

Monthly Funding Information September 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. The funding support you can access includes help with a funding search, 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, information, events, funding opportunities and job vacancies. More details can be seen on the VAL [website](#) or you can request support via <https://valonline.org.uk/contact/>

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	9 th Sept 2019
The Tampon Tax Fund	11 th Oct 2019
Energy Saving Trust - Energy Industry Voluntary Redress Scheme	18 th Oct 2019
The Henry Smith Charity - Housing First Programme	4 th Nov 2019
ESF Community Grants Programme	15 th Dec 2019
Funding for projects which support Young People (including young people with disabilities)	
Grant Fund	Closest Deadline
SHIRE Community Grant	9 th Sept 2019
Co-op Foundation - #IWill Fund - Youth-led Advocacy to Improve Community Spaces	20 th Sept 2019
The Tampon Tax Fund	11 th Oct 2019
Dept for Education - Trust Capacity Fund	Dec 2019

<u>Funding for projects which support broader community outcomes</u>	
Grant Fund	Closest Deadline
<u>Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government - Local Digital Fund *</u>	16 th Sept 2019
<u>Comic Relief - Across Borders Routes to Safety for Refugees</u>	16 th Sept 2019
<u>Dept for BEIS - Heat Networks Investment Project for England & Wales</u>	20 th Sept 2019
<u>NHS England - Community Grants 2019</u>	23 rd Sept 2019
<u>National Grid & Affordable Warmth Solutions - Warm Homes Fund *</u>	27 th Sept 2019
<u>SHIRE Recycling Grants</u>	27 th Sept 2019
<u>Association of Independent Museums - Collections Care Scheme</u>	30 th Sept 2019
<u>Association of Independent Museums (AIM) - Remedial Conservation Scheme</u>	30 th Sept 2019
<u>Power to Change – Community Business Fund</u>	9 th Oct 2019
<u>Art Fund - Curatorial Network Grants</u>	11 th Oct 2019
<u>SHIRE Community Climate Change Grant</u>	31 st Oct 2019
<u>Dept of Transport “Challenge Fund” to Improve Local Roads *</u>	31 st Oct 2019
<u>European Commission's - Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund *</u>	30 th Jan 2020
<u>The National Lottery Community Fund Climate Action Fund</u>	Open in Autumn 2019
<u>Support available for your organisation</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 two remaining deadlines for applications for 2019-20:

Monday 9th September

Monday 11th November

The Tampon Tax Fund

The Tampon Tax Community Fund aims to support women who are most marginalised to overcome barriers that prevent them from fulfilling their potential. The programme will benefit women and girls, investing in a wide variety of projects, that make a tangible and long-term difference to health, well-being, confidence and social/economic activity, as well as addressing equality gaps.

This programme aims to fund small-scale interventions, which will make a considerable difference to the lives and happiness of women and girls by raising the aspirations of girls and young women and combating the influences that affect their confidence.

Priority will be given to:

- Women and girl organisations, which are defined as:
 - An organisation that has been established by women or girls and/or is led and staffed by women and girls
 - An organisation that has been established with the key aim of working with women and girls only
 - The majority of beneficiaries served by the organisation are, and will continue to be, women and girls, and the majority of the services will reflect this.
- Grassroots organisations offering localised support.
- Organisations working with beneficiaries with multiple disadvantages.
- User led organisations that have a clear understanding of the needs they are supporting.
- Sustainable projects that provide long-term solutions to the people they are helping.

Grants between £5,000 and £10,000 will be offered and for a duration of up to 12 months.

The deadline for submissions is 11th October 2019.

Energy Saving Trust - Energy Industry Voluntary Redress Scheme

Charitable organisations that support energy customers in Great Britain are invited to apply for grants to support individual energy consumers in vulnerable situations. The Energy Saving Trust has been appointed by Ofgem to distribute payments to charities from energy companies who have breached rules. The Energy Industry Voluntary Redress Scheme will be administered until 2021.

The priority of the scheme is to support individual energy consumers in vulnerable situations, with a small percentage of the fund available to support innovative products and services that will help existing or future energy consumers.

A total of £10 million is being provided for Round Five. The funds can pay for anything from making a home more energy efficient, to providing advice that helps consumers keep on top of their bills and there are three separate funding strands:

- The Main Fund contains £7.5 million and is aimed at projects seeking grants between £50,000 and £2 million
- The Small Grants Fund contains £1 million and is aimed at projects seeking grants of between £20,000 and £49,999
- The Innovation Fund contains £1.5 million and is aimed at projects seeking grants between £50,000 to £750,000.

