

## Monthly Funding Information February 2026

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 \(including older people, veterans and adults with disabilities\)](#)

<b>Grant Fund</b>	<b>Closest Deadline</b>
<a href="#">Armed Forces Covenant – Rise Programme</a> (New)	18 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2026

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

<b>Grant Fund</b>	<b>Closest Deadline</b>
<a href="#">Three Guineas Trust – Holiday Activity Grants</a> (New)	13 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2026
<a href="#">Universal Music UK Sound Foundation – School Award</a>	27 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2026
<a href="#">The KFC Youth Foundation</a> (New)	27 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2026
<a href="#">Active Together -Young People Physical Activity &amp; Sport Hardship Fund</a> (New)	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2026
<a href="#">Education Endowment Foundation</a> (New)	11 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
<a href="#">The Pawprint Trust – Adventurous Activities</a>	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2026

## Funding for projects which support broader community outcomes

<b>Grant Fund</b>	<b>Closest Deadline</b>
<a href="#">HM Govt. Windrush Day Grant Scheme</a> * (New)	10 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2026
<a href="#">King Charles III Charitable Fund – Small Grants</a> (New)	11 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2026
<a href="#">UK Research and Innovation – Local Innovation Partnerships Fund</a> *	12 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2026
<a href="#">Idlewild Trust</a>	13 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2026
<a href="#">Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust</a> (New)	15 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2026
<a href="#">Harborough District Council – Community Grants</a>	16 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2026
<a href="#">OPCC – Community Action Fund</a> (Updated)	19 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2026
<a href="#">GiveStar – Adventure for Good Grant</a> (New)	20 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2026
<a href="#">National Lottery – Heritage Grants</a> *	26 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2026
<a href="#">Wise Music Foundation – Hardship Illness Poverty</a>	28 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2026
<a href="#">Foundation for Social Investment – Energy Efficiency Sharematch Fund</a>	March 2026
<a href="#">Kelly Family Charitable Trust</a> (New)	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2026
<a href="#">Jeans for Genes Grant Programme</a> (New)	2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2026
<a href="#">Peoples National Postcode Trust</a> (New)	2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2026
<a href="#">British Ecological Society – Outreach and Engagement Grants</a> (New)	10 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
<a href="#">Ramblers Path Accessibility Fund</a>	14 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
<a href="#">Hospital Saturday Fund</a> (New)	16 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
<a href="#">Finnis Scott Foundation</a> (New)	26 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
<a href="#">AiM – Collections Care and Conservation Grants</a> *	27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
<a href="#">Which? Fund</a> (New)	30 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
<a href="#">The Animal Defence Trust</a>	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2026
<a href="#">The Matrix Causes Fund</a> (New)	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2026
<a href="#">Hospice UK – Capital Improvement Grant</a> *	13 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
<a href="#">Aviva Foundation</a> (New)	15 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
<a href="#">ACRE – Village Hall Small Grants</a> (New)	Open
<a href="#">Chesterton House Foundation</a> (New)	Open
<a href="#">Groundwork – Grassroots Grants</a> (New)	Open
<a href="#">The Access Foundation – Digital Divide Grant</a> (New)	Open
<a href="#">National Lottery Climate Action Fund - Food Systems</a> * (New)	Open

## Funding for projects which support Adults

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### [Armed Forces Covenant – Rise Programme](#) (NEW GRANT)

#### Summary

Funding is available for UK-based armed forces charities providing complex or specialist support to help them become stronger, more resilient and better prepared for the future.

The programme will enable small and medium sized charities to step back from day-to-day delivery to review and improve their governance, planning, impact measurement, finances, and strategic partnerships so they can better serve their beneficiaries in the long term.

#### Key Criteria

- The funding will support pilot projects lasting six to twelve months.
- Your charitable objects, as outlined in your governing document, must explicitly state that you support the armed forces community.
- The support your organisation provides must have a UK-wide reach and primarily relate to the 'special consideration' element of the Armed Forces Covenant
- Organisation income must be under £1million

**Amounts available:** Maximum £30,000

**Application deadlines:** 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026 (Decisions by end of March 2026).

## Funding for projects which support Children and Young People

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### [Three Guineas Trust – Holiday Activity Grants](#) (NEW GRANT)

#### Summary

Funding is available for UK not-for-profit organisations to run holiday activity schemes for autistic children, young people, and their siblings.

Grants are typically paid towards part of the costs of running the programmes.

