

Monthly Funding Information October 2020

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 Covid-19 specific funding information is available at:

<https://www.leicestershirecommunities.org.uk/funding-covid-19.html>

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 including updates from the Government and Charity Commission, 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 disabilities)	
Grant Fund	Closest Deadline
Masonic Charitable Foundation - Later Life Inclusion Grants	31st Oct 2020
Veterans' Foundation Grants	Dec 2020
Asda Foundation - First Steps Enterprise Fund	Open

Funding for projects which support Young People (including young people with disabilities)	
Grant Fund	Closest Deadline
Masonic Charitable Foundation - Children & Young People Grant	31st Oct 2020
Dept. For Work and Pensions - Kick Start Scheme *	Open
Asda Foundation - First Steps Enterprise Fund	Open

<u>Funding for projects which support broader community outcomes</u>	
Grant Fund	Closest Deadline
<u>Aviva - Community Fund</u>	13 th Oct 2020
<u>HM Government - Air Quality Grant Programme *</u>	14 th Oct 2020
<u>The Road Safety Trust - Small Grants Programme*</u>	21 st Oct 2020
<u>Leicestershire County Council - Grants for Smarter Travel</u>	30 th Oct 2020
<u>Leicestershire County Council – SHIRE Environment Grant</u>	30 th Oct 2020
<u>Near Neighbours Small Grants</u>	11 th Dec 2020
<u>Community Shares Booster Programme</u>	Dec 2020
<u>HM Government - Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund & Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme *</u>	Open
<u>HM Government - Green Homes Grant Scheme</u>	31 st March 2021
<u>Morris Fund - Church Conservation Grants</u>	31 st March 2021
<u>Arts Council England - National Lottery Project Grants</u>	April 2021
<u>Morrison's Foundation – Community Fund</u>	Open
<u>Energy Saving Trust - Energy Redress Scheme</u>	Open
<u>Leicestershire & Rutland Community Foundation</u>	Open
<u>Easy Fundraising</u>	
<u>Commissioning Opportunities</u>	
<u>Support available for your organisation</u>	

Funding for projects which support Adults

Masonic Charitable Foundation - Later Life Inclusion Grants

The Later Life Inclusion grants programme is open to local and national charities that are working to reduce loneliness and isolation in later life. Charities can apply for a small or large grant, depending on their income.

Small grants are available for smaller charities whose annual income does not exceed £500,000. They are to fund overhead costs. Small grants range from £500 to £15,000 and can be awarded over one to three years.

Large grants are for larger charities whose annual income exceeds £500,000. They are to fund projects and can be used for salary costs, activities, materials etc. Large grants start at £10,000 and usually range from £20,000-£60,000. They can be awarded over one to three years.

The current application period for Large Grants runs from 1st September to 31st October. The current application period for Small Grants will run from 1st October to 23rd December.

Veterans' Foundation Grants

Many armed forces charities struggle to raise sufficient funding to support serving and former members of the British Armed Forces' and sometimes their dependants who are in need. The Veterans' Foundation has been created to establish a new and nationwide source of funding to help these charities. It acquires its funds through the Veterans' Lottery and donations.

The trustees of the Veterans' Foundation will disburse funds to Armed Forces charities and charitable activities.

They will support projects that:

- Reduce homelessness
- Increase employment
- Provide welfare and medical support
- Increase confidence and social integration
- Reduce dependence on drugs and alcohol
- Support other charitable activities that may be needed

You can apply for grants of any sum up to a maximum of £30K. Trustees will also consider a bid for a spread grant, i.e. £30K as £10K for each of the next three years. Please note that the trustees are likely to award more small grants than large grants. They will consider a range of factors including the service or item being applied for, the number of beneficiaries, the importance of the grant to the applicant charity and the needs of the beneficiaries.

Funds are allocated four times a year, usually at the end of January, April, June and October.

Applications should be submitted by the end of the month preceding the allocation meeting.

Asda Foundation - First Steps Enterprise Fund

First Steps Enterprise Fund (FSEF) is a £300,000 pilot fund to support community organisations. The Social Investment Business manage this fund on behalf of the Asda Foundation.

