to be a representative of a Business Improvement District, local authority, parish council, town team, coastal community team, town centre partnership, community interest company, Chambers of Commerce, Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) or trading association.

Shortlisted finalists will be invited to an awards ceremony in London towards the end of the year to celebrate the high streets that are succeeding and influencing change.

The deadline for applications to be received is 4 July 2019.

[Historic England - High Streets Heritage Zone Funding *](#)

Historic England has launched a new £44 million fund which will allow them to work with partners to find new ways to champion and revive our historic high streets through the High Streets Heritage Action Zones (HSHAZ) scheme. The new High Streets Heritage Action Zones (HSHAZ) programme is administered by Historic England on behalf of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

The HSHAZ programme will support sustainable economic and cultural growth on and around high streets and restore and enhance local historic character, making the high street an attractive, engaging and vibrant place for people to live, work and play. HSHAZ will do this through physical works to buildings, including repair, reinstatement of lost features and conversion to new uses including residential.

Applications will be accepted from not-for-profit organisations (e.g. local authorities, charitable trusts, or other public sector organisations) and partnerships led by not-for-profit organisations who can demonstrate capacity to deliver.

Applicants can apply for a grant of between £250,000 and £2 million, to set up a four-year partnership beginning April 2020.

There is a two phase selection process.

- Stage One: Expression of Interest
- Stage Two: Programme Design

Expressions of Interest must be submitted by the deadline of 12 July 2019.

A B Charitable Trust

Small - to medium-sized UK charities can apply for funding to support work that defends human rights and promotes respect for vulnerable individuals in the UK.

The A B Charitable Trust (ABCT) is an independent, UK based grant-making organisation founded in 1990 that is concerned with promoting and defending human dignity.

Grants of between £10,000 and £20,000 are available to registered charities with an annual income of between £150,000 and £1.5 million that seek to address the needs of the most marginalised and neglected groups in society.

To be eligible, projects should focus on at least one of the following priority categories:

- Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.
- Criminal justice and penal reform.
- Human rights, particularly access to justice.

The funding can be used for project or core costs.

Charities need to be based and working in the UK. The Trust does not fund charities working overseas or charities with large national or international links.

This funding is in high demand, and only around a third of eligible applicants will receive a grant.

There are four application deadlines within a year.

The next deadline for applications is 28th July 2019.

Other dates are; 27th October 2019 / 26th January 2020 / 26th April 2020

[HM Treasury - Urban Tree Challenge Fund *](#)

New funding to support urban tree planting in England will be available over the next two years.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has launched a new £10 million fund to plant more than 130,000 trees across England's towns and cities. The funding is intended to help the Government meet its target of planting one million urban trees by 2022.

The Urban Tree Challenge Fund opened for applications on 23 May, will provide grant funding to support the planting and establishment of large and small trees in urban and peri-urban areas in England. The support is competitive and targeted at projects that can provide the greatest environmental, social and economic benefits to towns and cities across the country.

The grant will be up to 50% of the published standard cost for planting large and small trees and their establishment costs, and therefore requires match funding from those who apply. Applications will be accepted from public bodies, community groups, charities and non-government organisations, individuals and private companies.

The Urban Tree Challenge Fund will be administered by the Forestry Commission.

The fund is available for 2 years (2019/20 and 2020/2021) and applications must be submitted during an application window. In year one, the fund is open for block bids only. Individual applicants can submit an Expression of Interest to the Forestry Commission to state their interest and receive the latest up to date information on the fund before the opening of the year 2 application window. In year 2, the fund will be open for individual applications and, dependent on budget allocation, block bids too.

Block bids allow organisations to apply for funding for multiple projects under one application, which can be geographically dispersed across England or focused in a local area. Individual applications are aimed at smaller organisations or community groups who are looking to deliver much smaller scale projects.

The year one closing date for block bids is 28th July 2019

[Wesleyan Foundation - Large Grants](#)

Applications will be considered from charities, constituted voluntary and community groups that focus on:

- Education – Charities or projects that enhance learning and develop career opportunities.
- Health – Promote health and wellbeing.
- Social needs – Provide local solutions to meet local needs, promote community cohesion and develop sustainable and supportive communities.

Grants are available between £2,000 – £10,000 and must be spent within a year

Groups need to have been running for at least 2 years. It can be used for:

- Salary, equipment or volunteer costs that are clearly budgeted and only used for the project – evidence will be required.
- consumables, project or activity costs.

Please note:

- No more than 10% of the project costs can be assigned to operational/core costs.
- The application value must be no more than 20% of the organisation's annual income.
- The organisation's income level must be less than £500,000, as shown in your most recent annual accounts.

Deadline for applications: 31st July 2019

[William and Jane Morris Fund - Church Conservation Grants](#)

Grants between £500 and £5000 are awarded to churches, chapels and other places of worship in the United Kingdom for the conservation of decorative features and monuments, but not for structural repairs.

Grants will be awarded to support smaller programmes of work concerned with the conservation of decorative or non-structural features such as:

- stained glass windows
- sculpture
- furniture
- internal monuments and tombs
- wall paintings

The decorative feature, monument, etc must date from no later than 1896 (the year of William Morris's death).

The following are not eligible:

- structural repairs and fabric maintenance
- alteration or decoration of buildings
- electrical rewiring and the repair or installation of central heating systems
- bells or organs
- works already completed (grants are not made retrospectively)
- anything created after 1896

The next deadline for applications is 31 August 2019.