#### Key Criteria

Organisations should:

- Have an annual income of less than £1 million
- Have two years published accounts
- Use professionally trained staff and volunteers (not parents/guardians)
- Have relevant policies and procedures

**Amounts available:** Maximum £15,000

**Application deadlines:** 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026 (For expressions of interest)

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### [Universal Music UK Sound Foundation – School Award](#)

#### Summary

Funding is available to schools across the UK and Ireland that teach the national curriculum, to improve their access to music by purchasing or upgrading musical instruments and/or equipment.

#### Key Criteria

- Schools must apply individually; trusts or academies cannot submit on behalf of multiple schools.
- Exclusions include music studios, businesses, private music centres, community projects, and staffing costs for teaching or peripatetic lessons
- If your application is successful, you will have approximately 2 months to claim the donation so if you're planning an expensive purchase, you need to consider if you will have raised the balance in that time frame
- Previously successful applicants, please wait for two years from when the funding was offered before applying again

**Amounts available:** Maximum £1,000

**Application deadlines:** 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026

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## [The KFC Youth Foundation](#) (NEW GRANT)

### Summary

Funding is available to registered charities and CIC's for projects that empower disadvantaged young people aged 11–25 in the UK to fulfil their potential by providing safe spaces, diversionary activities, and opportunities to build life skills such as confidence, resilience, and job readiness.

### Key Criteria

Organisations should:

- Have an income of under £400,000
- Be based and operating exclusively in the UK
- Benefit young people aged 11-25 years old
- Work in areas of high deprivation

**Amounts available:** Maximum £6,000 (For up to two years at a maximum of £3,000 per year)

**Application deadlines:** 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026 (Decisions in April 2026).

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## [Active Together -Young People Physical Activity & Sport Hardship Fund](#) (NEW GRANT)

### Summary

The Fund is specifically aimed at helping young people overcome financial constraints affecting their involvement in physical activity and sport. There are four categories:

- Participant – for young people who are not able to access ongoing sport or physical activity due to the cost of membership fees/subs or who may need support with the purchase of kit or equipment required to participate.
- Coach/Official – for young people who have a passion for coaching or officiating in sport but are unable to access coaching or officiating courses/qualifications due to the cost of training.
- Volunteer – for committed young people who would like to give their time to volunteer in sport or physical activity, however they may face barriers such as the cost of transport to access the activity.
- Talented sportsperson – for young people who compete at a Regional, National or International level however cost is a barrier to travelling to competitions, purchasing equipment

### Key Criteria

- Young people must live in Leicestershire, Leicester or Rutland
- Young people must be aged between 7 – 21 years old, or up to the age of 25 for young people with special educational needs and disability (SEND)
- For young people under the age of 18, applications must be completed by a parent or guardian on their behalf.

**Amounts available:** No minimum or maximum amount. However previous grants have been around £200 to £300.

**Application deadlines:** 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026

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## **Education Endowment Foundation – 16-19 Spring Funding Round (NEW GRANT)**

### **Summary**

Funding is available for FE colleges, sixth form colleges, school-based sixth forms and other 16 to 19 providers to support programmes which improve pupil attainment in post-16 education, particularly for those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The priority areas for this funding round are pilot projects which support:

- Improving attendance (for technical and vocational courses)
- Transition for learners (for technical and vocational courses) (with the exception of apprenticeships)

There is an [information webinar](#) on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Key Criteria**

Please note this funding is for programmes which will start in September 2027.

Projects should be:

- Well defined, with a clear explanation of what the programme is and how it will be implemented
- Clear with regards to how they will support children and young people from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds.

**Amounts available:** Not disclosed

**Application deadlines:** 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026 (Decisions not until January 2027)

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## **The Pawprint Trust – Adventurous Activities**

### **Summary**

Funding is available to enable young people from across the UK to participate in life-changing adventures that develop their skills, capacities, and capabilities. The funding will support young people aged 11-25 who need a bit of extra help with their fundraising for projects and activities both locally and abroad.

Each application should be accompanied by a supporting statement from someone who knows the young person well, such as a group leader or teacher.

### **Key Criteria**

- Applicants must be aged 11-25 (inclusive) at the time of the project and be a resident in the UK
- Projects cannot be funded if they take place before 31<sup>st</sup> May in the application year

**Amounts available:** Not disclosed

**Application deadlines:** 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026

## Funding for projects which support broader community outcomes

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### [HM Govt. Windrush Day Grant Scheme](#) \* (NEW GRANT)

#### Summary

The Windrush Day Grant Scheme 2026 is a national programme supporting projects that commemorate, celebrate and educate about the Windrush generation and their descendants.