Funding is available for community organisations (charities and social enterprises) based in England that are looking to take on their first loan to help them grow and become more sustainable. Particular preference is given to organisations that work in the following areas:

- Older people
- Health and wellbeing
- Employment for young people

Funding packages of up to £30,000 are available (90% loan and 10% grant). The loan element is charged at 5% (fixed) to be repaid over a period of 4 years with an optional capital holiday for the first year. Up to £50,000 is available for exceptional cases.

No application deadline advertised

Funding for projects which support Children and Young People

Masonic Charitable Foundation - Children & Young People Grant

This programme is open to national and local charities helping disadvantaged children and young people to overcome the barriers they face.

Charities can apply for a small or large grant, depending on their income.

Small grants are available for charities whose annual income does not exceed £500,000. These grants are unrestricted. Small grants range from £1000 to £15,000 and can be awarded over one to three years.

Large grants are for larger charities whose annual income exceeds £500,000. They are to fund projects and can be used for salary costs, activities, materials etc. Large grants start at £10,000 and usually range from £20,000-£60,000. They can be awarded over one to three years.

The current application period for Large Grants runs from 1st September to 31st October. The current application period for Small Grants will run from 1st October to 23rd December.

[Dept. For Work and Pensions - Kick Start Scheme](#) *

On 2 September the government introduced a new Kickstart Scheme in Great Britain, to create hundreds of thousands of high quality 6-month work placements aimed at those aged 16 to 24 who are on Universal Credit and are deemed to be at risk of long-term unemployment. Funding is available to employers.

Employers will receive funding for 100% of the relevant National Minimum Wage for 25 hours a week, plus associated employer National Insurance contributions and employer minimum auto-enrolment pension contributions. There is also £1,500 of funding available for each job placement to set up support and training, as well as helping pay for uniforms and other setup costs.

If your organisation is creating fewer than 30 job placements, you cannot apply directly. You must partner with other organisations in order to create a minimum of 30 job placements before applying. This partnership can include registered charities.

If applying on behalf of a partnership, the applying organisation must have experience of managing partnership agreements with third parties and robust financial and governance processes to manage the application. This scheme might, therefore, be appropriate to VCSE consortiums.

No application deadline advertised

[Asda Foundation - First Steps Enterprise Fund](#)

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No application deadline advertised

Funding for projects which support broader community outcomes

[Aviva - Community Fund](#)

Aviva want to support forward-thinking causes that are helping push communities forward, so your submitted project must fall within one of our two key funding areas:

- Financial capability and inclusion: giving people the tools to become more financially independent
- Community resilience: tackling inequality and improving environments to build more connected, more resilient communities.

Every 3 months £250,000 will be shared equally amongst its UK employees to donate to projects that matter to them most. Each charity can apply for up to £50,000 and Aviva employees will decide how the funding is distributed. This is a form of crowdfunding mainly via Aviva employees, but you can use your own networks too.

The next round closes on 13th October 2020.

[HM Government - Air Quality Grant Programme *](#)

Local authorities in England can now apply for the Air Quality Grant Scheme 2020-21. In particular, they are looking for applications with projects designed to:

- provide air quality benefits soon (in next 1 to 2 years)
- develop solutions over the longer term by increasing awareness and encouraging behaviour change

Applications are invited from:

- local authorities where Defra's national air quality assessment identified and/or projected an exceedance
- local authorities that have one or more Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs)
- projects that deal primarily with particulate matter

Applications must be received by midday 14th October 2020.

[The Road Safety Trust - Small Grants Programme*](#)

The main aim of the Small Grants Programme is to improve road safety at a local level. They are looking for measurable interventions that link to local priorities and show a proposed link to reducing casualties either directly or through clear interim measures. Eligible projects are pilots/trials, expanding successful trials across a new area, and/or the evaluation of interventions. Projects should have the potential for being brought to scale - with the ultimate goal of reducing deaths and injuries both locally and across the UK.

The maximum project length under this grant programme is 24 months. The minimum amount that can be applied for is £20,000 and the maximum is £50,000 over two years in total. The total amount currently available under this funding round is £300,00. Local Authorities, Police Forces, Fire and Rescue Services or UK-based registered charities, not-for-profit social enterprises or community interest companies can apply.