The scheme can provide capital or revenue funding and can provide up to 100% of the project cost. It can only fund projects lasting up to two years.

Examples of the kind of activity that could be funded through Energy Redress include:

- Engaging vulnerable customers with energy issues and referring them for support
- Energy advice that does not duplicate existing advice services
- Installation of energy saving or renewable energy measures that cannot be funded elsewhere and/or are innovative or are being used in innovative ways
- In-home safety advice and measures related to energy systems
- Training and education on energy that is targeted at supporting vulnerable customers.

Charitable organisations that support energy customers in England, Scotland and Wales are eligible to apply.

The deadline for applications is 18 October 2019.

The Henry Smith Charity - Housing First Programme

Grants of up to £400,000 are available to support small and medium-sized charities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland helping people with multiple and complex needs who are experiencing homelessness.

This new £1.4 million programme, provided and administered by the Henry Smith Charity, offers funding to support the work of registered charities and other not-for-profit organisations with an annual income of between £100,000 and £5 million. Organisations must be currently delivering (or planning to deliver) Housing First services, which provide homeless people who have complex needs with stable and affordable housing solutions.

The key objectives of the programme are to:

- Increase the number of people with multiple and complex needs supported through Housing First.
- Increase the number of small to medium sized charities providing Housing First.
- Enable existing Housing First providers to increase provision.
- Support grantees to develop practice and share learning and experiences.

Established organisations with a track record of working with this client group can apply for grants of between £200,000 and £400,000 for up to four years. Funded services must be delivered in line with the Housing First Principles, which are:

- People have a right to a home.
- Flexible support is provided for as long as is needed.
- Housing and support are separated.
- Individuals have choice and control.
- An active engagement approach is used.
- The service is based on people's strengths, goals and aspirations.
- A harm reduction approach is used.

Grants are flexible and can be used for anything required to provide a high-quality service, including staffing and on-costs for support provision, reasonable overheads and costs associated with setting up a service, and personalised budgets and other supports to enable tenancies to be maintained.

The deadline for expressions of interest is 4th November 2019.

ESF Community Grants Programme

Jointly funded by the SFA and the European Social Fund, the Community Grants programme gives small, voluntary and community sector organisations (with a turnover of less than £500,000) an opportunity to access funding to deliver projects that engage 'hard to reach' individuals and help them to progress into employment.

Grants of between £5,000 and £20,000 are available for projects or initiatives in Leicester and Leicestershire that help people take steps towards reaching the labour market, and developing their future career potential, whilst reducing unemployment and inactivity.

Activities which are eligible for funding include:

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

Priority will be given to applications that demonstrate an ability to target participants who are:

- Over 50
- With Learning Difficulties and Disabilities
- From Ethnic Minority Backgrounds
- Women
- Unemployed for over 6 months
- Furthest removed from the labour market with significant barriers to employment

The East Midlands programme is being administered by [Futures](#).

To find out more about the Grant programme and to receive support with your application, contact:

Ashley Wilkinson (Community Grants Coordinator – East Midlands)

Email: ashley.wilkinson@futuresforbusiness.com

Tel: 07483 120941

There are 2 more application Rounds in 2019-20:

Round 2: 15th November 2019 to 15th December 2019

Round 3: 15th June to 15th July 2020

Funding for projects which support Young People

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 two remaining deadlines for applications for 2019-20:

Monday 9th September

Monday 11th November

Co-op Foundation - #iWill Fund - Youth-led Advocacy to Improve Community Spaces

Grants of up to £35,000 are available to community organisations in England for projects that empower young people (aged 10-20 years) to have a say in how community spaces that matter to them are managed. This scheme is the first of three themed funding strands being provided through a £3 million extension to the Co-op Foundation #iwill Fund.

The extended fund will run until 2022 and focus on supporting social action that draws on young people's own lived experience with the aims of:

- Connecting young people to social action opportunities that lead to genuine community impact.
- Empowering young people through the difference this makes for themselves and their peers.

Under this first strand, eight grants are available to facilitate youth-led advocacy to improve the design and use of local community spaces. Projects should benefit young people (aged 10-20 years) in areas of deprivation and should have had input from young people themselves.

Grants can be used to cover any costs related to carrying out the project, including (but not limited to):

- Salaries of staff involved in delivering or supporting the project.
- Costs of advocacy activities, including appropriate incentives and rewards for young people to take part.
- Proportionate contributions to organisational running costs required to support the delivery of the project.