#### Key Criteria

- Eligible applicants include charities, social enterprises, community groups and local authorities in England
- Projects must be inclusive, non-political and not retrospectively funded
- The project must demonstrate how it contributes to the aims and outcomes of the Windrush Day Grant Scheme as set out in this Guidance for Applicants.
- The project must include a lead event or activity on National Windrush Day, 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2026, other events and activities can take place before the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2026
- Applicants must not be applying for more than 50% of their annual turnover

**Amounts available:** Between £5,000 and £25,000

**Application deadlines:** 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026

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### [King Charles III Charitable Fund – Small Grants](#) (NEW GRANT)

#### Summary

Funding is available to registered UK-based non-profit organisations for projects that make a meaningful difference in key areas such as social inclusion, health and wellbeing, education, environment, countryside, heritage and conservation.

This funding round will support Social Inclusion and Health and Wellbeing projects.

#### Key Criteria

Eligible organisations must:

- Have an annual income between £25,000 and £500,000
- Have been operating for at least two years
- Propose projects with a total cost under £50,000

**Amounts available:** Maximum £3,000 (Per year for up to three years)

**Application deadlines:** 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026

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## **UK Research and Innovation – Local Innovation Partnerships Fund** \*

### **Summary**

Funding is available to local leaders from councils, universities, and businesses across the UK to form 'Triple Helix' partnerships which undertake regional research and drive innovation tailored to the needs of their communities.

The fund seeks to turn cutting-edge research into practical solutions that create jobs, improve quality of life, and promote regional growth - from technologies that enable faster disease diagnosis to cleaner transport systems and the development of entirely new industries.

The primary objectives of the fund are to:

- Foster the growth of mature innovation clusters by deepening their capabilities and expanding their reach
- Support emerging clusters, to grow and mature their ecosystems enhancing their capability of generating substantial economic value
- Support the adoption, diffusion, and commercialisation of new technologies
- Strengthen local partnerships and governance to deliver place-based innovation

### **Key Criteria**

To apply on behalf of a triple helix partnership, the applicant must be based at an eligible organisation:

- Higher education providers
- Research institutes
- Public sector research establishments
- NHS bodies
- Independent research organisations.
- A Mayoral Strategic Authority, or other local government partner that has been granted non-standard eligibility for this funding opportunity

**Amounts available:** Maximum £20 million per place

**Application deadlines:** 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026 (For Expressions of Interest)

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## Idlewild Trust

### **Summary**

Funding is available for charities under two themes:

- Arts - improve opportunities for young professionals working in the arts, particularly at an early stage in their careers
- Conservation - supporting the conservation of national or international works of art and objects in museums, galleries, places of worship, historic buildings or their grounds/landscapes accessible to the public that are being lost through the lack of funds to look after these works.

### **Key Criteria**

- Arts - priority is to support high-level training to early career participants in the performing, fine and applied arts.
- Arts - anticipated eligible charities include theatres, galleries, orchestras, opera, ballet, and theatre companies
- Arts – it will not fund programmes for young people under 18 years of age or gap year students
- Conservation - priority will be given to applications that include a knowledge sharing element as an outcome of the project, depending on the size and resources available within the project
- It will not fund structural repairs to buildings or routine maintenance, cleaning and preventative work to objects or works of art
- It will not fund organisations with an annual income of under £5,000

**Amounts available:** Average grant £6,437

**Application deadlines:** 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026 (For Expressions of Interest)

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## **Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust (NEW GRANT)**

### **Summary**

Funding is available for organisations involved in horticulture, gardening, or botany to support projects that promote horticulture, conserve the environment through biodiversity, develop public gardens, and advance horticultural education.

Eligible projects include the restoration of historic gardens, creation of new public garden spaces, horticultural research, publications, and plant study expeditions.

### **Key Criteria**

- Generally, only one grant is awarded to each project, but subsequent grants can be made to the same individual or organisation for a new project or an additional component of the original project over two or three years.
- It is recommended that applications are submitted in as much advance of the deadline as possible
- The Trust may consider grants for the repair or conservation of physical structures related to historic landscapes such as pergolas or conservatories but only when they are part of a wider garden restoration project
- The Trust does not support applications from places or individuals where horticulture is only a minor part of their operation

**Amounts available:** Maximum £5,000

**Application deadlines:** 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026 (There are two funding rounds per year with the next deadline being 15<sup>th</sup> August 2026).

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## **Harborough District Council – Community Grants**

### **Summary**

Funding is available to town and parish councils/meetings and community organisations in the Harborough district for capital projects which create lasting assets across the Harborough district, such as improvements to building, facilities, or purchasing and installing equipment.

The funding focuses on enhancing, upgrading, or expanding facilities and activities, rather than covering routine maintenance or general upkeep.