Applications will be accepted between 15th September and 21st October.

[Leicestershire County Council - Grants for Smarter Travel](#)

Businesses or organisations, including charities, not for profit and public sector agencies, based or operating in Leicestershire are invited to submit a bid for up to £5,000 towards the cost of physical measures to reduce the barriers to employees travelling sustainably. There is an expectation for match funding, but there are various options available for ways in which the match funding can be achieved.

The funding could be used for:

- Cycle / motorcycle / scooter parking stands and shelters
- Showers / lockers / drying / changing facilities for cyclists, motorcyclists, walkers, runners
- Pool bikes (pedal or electric) and accessories (e.g. helmets / lights)
- Cycle maintenance equipment (e.g. pump/tool station)
- Teleconferencing / mobile ICT solutions (e.g. remote access / tablets / laptops)

Please discuss any other ideas with us prior to submitting your application.

There are no application deadlines, but the Grant closes on 30th October 2020.

[Leicestershire County Council – SHIRE Environment Grant](#)

Grants of up to £3,000 are available to fund new and innovative projects that will meet one or more of the grant scheme outcomes:

- To reduce the amount of household waste produced in Leicestershire
- To reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions within communities
- To improve biodiversity and support the creation, protection, enhancement and management of sustainable green spaces
- To raise awareness and understanding on the above outcomes as well as providing necessary training and skills to manage and support projects.

The Council is keen to support projects that can maintain or build on some of the positive environmental benefits that have arisen from the current Covid 19 situation, such as reduced carbon emissions; increased biodiversity; improved air quality; greater appreciation of nature and green spaces.

Application deadlines:

30th October 2020

26th February 2021

Near Neighbours Small Grants

Funding to encourage social interaction and social action among people of two or more different faiths to build friendships and develop relationships of trust in 10 areas of England.

Grants of between £250 and £3,000 will support projects and activities with a total cost of no more than £15,000 that cover at least one of the following:

- First Encounters that develop new relationships between people of different faith and ethnic communities and encourage the development of mutual understanding – initiatives which begin the process of developing friendship and neighbourliness.
- Everyday Interactions that support regular interactions, repeatedly bringing people together and encouraging families and individuals to come together to share life – building flourishing and sustainable friendships and relationships.
- Civil Engagement which brings together people from different faith or ethnic communities to work together to change their neighbourhoods for the better – enabling diverse communities to transform their neighbourhoods

This is a rolling grant programme but the final deadline for applications is 11th December 2020.

Community Shares Booster Programme

New and existing community businesses in England that are planning to make, or have recently launched, community share offers can receive:

- Development grants of up to £10,000 to help societies get investment ready and meet standards of good practice.
- Match funding up to £100,000 in equity investment made on equal terms with other community shareholders, into societies that demonstrate higher than average levels of community engagement, innovation and impact.
- Ongoing support and advice as an active investor in community businesses.

Applicants need to be incorporated as a community benefit society, co-operative society or charitable community benefit society..

To be eligible, applicants must identify which of these charitable purposes are addressed by their community business:

- The prevention or relief of poverty.
- The advancement of education.
- The advancement of citizenship or community development.
- The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science.
- The advancement of amateur sport.
- The promotion of religious or racial harmony or equality and diversity.
- The advancement of environmental protection or improvement.
- The relief of those in need, by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or another disadvantage.

This is a rolling programme of support with applications accepted until December 2020.

[HM Government - Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund & Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme *](#)

On 30th September 2020, in addition to the launch of the Green Homes Grant Scheme, the government announced two further funds:

- The government is making £50 million available for social housing through a demonstrator project for the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF). This UK-wide demonstrator scheme will see grants supplied to upgrade the energy efficiency of over 2000 of the worst-performing social homes. Grant applications will be open to local authorities, including combined authorities, for work on their retained social housing stock or those owned by housing associations. and will be awarded in late 2020.
- The Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) will help public sector organisations in England, including central government departments and their agencies, local authorities, schools and NHS Trusts, to install energy efficiency and low carbon heating measures, reducing energy bills and carbon emissions.

No closing date advertised but grants will be awarded by late 2020.