Applications are accepted from community organisations in England with experience of equipping young people with the skills they need to deliver meaningful advocacy-based social action.

The deadline for applications is 20th September 2019.

The Tampon Tax Fund

The Tampon Tax Community Fund aims to support women who are most marginalised to overcome barriers that prevent them from fulfilling their potential. The programme will benefit women and girls, investing in a wide variety of projects, that make a tangible and long-term difference to health, well-being, confidence and social/economic activity, as well as addressing equality gaps. This programme aims to fund small-scale interventions, which will make a considerable difference to the lives and happiness of women and girls by raising the aspirations of girls and young women and combating the influences that affect their confidence.

Priority will be given to:

- Women and girl organisations, these are defined as:
 - An organisation that has been established by women or girls and/or is led and staffed by women and girls
 - An organisation that has been established with the key aim of working with women and girls only
 - The majority of beneficiaries served by the organisation are, and will continue to be, women and girls, and the majority of the services will reflect this.
- Grassroots organisations offering localised support.
- Organisations working with beneficiaries with multiple disadvantages.
- User led organisations that have a clear understanding of the needs they are supporting.
- Sustainable projects that provide long-term solutions to the people they are helping.

Grant between £5,000 and £10,000 will be offered and for a duration of up to 12 months.

The deadline for submission is 11th October 2019.

Dept for Education - Trust Capacity Fund

Education Secretary Damian Hinds has announced funding of £17 million to help high-performing academy trusts to grow and support more schools across England.

Launching in September and providing funding until the end of the financial year, the Trust Capacity fund will build on the success of previous rounds of funding awarded to successful academy trusts to help tackle underperformance and improve schools.

There are 4 strands:

- A1: supporting strong multi-academy trusts (MATs) to grow and innovate in areas of long-standing need
- A2: encouraging strong trusts to grow by converting and improving weaker maintained schools, or adding vulnerable academies to their trust and improving them
- B: accelerating the development of mid-sized trusts with the potential to be strong
- C: creating new strong trusts, either by single-academy trusts (SATs) joining larger trusts, or by supporting the growth of existing trusts via mergers, or priority projects identified by RSCs

Each strand has different eligibility criteria and grants of between £20,000 and £310,000 are available.

The Department for Education has also set out a package of bespoke support. A more intensive offer of leadership guidance, plus up to £16,000 in support, will be available to schools with two consecutive 'requires improvement' judgements from Ofsted, to help them improve in a sustainable way, forming part of an estimated £16.5million worth of support from the Government to around 2,400 schools nationwide. The Department will be contacting schools throughout the 2019/20 academic year to offer this support package.

The Trust Capacity fund will launch in September and close to applications in December 2019.

Funding for projects which support broader community outcomes

[Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government - Local Digital Fund](#) *

Councils looking to improve public services through innovative uses of digital technology can apply for grants of up to £350,000 from the Government's Local Digital Fund.

Projects bidding for the Fund of up to £7.5 million must be shared by councils working together to explore how digital technology can improve public services for residents in innovative ways.

Ideas could range from making people's lives easier with more efficient, online ways to pay for services or get help, to embracing tech to support vulnerable people or making bin collections, social housing repairs and taxi licensing services more efficient.

The deadline for applications is 16 September 2019.

[Comic Relief - Across Borders Routes to Safety for Refugees](#)

Comic Relief is offering a range of funding investments to organisations supporting refugees on the move along the key migration routes, from Middle East and North Africa to Europe, including the UK

As part of Comic Relief's A Safe Place to Be pillar of work, they have launched this funding programme for organisations supporting refugees on the move along the key migration routes, from Middle East and North Africa (MENA) to Europe, including the UK.

The overall aim of the Across Borders: Routes to Safety for Refugees programme is to support refugees and people seeking asylum to safe, legal and dignified routes to fulfilling and happy settlement, whether that be in the country of destination, transition country or country of origin.

Comic Relief is looking to fund a mixed portfolio which aims to achieve holistic social change through a combination of:

- Direct service delivery at grassroots level
- Shifting public attitudes and countering negative narrative through campaigns, the arts, media, popular culture both in the UK, Europe and further afield
- Changes to policy, practice and legislation.

Funding is split between the UK and International work:

- For organisations applying for UK based work, it should be clear from the proposal that applicants are committed to working with and informed by people who have made that journey
- For organisations working along a route into Europe, Comic Relief are not identifying one specific route, but proposals should outline the context of the specific route (or routes) applicants are referencing and why it's important.