### **Key Criteria**

- All applications outside of Market Harborough need to be submitted or supported by the Parish Council or Parish Meeting
- In Market Harborough only, community organisations will first need to obtain a letter of support for their proposal from the Market Harborough Special Expenses Advisory Panel
- All applicants will need to submit the views of their Ward Councillor
- Funding can only go to groups that are constituted and have held a bank account in the name of the group for three years
- Grants must be spent within one year of receipt, unless agreement is given by the Council

**Amounts available:** There is a set amount of grant funding available for Market Harborough and each of the Parished areas, which can be seen via the [Funding Allocations Document](#).

**Application deadlines:** 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026 (Decisions in March 2026)

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## **OPCC – Community Action Fund – UPDATED INFORMATION**

### **Summary**

The Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) has announced further information on its rounds of funding for 2025-26:

#### **1. Violence and Vulnerability**

Work in the following crime types will be supported:

- Stalking and Harassment
- Serious Violence
- Domestic Abuse (including Assault and Coercive Control)
- Sexual Violence
- Knife-enabled serious Violence\

#### **2. Violence Against Women and Girls**

Work in the following crime types will be supported:

- Domestic Abuse
- Sexual Violence and Harassment
- Forced Marriage and Honour-Based Abuse
- FGM
- Stalking and Online Abuse
- Sexual Exploitation

### **Key Criteria**

- Projects must clearly support at least one of the [Police and Crime Plan](#) priorities
- A range of community-based organisation can apply.
- Organisations should not have more than 30 full-time equivalent staff (this does not include Volunteers)
- Projects involving structural components (e.g. signage, CCTV, road markings) must have approval from the relevant authority. Evidence of this approval must be included in the application.

**Amounts available:** Maximum £10,000

### **Application deadlines:**

Violence and Vulnerability closes on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

Violence Against Women and Girls opens on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026 and closes on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

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## **GiveStar – Adventure for Good Grant (NEW GRANT)**

### **Summary**

Funding is available for individuals and small teams undertaking ambitious charity challenges. The grant helps cover essential costs such as travel, equipment, permits and entry fees for high-impact adventures including endurance feats, expeditions and long-distance challenges.

Grant recipients also join the AllStars programme, receiving mentoring, campaign planning and promotional support to maximise fundraising impact.

### **Key Criteria**

- The scheme is for UK and US based registered charities
- Applicants must be aged 18 and over and fundraise via the GiveStar platform which is operated by TapTap Giving Ltd
- Applicants can have already started other fundraising campaigns elsewhere

**Amounts available:** Total budget of £250,000

**Application deadlines:** 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026 (Decisions notified by 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026).

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## **National Lottery – Heritage Grants \***

### **Summary**

Funding is available for a range of not-for-profit organisations to deliver projects which connect people or communities with heritage.

The funding can support a broad range of activities and project costs such as volunteer expenses, capital works, repairs, maintenance, conservation costs, professional fees, event costs, and the acquisition of heritage.

Projects must take into account the National Lottery Heritage Fund's four investment principles:

- Saving heritage
- Protecting the environment
- Inclusion, access and participation
- Organisational sustainability

### **Key Criteria**

- Projects must also consider long-term environmental sustainability
- Up to 10% match funding is required

### **Amounts available:**

- Between £10,000 and £250,000
- Between £250,000 and £10 million

### **Application deadlines:**

Deadline for Expressions of Interest for applications over £250,000 is 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026. There are quarterly deadlines throughout 2026. If the EoI is approved, you will have 12 months to submit your full application.

Applications for under £250,000 can be submitted at any time.

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## Wise Music Foundation – Hardship Illness Poverty

### Summary

Funding is available for small charities working to make a positive difference for people facing hardship, illness, or poverty, particularly children, the homeless, older people, and those with disabilities.

### Key Criteria

- Charities with an annual turnover of up to £500,000 are eligible to apply
- The Foundation won't donate to the same charity more than once in a calendar year

**Amounts available:** Maximum £5,000 (average grant £1,500)

**Application deadlines:** 28<sup>th</sup> February 2026 (For a decision in March 2026. The Trustees meet quarterly to consider applications).

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## Foundation for Social Investment – Energy Efficiency Sharematch Fund

### Summary

Funding is available to help community organisations reduce energy usage and their carbon footprint. It can be used to install on-site energy generation measures like solar panels and heat pumps, improve building energy efficiency through insulation and LED lighting, and upgrade operational equipment to more energy-efficient alternatives.

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

The scheme would ordinarily expect to match money raised through the Crowdfunder platform in community shares investments on the basis of 25-33% match of the total raised, up to the maximum grant amounts.