[HM Government - Green Homes Grant Scheme](#)

The government will provide a voucher worth up to £5,000 or £10,000 to help cover the cost of making energy efficient improvements to your home. Improvements could include insulating your home to reduce your energy use or installing low-carbon heating to lower the amount of carbon dioxide your home produces.

The government will provide a voucher that covers two-thirds of the cost of qualifying energy efficiency or low carbon heating improvements to your home. The maximum value of the voucher is £5,000.

If you are on a low income and receive certain benefits, you can receive a voucher covering all of the cost of the improvements. The maximum value of the voucher is £10,000.

To apply for the voucher, you must either:

- own your home (including park homeowners, long-leaseholders and shared ownership)
- be a private or social landlord

You must redeem the voucher and ensure improvements are completed by 31st March 2021.

Morris Fund - Church Conservation Grants

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

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

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

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

The next deadline for applications is 31st March 2021 (decisions by end May 2021).

Arts Council England - National Lottery Project Grants

The Arts Council has reopened this fund with a budget of £59.8 million. They have prioritised reopening this programme to help fund independent organisations, museums, libraries, creative practitioners and freelancers as quickly as possible.

Grants of between £1000 and £100,000 are available.

The Fund can support a wide range of activity including:

- projects that directly create and deliver creative and cultural activity and content for audiences, (both visitors and digital users).
- organisational development, research and development for longer term impact to strengthen the sector

Scheme closes April 2021

Morrisons Foundation – Community Fund

The Morrisons Foundation awards grant funding to registered charities for projects which make a positive difference in local communities. In the main grants are available to fully fund projects up to £25,000. It also provides match funding which supports the charities that Morrisons colleagues spend their time fundraising for and provides a cash boost to their efforts. Match funding is available for Morrisons colleagues twice a year.

No application deadline advertised

[Energy Saving Trust - Energy Redress Scheme](#)

Energy Saving Trust has been appointed by Ofgem to distribute payments from energy companies who may have breached rules. 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.

Energy Saving Trust has developed an open application process for charities seeking funding from the Energy Redress Scheme. Successful projects will be selected with input from an independent panel of experts and could cover a range of locations across England, Scotland and Wales.

The amount of funding available through the scheme varies throughout the year and will be reviewed on a quarterly basis in October, January, April and July. Eligible charities that have registered interest in the scheme will be notified when funds become available.

The minimum grant that can be requested is £20,000 and the maximum amount is the lesser of £2 million or the total value of the current fund.

The scheme can fund projects lasting up to two years, can fund 100 per cent of the project cost and can cover revenue and capital measures.

No application deadline advertised

[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). This scheme is currently closed whilst it delivers the [Coronavirus Emergency Support Fund](#).

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.

[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.

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 Leicestershire: <http://www.sourceleicestershire.co.uk/>
- Due North: <https://procontract.due-north.com/Login>
- Contract Finder: <https://www.contractfinderpro.com/>

Support available for your organisations

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!

Grant Funds

[The Reach Fund](#)

A grant programme that helps charities and social enterprises raise investment. This fund is for organisations who need some extra support to raise investment e.g. governance, financial modelling or business planning. To access this fund, you need to approach a social investor and then complete a diagnostic tool. If approved, then you work with the social investor to develop a support plan.

[The Enterprise Development Fund Programme](#)

Offers tailored support to organisations that are thinking of exploring new models of trading to help them become more financially resilient and who require support to make the transition. The second round is going to be launched soon, and the themes are equality and mental health.

Business Support

Co-operative and Social Enterprise Development Agency (CASE) is a social enterprise and co-operative established in 1982 that is the trusted organisation for co-operatives, social enterprises and community enterprises in Leicester and Leicestershire. It supports co-operatives and social enterprises to develop and grow and we promote co-operative ways of working.

CASE has been awarded a small grant from the Connect Fund to raise awareness about social investment, support groups to develop social enterprise business models and scale up and access social investment. The project started in January 2019 and finishes in June 2020.

If you are a social enterprise or charity in the East Midlands that has a good idea or proposal to generate income from trading then please feel free to get in touch with Natasha Jolob, Social Impact and Investment Adviser on Tel: 0116 222 5010, Email: n.jolob@case.coop

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