Organisations working along the key migration routes from Middle East and North Africa into Europe, including the UK are eligible to apply.

Successful applicants will demonstrate that they are committed to working in partnership, either through informal collaborations or through a more formal funded partnership.

Funding is available for a minimum of three to a maximum of five years.

The following funding options are available:

UK based work

There are two options for funding in the UK:

- One investment of up to £800,000 for a funded partnership.
- Investments of £150,000 - £250,000 for a smaller funded partnership or for a single organisation, but evidence of embedding a collaborative approach is essential

International work along the route into Europe

There are two options for investing along the route:

- Limited number of investments of up to £700,000 for intermediary funders.
- Investments of £80,000 - £400,000 for small funded partnership or for a single organisation, but evidence of embedding a collaborative approach is essential.

The deadline for first stage applications is 16 September 2019.

[Dept for BEIS - Heat Networks Investment Project for England & Wales](#)

A major government fund to help encourage the wider use of heating networks for domestic and public buildings has opened to applications for a third round.

Delivering on its commitment to tackle energy costs using innovative, low carbon solutions, the government has created an initiative for homes and non-domestic consumers, including schools, hospitals and council buildings, to participate in a heat networks scheme.

Heat networks supply energy from a central source to consumers, via a network of underground pipes carrying hot water. They can cover a large area or even an entire city, or be relatively local, supplying a small cluster of buildings. This avoids the need for individual boilers or electric heaters in every building.

The Heat Networks Investment Project (HNIP) is investing capital funding in heat networks, through grants and loans. This is provided as 'gap funding' to grow the UK heat networks market and deliver the carbon savings required to meet the nation's future carbon reduction commitments.

The programme has an overall investment pot of £320 million, to be awarded through grants of up to £5 million and corporate loans of between £25,000 and £10 million.

Investment costs eligible for support under the HNIP scheme include:

- The building of new heat networks (generation, distribution and customer supply).
- Development of existing heat networks including expansions, refurbishment or the interconnection of existing networks where additional carbon savings can be demonstrated (which can include refinancing or acquisitions).
- Commercialisation phase and construction costs.
- Works to access recoverable heat.
- Costs for heat network infrastructure connected to the generation plant.

HNIP will offer grants and capital loans to both the public and private sectors in England and Wales, for networks serving two or more buildings. All HNIP funding mechanisms will be open to all applicant types - public, private and third sector, except Central Government Departments. Supported heat networks must be located in England and/or Wales.

Round 3 is now open to applications.

The Pre-application deadline is Friday 20 September 2019 and the Full application deadline is Friday 18 October 2019.

[NHS England - Community Grants 2019](#)

NHS England and NHS Improvement will be awarding grants of up to £2,500 to projects delivered by voluntary, community or social enterprise organisations that showcase good practice around patient and citizen involvement in healthcare.

Applicants will need to provide details of the successful involvement project they have completed, along with details of how they plan to use the grant to share and showcase their work in a creative way.

The deadline for applications is 23 September 2019.

[National Grid & Affordable Warmth Solutions - Warm Homes Fund *](#)

National Grid and Community Interest Company, Affordable Warmth Solution (AWS) have established a £150m Warm Homes Fund (WHF) designed to support local authorities, registered social landlords and other organisations working in partnership with them, to address some of the issues affecting fuel poor households.

The fund incentivises the installation of affordable heating solutions in fuel poor households who do not use mains gas as their primary heating fuel. It is envisaged that the fund will be used to supplement local strategic plans and other funds available.

The fund is split into three broad categories:

Category 1: Urban homes and communities – this is anticipated to involve new gas heating systems which provide space heating and domestic hot water. It could also include heat network solutions.

Category 2: Rural homes and communities – some of the most severely fuel poor households are those without a mains gas connection in rural locations. This category will therefore primarily focus on 'non-gas' solutions which may include air source heat pumps, oil and LPG.

Category 3: Specific energy efficient/health related solutions – this may involve national or regional programmes which bring together relevant organisations and charities to promote energy efficiency and/or health related programmes in relation to fuel poverty. This is not intended to fund new central heating systems.

To maximise the impact of the WHF, all properties are expected to be insulated to the recommended industry standards and bidders and their partners are encouraged to seek additional funding to ensure these standards are met. The aims of the fund are to reduce bills, increase comfort in non-gas fuel poor households, and improve health outcomes for some of the most severe levels of fuel poverty.