### Key Criteria

- To be eligible to apply, organisations must be one of the following: Community Benefit Society, Charitable Community Benefit Society or a Co-operative Society
- In order to be eligible to apply, projects must set up on Crowdfunder
- Organisations must own their buildings or have long (over 10 years) tenancies in place. The tenancy should also be as long or longer than the payback period for the share capital.
- Organisations can only access funding from the Energy Efficiency Sharematch once.

**Amounts available:** Between £5,000 and £30,000 (total budget of £250,000)

**Application deadlines:** The grant scheme will close in March 2026 and the goal is to allocate all funds before this deadline.

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## **Kelly Family Charitable Trust (NEW GRANT)**

### **Summary**

Funding is available for registered charities whose activities support and encourage the family to work as a cohesive unit in tackling problems that one or more of its members.

Both capital and revenue grants are available, and the Trust welcomes requests for core operating costs in addition to project-based funding. Newly established organisations are encouraged to apply, as the Trust seeks to help charities grow and establish their services.

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

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

### **Key Criteria**

- The Trust generally supports charities with an income of under £500,000
- Unsuccessful applicants must wait for 1 year before resubmitting an application
- The Trust will consider repeat funding requests, on receipt of satisfactory progress reports

**Amounts available:** Maximum £5,000

**Application deadlines:** 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026 and 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026

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## **Jeans for Genes Grant Programme (NEW GRANT)**

### **Summary**

Funding is available for UK charities that support people affected by genetic conditions.

Grants can be used to cover essential running costs, respond to challenges such as funding pressures, rising demand, or operational difficulties, and invest in work that strengthens an organisation's impact.

### **Key Criteria**

Organisations must:

- Be a genetic condition-specific charitable organisation, or whose beneficiaries are solely those with genetic conditions and/or their families
- Have an annual income of less than £1 million
- Be at least 18 months old and have published their first set of annual financial statements
- Have spent the grant within twelve months

**Amounts available:** Generally, between £3,000 and £5,000. However there will be three awards of up to £10,000 given to "spotlight" charities.

**Application deadlines:** 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026 (Decisions notified in April 2026).

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## **Peoples National Postcode Trust (NEW GRANT)**

### **Summary**

Funding will be available for charities and community organisations to support projects that improve the lives of disadvantaged and marginalised people across England, Scotland and Wales.

Focus on projects which aim to:

- Enable participation in the arts
- Prevent or reduce the impact of poverty
- Support marginalised groups or tackling inequality
- Improve mental health (focus will be on organisations that are actively supporting specific mental health issues, rather than general mental wellbeing activities).

### **Key Criteria**

Applications must be submitted through one of six regional Trusts. Each Trust covers a specific area of the country and has its own application deadline. Leicestershire appears to be in the East of England Trust.

Priority will be given to organisations that:

- Have an annual income of £250,000 or less, (but should have an income of under £1 million)
- Work in communities ranked among the most deprived 15% in England, Scotland or Wales
- Focus on supporting marginalised groups, such as disabled people, communities experiencing racial inequality, and LGBT+ people
- Are based in areas that have not received funding recently

**Amounts available:** Maximum £50,000 (over three years)

### **Application deadlines:**

- South of England opens 23<sup>rd</sup> February to 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026
- East of England opens 25<sup>th</sup> March to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026
- Please [check your postcode](#) to determine which area you are in.

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## **British Ecological Society – Outreach and Engagement Grants (NEW GRANT)**

### **Summary**

Funding is available for individuals and organisations, such as schools, museums, libraries, and community groups to promote ecological science to a wide audience.

The programme funds activities that engage public audiences in innovative and creative ways and enhance others' skills in communicating ecology to those audiences.

All Grants must be for projects that meet at least one of the top-level BES aims:

- Communicate evidence-based messaging for what ecology is, how nature works, and the use of ecological science as a solution to local and global challenges
- Raise awareness and public understanding of ecological careers, their relevance and importance, breadth, and diversity, and show that anybody can become an ecologist
- Share how individuals can take action to benefit the environment, themselves, and society
- Increase the ability of others to deliver the above aims through outreach and engagement activities

### **Key Criteria**

- Applications from schools must include significant outreach beyond the school. Projects aimed solely at delivering curriculum to school children will not be considered.
- Applicants must be BES members

**Amounts available:** Maximum £2,000

**Application deadlines:** 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026 (There are two grant rounds per year).

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## **Ramblers Path Accessibility Fund**

### **Summary**

Funding is available to landowners, parish councils, community groups, voluntary organisations, and individuals for projects that improve public rights of way across England, Scotland, and Wales, helping more people, especially those with limited mobility, enjoy walking outdoors.

The funding aims to support work to remove barriers such as stiles, steps, and overgrown paths, with improvements including accessible gates, widened entrances, and better path surfaces to make routes safer and easier to use.