Trusthouse Charitable Foundation - Community Centres & Village Halls Grants

Trusthouse is interested in applications for capital projects at community centres in the most deprived urban areas and village halls in remote and economically deprived rural areas.

The Foundation wants to support community centres and village halls which are at the heart of small, deprived communities. They expect that you will be providing a range of activities for all ages and abilities which help to promote community cohesion and address local problems of isolation, poverty, lack of local facilities, transport and other issues of relevance to your area.

They interpret 'community centres' in the broad sense, so you might be a church, sports facility or other building which offers a range of activities throughout the week which all the community can access.

The Foundation will consider applications for new buildings; upgrading, renovating or extending buildings; improving or creating outside space (but not car parks). It will also consider core costs including salaries. You will need to have secured a minimum of 50% of the costs of the project before you start an application.

Major Grants Programme:

- Single year grant £7,500 to £20,000 for core costs, salaries, running and project costs.
- Multi-year grants (max 3 years) £7,500 to £20,000 for core costs, salaries, running and project costs.
- Grants from £7,500 to £60,000 for one-off capital costs, where the total project cost does not exceed £2M.

Small Grants Programme - Single year grants between £2,000 and £7,500 for core costs, salaries, running and project costs or one-off capital costs.

No application deadlines

Rural Community Energy Fund

The Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF) is a £10 million programme which supports rural communities in England to develop renewable energy projects, which provide economic and social benefits to the community.

Funding available

RCEF provides support to rural communities in 2 stages:

- stage 1: grants of up to £40,000 for a feasibility study for a renewable energy project
- stage 2: grants of up to £100,000 for business development and planning of feasible schemes

RCEF is being run by 5 regional Local Energy Hubs. If you would like to register your interest for the scheme, or would like further information, please contact the relevant hub for your area. The hubs are split by Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) regions which for Leicestershire is the Leicester and Leicestershire LLEP.

Contact: michael.gallagher@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Government Announces £9.4m to Retrofit Houses to New Build Standards *

Businesses, public and third sector organisations will soon be invited to apply for funding to carry out projects to reduce the cost of retrofitting domestic properties in the UK. The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has announced details of an upcoming competition to help accelerate a reduction in the cost of retrofitting domestic properties in the UK to the same standard as new builds.

The competition will make available approximately £9.4 million for a limited number of projects which demonstrate a cost reduction trajectory for whole house retrofit. BEIS anticipates that successful projects will focus on upgrading social housing properties, given the comparative uniformity of the dwellings, and the ability to procure at scale.

Bids will be welcomed from any UK organisation, or consortium, which can meet the expected outputs, including SMEs, large enterprises, academic, financial, research, public and third sector organisations.

The competition is expected to open **week commencing 10 June 2019. All supported projects must be completed by March 2021.**

Bids should be submitted within 6 weeks of the launch date

Cultural Impact Development Fund

This £3.7 million fund provides small-scale repayable finance to socially-driven arts and cultural organisations.

The aims of the fund are to:

- Enable risk-taking, ambitious organisations in the arts and cultural sector to take on small-scale repayable finance in order to achieve social outcomes;
- Increase the capability of arts and cultural organisations to articulate, achieve, monitor and evaluate their intended social impact.

The Fund offers unsecured loans (and revenue participation agreements, where appropriate) between £25,000 and £150,000 with repayment terms of one to five years and interest rates ranging between 5.5% and 8.5%.

The investment window is open until August 2021.

The Reach Fund

The Reach Fund is a grant programme that helps charities and social enterprises to get investment ready and raise investment. The programme is funded by Access – The Foundation for Social Investment. It offers grants of up to £15k to pay for support to get investment ready - in areas such as governance, financial modelling, and business planning. It can also be used to pay for backfill so that managers can spend more time on business planning.

Organisations need to have a good investment proposition before applying and need to approach an [Access Point](#) (An Access Point is a social investor who has been approved to refer organisations they are working with to the fund), in order to be referred onto the programme.

NCVO's Know How website has a summary of what it means to be investment ready:

<https://knowhow.ncvo.org.uk/funding/social-investment-1/getting-ready-for-social-investment>

No deadline advertised

Support available for organisations interested in social investment

Social investment is a financial enablement tool which enables organisations to focus on organisational development and long-term sustainability.

It can be used for buildings, infrastructure, IT, equipment, cashflow, enabling and retaining contracts and trading activities, kicking start new services/ projects or strategic positioning.

Grant funding alone is not a viable source of sustainable business funding!

A good place to start to find out more about social investment is the [Good Finance website](#)

Don't be put off by the fear of having to repay a loan when you first start exploring social enterprise and investment. Going on the investment readiness and social investment journey is beneficial in that it will help you to think about the direction your organisation will take and where income will be generated. It will therefore help you to develop a business mind-set.

The journey is just as important as the end goal.

You are not obliged to take out a loan when developing social enterprise business models but it is likely that you will need it if you are successful!

If you are interested in accessing support to develop and grow through enterprise and investment, you can contact:

[VAL Sector Support Helpline](#)

0116 2575050

helpline@valonline.org.uk

[CASE](#)

0116 222 5010

enquiries@case.coop

The 'Let's Talk Good Finance' event is being held at Voluntary Action Leicestershire on 18th June 2019, where people can meet social investors and find out more about social investment. The event will also include workshops on social enterprise and investment.

Further details can be found [here](#)