The deadline for applications is 27 September 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 next closing date for applications is Friday 27th September 2019.

Association of Independent Museums - Collections Care Scheme

Grants of up to £10,000 are available to small museums in the UK to help develop a more sustainable approach to the conservation and management of collections.

The grants may enable museums to receive tailored, specialist advice about care of collections, or equipment to implement that advice. Funds may also support the training staff or volunteers to use new equipment, as well as its purchase, emphasising low cost solutions that can be easily understood.

To be eligible for an AIM Collection Care Grant, organisations must:

- Be an AIM member
- Be a registered or accredited museum, or be confident of achieving accreditation within two years
- Be a registered Charity, an associated charity can receive the grant on the museum's behalf, if the museum itself is not a charity
- Have fewer than 50,000 visitors p.a. OR a turnover of less than £300,000 p.a. (Please note in the case of branch museums, the total turnover of the parent organisation must be less than £300,000 p.a.)

The maximum grant awarded will be £10,000. It is expected that the average grant awarded will be around £5,000.

The deadline for applications is 30 September 2019.

[Association of Independent Museums \(AIM\) - Remedial Conservation Scheme](#)

The AIM/Pilgrim Trust Conservation Grant Scheme is intended to help small museums with the conservation of objects in their collections. Accessioned objects in any media are eligible. Whilst AIM expect museums to have a conservation plan, the object does not have to be the most at risk in the collection.

Conservation work should be carried out by a conservator chosen from the ICON register unless there are exceptional circumstances where this is not possible.

To be eligible, museums must:

- Be an AIM member
- Be a registered or accredited museum, or be confident of achieving accreditation within two years
- Be a registered Charity, an associated charity can receive the grant on the museum's behalf, if the museum itself is not a charity
- Have fewer than 50,000 visitors p.a. OR a turnover of less than £300,000 p.a. (Please note in the case of branch museums, the total turnover of the parent organisation must be less than £300,000 p.a.)

Applicants may apply to the scheme more than once for different projects.

The maximum grant awarded will be £10,000. It is expected that the average grant awarded will be around £5,000.

The deadline for applications is 30th September 2019.

[Power to Change – Community Business Fund](#)

The Power to Change fund is designed to support existing community businesses with grants to help them progress towards self-sufficiency. This could be through increasing trading income, securing an asset or significantly reducing revenue costs.

The Community Business Fund offers investments between £50,000 and £300,000 to help you significantly improve your viability, as well as social, environmental and economic impact.

Eligible costs include:

- Capital costs including building, vehicles, equipment of significant value, refurbishment costs.
- Project-specific revenue costs like staff costs, professional fees, volunteer costs

Round 8 of the Community Business Fund is due to open for applications on Wednesday 11th September and will close on 9th October 2019

Art Fund - Curatorial Network Grants

Subject Specialist Networks (SSNs) and other curatorial networks can apply for grants of up to £15,000 to help share expertise across the museum sector. The Art Fund's Curatorial Network Grants provide funding to support Subject Specialist Networks (SSNs) and other curatorial networks in sharing expertise across the museum sector, for the benefit of collections and audiences.

The grants are designed to be 'light-touch' and responsive to need.

The Art Fund wants to help networks:

- capitalise on opportunities to develop and expand their activities
- develop and share knowledge and skills relating to subject-specialisms, professional skills and public engagement
- collaborate with each other and with museum audiences
- innovate, test new ideas and share their findings
- create tangible public outcomes.

'Curatorial networks' are defined as professional communities which share interests in curatorial specialisms, collections and/or exhibition-based practices. Networks can be established or emerging but must have a mission statement and/or clear long-term objectives.

Networks must be not-for-profit and be formally constituted or identify a formally constituted organisation that is willing to act as the recipient of funds.

There are two categories of grant:

- Small grants for requests of up to £5,000.
- Large grants for requests of between £5,000 and £15,000.

There are no fixed deadlines for small grant applications and therefore can be submitted at any time.

Applications for large grants are considered twice a year. The current deadline for applications is 11 October 2019.

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 31st October 2019

Dept of Transport “Challenge Fund” to Improve Local Roads *

The Department of Transport will be offering £348 million funding through two new funds to help local authorities tackle issues on major local roads.

Two new funds, totalling £348 million across 4 years, will be available for local authorities to bid for in an effort to tackle issues on major local roads, from easing congestion through to sorting out potholes.