### **Key Criteria**

- All projects must have received written permission from the landowner or their representative
- Projects must take place on definitive public rights of way
- You should discuss the project with the relevant rights of way officer in your local highway authority

**Amounts available:** Average grant £2,500

**Application deadlines:** 14<sup>th</sup> March 2026 (For expressions of interest)

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## **Hospital Saturday Fund (NEW GRANT)**

### **Summary**

Funding is available for registered medical charities, hospices and medical organisations to support medical capital projects, care, research or medical training. It will also consider running costs.

The fund will also consider supporting individuals for the following:

- Equipment including specialised mobility equipment, car adaptations, medical appliances and aids, hearing aids, nebulisers, specialised vision aids, specialised computer equipment, therapeutic equipment/treatment, orthopaedic beds, mattresses or pillows, riser /recliners chairs, lift hoist/aids.
- Treatments including Physiotherapy, Hydrotherapy, Speech Therapy, Osteopathy, Chiropractic treatment, Reflexology, Massage Therapy
- Home adaptations including, walk in showers, accessibility adaptations to bathrooms, access ramps, non-slip flooring, stair lifts.

There are two grants Standard and Large. Large grants can be used towards specific projects, research or equipment.

### **Key Criteria**

- Organisations must be registered with the Charities Commission or HMRC
- Organisations must be carrying out medically related activities

### **Amounts available:**

- Standard Grant maximum: £2,000
- Large Grant maximum: £10,000

**Application deadlines:** There are four application windows per year. The next ones are:

- Standard Grant - 13th April 2026
- Large Grants - 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026

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## **Finnis Scott Foundation (NEW GRANT)**

### **Summary**

Funding is available for UK charities and charitable organisations, including schools and colleges, to support projects in the areas of:

- Horticulture (Gardening) and Plant Sciences – supports an extremely broad range of projects.
- Fine Art and Art History – to promote the exhibition, conservation, or study of the art of previous centuries.

The Trustees are keen to support horticultural training through bursaries and apprenticeships.

Both capital and revenue costs are eligible

### **Key Criteria**

- Individuals may not apply directly, applications should come from the sponsoring organisation
- Applications from mainstream schools are not accepted. The Trustees will consider applications from SEND / Special Schools submitted via their registered charity
- Grants are not offered for covering salary commitments (except for horticultural traineeships/apprenticeships)
- Unlikely to fund new organisations with no track record or published accounts

**Amounts available:** Maximum £10,000, (Most grants are currently £5,000 or less).

**Application deadlines:** 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026

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## **AiM – Collections Care and Conservation Grants** \*

### **Summary**

Funding is available to small and medium-sized museums, that are members of the Association of Independent Museums, to cover the cost of a three-day professional collections care audit.

These grants are a good starting point for smaller museums to understand their collection care needs and to develop future grant applications based on the recommendations of a conservator.

### **Key Criteria**

Organisations should:

- Be either a UK registered charity, an organisation with exempt charitable status or a recognised public body such as a Local Authority Museum
- Have fewer than 50,000 visitors a year

**Amounts available:** Maximum £1,200

**Application deadlines:** 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

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## **Which? Fund (NEW GRANT)**

### **Summary**

Funding is available for UK-registered charities, universities, and not-for-profit Community Interest Companies to support research projects examining adverse consumer experiences (harms) affecting diverse and disadvantaged groups.

The fund aims to improve understanding of these harms and support practical solutions that could influence policy, regulation, or everyday practice, benefiting large numbers of people.

This year's focus is on two themes:

- Next generation energy business models supporting the clean energy transition - We are keen to receive applications from organisations seeking to understand how the rollout of technologies and associated services to support flexible electricity consumption is affecting or is likely to affect diverse and disadvantaged communities, or testing potential solutions which could help enhance the equity of these innovations.
- Online choice architecture - The design of websites, apps, digital services and devices can have a substantial effect on consumer behaviour, influencing decisions and choices. All consumers are affected by these decisions, but some communities may be more likely to experience harm. While there are clear theoretical reasons for believing this is likely to be the case, empirical evidence of the scale and nature of this harm is scarce. We are keen to support the development of this empirical evidence base, in order to inform effective regulatory interventions.

### **Key Criteria**

- Charities must have objectives which align with those of the [Consumers Association](#)
- Applicants must have at least one set of published accounts, not be in serious financial deficit or have significant unrestricted reserves
- CIC's must have an asset lock and at least three independent non-executive directors
- Projects are expected to take twelve months to complete

**Amounts available:** Not disclosed. Total budget £75,000

**Application deadlines:** 30<sup>th</sup> March 2026 (Deadline for outline applications).

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## [The Animal Defence Trust](#)

### **Summary**

Funding is available to support approved animal welfare charities working to rescue and care for animals that have suffered cruelty. The Trust's main objectives are protecting animals from suffering and mistreatment, promoting research to reduce animal use in scientific experiments, and ensuring proper accommodation for animals during transportation.

Grants are generally for capital projects, but running costs may be considered.

### **Key Criteria**

- All applications must be made via post. The Animal Defence Trust does not accept electronic copies.
- If planning permission is required to complete a project, then this should have been acquired, at least at outline level, prior to the application being submitted.
- A full report and supporting photographs (if appropriate) of the project should be submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> March of the year following the giving of the grant.

**Amounts available:** Not disclosed

**Application deadlines:** 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 (to be considered in July 2026)

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## [The Matrix Causes Fund \(NEW GRANT\)](#)

### **Summary**

Funding is available for charitable organisations working to improve the lives of people facing disadvantage in the UK and internationally. The Fund supports initiatives that promote access to justice, equality of opportunity, and environmental sustainability, with a particular focus on those who are most vulnerable in society.

Funding can be used to support core organisational activities as well as frontline work that delivers meaningful impact.

### **Key Criteria**

- Priority is given to projects that support people facing significant disadvantage, including prisoners and those leaving the criminal justice system, asylum seekers and refugees, individuals with mental health challenges, people with disabilities, and women living in refuges.
- Generally, thirty awards are made each round, with two of those being overseas

**Amounts available:**

- One-off grants maximum £6,500
- Multi-year grants maximum £4,500 (for up to three years)

**Application deadlines:** 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026

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## **Hospice UK – Capital Improvement Grant \* (NEW GRANT)**

### **Summary**

Funding is available via the Screwfix Foundation for Hospices across the UK, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man to improve their end-of-life care facilities.

The grant can support capital costs, including LED lighting installation, boiler and heating improvements, EV charging points, environmentally friendly windows, and the creation of sensory gardens and accessible outdoor spaces.

The funding aims to enhance comfort for hospice users, while helping hospices improve energy efficiency and reduce operating costs.

### **Key Criteria**

- Eligible applicants must be members of Hospice UK, including NHS Hospices
- Both Adult and Children's Hospices are eligible
- Only one application can be considered from each hospice
- Hospices that have been awarded a grant directly from the Screwfix Foundation within the past two years are not eligible to apply
- The Screwfix Foundation likes to support projects where they are the major or sole funder

**Amounts available:** Maximum £10,000

**Application deadlines:** 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 (Decisions by end of May 2026)

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## **Aviva Foundation (NEW GRANT)**

### **Summary**

Aviva has brought together the Aviva Community Fund and its previous grant programmes under one structure.

The current focus is on two main funds across the UK:

- The Financial Futures Fund - supports larger UK-based organisations that are tackling financial insecurity over the long term with multiyear funding
- The Communities Fund - supports smaller, local charities and community organisations, building on the existing Aviva Community Fund. Focuses on projects that improve financial wellbeing and address climate action. Funding is provided through a matched-funding model.

### **Key Criteria**

- Financial Futures Fund open to organisations with an annual income of £1 million or more
- Communities Fund open to UK organisations with an annual income of £1 million or less

**Amounts available:**

- Financial Futures Fund
- Communities Fund – match funding donations of up to £250 to a maximum of £25,000

**Application deadlines:**

- Financial Futures Fund closes 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026 and 7<sup>th</sup> October 2026
- Communities Fund – Open, applications can be submitted at any time

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## **ACRE – Village Hall Small Grants (NEW GRANT)**

### **Summary**

Funding is available for village halls to improve and modernise their facilities. The fund will support small capital improvements to rural community buildings that improve accessibility, sustainability, and community use. This might include boiler replacements, insulation, toilet upgrades and new kitchens.

### **Key Criteria**

- The following organisations are eligible to apply Registered Charities, Charitable Trusts, Charitable Incorporated Organisations, Community Associations which are registered Charities and charitable Companies.
- Multi-purpose Church Halls, Scout and Guide buildings are also eligible where they are open for the whole community, there is no alternative village hall in the vicinity, they are not single use and they are clearly advertised as multi- purpose
- Applicants must show the remaining 80% funding is secured or at least confirmed within 6 weeks of making the application
- The fund will not be available for projects which solely seek to repair, maintain or renew
- Grants will not be available where hall committees received a grant from the Village Hall Improvement Grant Fund or the Platinum Jubilee Village Halls Fund
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate that they have a freehold or leasehold interest in the village hall in place. If a leasehold interest, there must be at least 21 years left to run on the lease
- The Hall should be located in a rural area with a Parish population of under 10,000
- All project work must be completed before the end of March 2026

**Amounts available:** Between £2,000 and £5,000 (up to 20% of project costs)

**Application deadlines:** Open, but will close to applications when all funds are allocated

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## **Chesterton House Foundation (NEW GRANT)**

### **Summary**

Funding is available for charities and individuals whose work has a positive impact on the community.