The first £198 million Challenge Fund will be available for this year and the next. Local authorities will be able to bid for projects that will carry out improvements to the quality of roads and surrounding infrastructure. Types of project could include:

- Structural maintenance, strengthening or renewal of bridges, viaducts, retaining walls or other key structures, footbridge or cycle bridge renewal.
- Major maintenance, full depth reconstruction of carriageways, and structural maintenance of tunnels.
- Resurfacing of carriageways including improvements to footways or cycleways that are within the highway boundary.
- Renewal of gullies and replacement of drainage assets.

Please note that street lighting and improvements to other public rights of way are not eligible.

In 2019 to 2020 the funding available is £98 million. Each local highway authority is eligible to submit one bid for up to £5 million of DfT funding for 2019 to 2020. It will also seek expressions of interest, but not bids, for larger projects in 2020 to 2021 with a minimum DfT contribution of £5 million each, for which a total of £100 million is available in that year.

Deadline for applications is 31st October 2019

Deadline for expressions of interest for larger schemes is 31st October 2019

European Commission's - Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund *

A total of €21.5 million is available through the Call Topics launched under the European Commission's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund.

The aim of the European Commission's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) is to contribute to an effective management of migration flows in the EU as part of the area of freedom, security and justice, in accordance with the common policy on asylum, subsidiary protection and temporary protection and the common immigration policy.

AMIF has published seven Call Topics as part of its 2019 Work Programme. The Topics are primarily focused on actions to reduce the incentives for irregular migration, and the integration of third-country nationals into Member States' societies.

The seven Call Topics have a combined total budget of €21.5 million, which is divided amongst the following Topics as follows:

- AMIF-2019-AG-CALL-01 - Fostering the Integration of Persons in Need of Protection Through Private Sponsorship Schemes – Estimated Budget: €4 million.
- AMIF-2019-AG-CALL-02 - Social Orientation of Newly Arrived Third-Country Nationals Through Involvement of Local Communities, Including Mentoring and Volunteering Activities – Estimated Budget: €4 million.
- AMIF-2019-AG-CALL-03 - Social and Economic Integration of Migrant Women – Estimated Budget: €4 million.
- AMIF-2019-AG-CALL-04 - Awareness Raising and Information Campaigns on the Risks of Irregular Migration in Selected Third Countries and Within Europe – Estimated Budget: €4.85 million.
- AMIF-2019-AG-CALL-05 - Support to Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings – Estimated Budget: €2.55 million.
- AMIF-2019-AG-CALL-06 - Protection of Children in Migration – Estimated Budget: €1.7 million.
- AMIF-2019-AG-CALL-07 - Transnational Projects by Member States for Training of Experts in the Area of Asylum and Immigration – Estimated Budget: €400,000.

The maximum rate of co-financing of eligible costs is 90%.

All EU Member States with the exception of Denmark are involved in these Call Topics. Public authorities, non-governmental organisations, humanitarian organisations, private and public law companies and education and research organisations are eligible to apply.

Applications can be submitted via each of the relevant Call Topic's webpage on the Funding and Tenders Portal website by the 30 January 2020 deadline.

The National Lottery Community Fund - Climate Action Fund

A new £100 million fund has been launched to support project enabling people and communities across the UK to take the lead in tackling the climate emergency.

The National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF) has announced that its newest fund will build a network of people and communities, well-placed to drive change within, between and beyond their community. The new fund is being launched as the level of concern over climate change continues to rise.

The funded activities are expected to differ depending on their location, but they will have one thing in common: the ability to deliver high impact community-led climate action. This includes in areas such as sustainable energy, sustainable transport, consumption, food and protecting and regenerating spaces and habitats.

The Climate Action Fund is expected to open for applications in Autumn 2019 with the first awards being announced within the first half of 2020. The funding criteria of the programme will be announced later this year.

Support available for your organisations

Reviewing your legal structure – VAL training event 16th October 2019

When an organisation is established, the trustees adopt a governing document or set of rules. Reviewing governing documents from time to time is essential to ensure they are still suitable for the organisation and are legally up to date.

This course will give the opportunity for trustees and staff to look at how their present organisation is set up, what options for change are available, and what the process is.

This course is for trustees and staff of VCSE Organisations based in Leicester City and/or Leicestershire, who are delivering services to residents locally.

You can book on the event via the link below:

<https://valonline.org.uk/event/2019/10/16/reviewing-your-legal-structure/>

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