The website contains information on the wide range of causes that it has supported.

### **Key Criteria**

The Foundation does consider applications from across the UK and internationally, but projects in Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, and Derbyshire are given priority.

**Amounts available:** Maximum £1,000

**Application deadlines:** Open.

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## **Groundwork – Grassroots Grants (NEW GRANT)**

### **Summary**

Funding is available for small charities and community groups to support community-led projects tackling local issues.

Funding can cover staff or volunteer expenses, equipment and materials, core running costs like rent and utilities, training, and consultancy for organisational development.

### **Key Criteria**

- Organisations should have annual income of under £25,000
- The scheme will be prioritising organisations serving marginalised communities and areas in the top 15% of deprivation
- Successful applicants will have twelve months to spend the grant
- The programme will not fund sports or physical activities-based projects

**Amounts available:** Between £500 and £2,000

**Application deadlines:** Open. Applications can be submitted at any time between January and September 2026. Decisions will usually be made within 10 weeks of the application being submitted. Scheme closes in September 2026.

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## **The Access Foundation – Digital Divide Grant (NEW GRANT)**

### **Summary**

Funding is available to UK charities, CICs and other not-for-profit organisations for projects lasting up to twelve months that aim to improve digital access, skills and support for disadvantaged and vulnerable people.

### **Key Criteria**

- Applications must be for specific services, activities, initiatives or projects with clearly identified measurable outcomes
- The fund will not support an organisations general running costs or overheads

**Amounts available:** Between £10,000 and £50,000

**Application deadlines:** Open. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis and decisions are made within twelve weeks of receiving the application.

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## **National Lottery Climate Action Fund - Food Systems \* (NEW GRANT)**

### **Summary**

Funding is available for not-for-profit organisations working in partnership, such as charities, community interest companies (CICs), charitable incorporated organisations (CIOs), schools, universities, and public bodies to help people access healthy, affordable food in environmentally sustainable ways.

Funding is for long-term projects that aim to improve the UK's food system and reduce food insecurity. Projects should address the root causes of food insecurity by making lasting changes to how food is produced, distributed, and accessed.

### **Key Criteria**

Partnerships can be local, regional or national.

Projects must work towards systems change in the way that:

- Community organisations grow and produce food – using agroecological methods
- Food gets distributed – aiming for equitable access to healthy, affordable food for all
- Offers people and communities different food options – especially those experiencing poverty, disadvantage or discrimination

Projects must demonstrate that you will:

- Work in a partnership
- Make a lasting impact on climate change, the environment and nature
- Significantly increase access to healthy, affordable food – especially for those experiencing poverty, disadvantage or discrimination
- Have firm plans to measure the impact of your work
- Have firm plans to tell the story of your project to inspire others
- Show how you'll meaningfully involve communities and organisations representing communities in your project

**Amounts available:** Between £2.5 million and £7 million (For three to seven years).

**Application deadlines:** Open – applications accepted on a rolling basis.

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

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## [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 VCSE sector 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](#), [training](#), [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.

### [Planning Impact Measurement](#) - February 2026

Learn how to begin measuring your charity's impact. This session will help you to understand impact, outputs and outcomes, learn how to articulate your plan for change and begin the path to measuring your organisation's impact effectively.

The training sessions is free.

[Booking](#) is required

### [Exploring Partnerships and Collaborations across the Voluntary Sector](#) – 25<sup>th</sup> February

This interactive morning will explore what effective partnership and collaboration really look like in today's voluntary sector landscape.

This event is ideal for organisations exploring collaboration for the first time, as well as those – already engaged or previously engaged – in partnership working who want to reflect on best practice, develop new approaches, and connect with potential future partners.

The training sessions is free.

[Booking](#) is required

### Contact Details:

Tel: (0116) 257 5050

Email: [helpline@valonline.org.uk](mailto:helpline@valonline.org.uk)

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## **CASE – Support for Social Enterprises in Leicestershire**

**CASE**

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:**

Tel: (0116) 222 5010

Email: [enquiries@case.coop](mailto:enquiries@case.coop)

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## **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:**

Tel: (0116) 262 4916

Email: [grants@llrcommunityfoundation.org.uk](mailto:grants@llrcommunityfoundation.org.uk)

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## **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](#)

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## [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.

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## [Leicestershire Communities Grants and Funding Webpage](#)



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.