**COMMUNITY FUNDING BULLETIN (FUNDING WITH A DEADLINE)**



**Edition 55 MARCH 2025**

* **Welcome to Derry City & Strabane District Council’s monthly Community Funding Bulletin!** It can also be found on-line [here](https://www.derrystrabane.com/about-council/strategic-finance-funding)
* **Derry City & Strabane District Council** provides **free** access to a **Community Funding Portal** **for those residing within the Council area**. This online tool allows you to browse, search and create tailored searches to identify your own funding opportunities. Follow the links to register and/or log-in [here](https://funding.idoxopen4community.co.uk/derrystrabane_com)
* If you wish to be added to the e-mail mailing list or have any other queries, please e-mail: karen.dyson@derrystrabane.com

***USEFUL INFORMATION BOARD***

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| ***HELP WITH COST OF LIVING ADVICE*** ***For advice on help with Finance, Food, Fuel and Bills and other useful info see:**** [***www.derrystrabane.com/helpwithcostofliving***](http://www.derrystrabane.com/helpwithcostofliving)
* ***NI Direct’s Cost of Living Info and Advice*** [***here***](https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/cost-living)
* ***Community Well Being: Cost of Living Website***[**View the Cost of Living 24 website**](https://communitywellbeing.info/cost-of-living-24/)

***ESMEE FAIRBAIRN FOUNDATION – SOURCES OF FUNDING HELP***[***Other sources of funding help | Esmée Fairbairn Foundation (esmeefairbairn.org.uk)***](https://esmeefairbairn.org.uk/applications/other-sources-funding-help/)***NISRA WEBSITE FOR STATISTICS******The NI Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) provides statistics, census results and other information which can be useful for funding applications, see:***[***https://www.nisra.gov.uk/***](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/)***BUSINESS SUPPORT INFORMATION**** ***Derry City and Strabane District Council’s Business Support Section*** [***https://www.derrystrabane.com/Business/Business-Support***](https://www.derrystrabane.com/Business/Business-Support)
* ***NI Business Info*** [***https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/***](https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/)
* ***Invest NI is the regional business development agency:*** [***https://www.investni.com/***](https://www.investni.com/)

***CROWDFUNDER******Crowdfunding is a way of raising money through the collective effort of family, friends, customers, individual investors and the public at large via social media and crowd-funding platforms. You can crowd-fund through donations, rewards, community shares and equity.***[***Crowdfunder UK - Where Ideas Happen | Crowdfunder UK***](https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/)***ON-LINE: CHAT TO THE FUNDER EVENTS******Useful funder events,*** ***including those organised by the Community Foundation NI, appear on this Eventbrite site.***[***Chat to the funder Tickets, Multiple Multiple Dates | Eventbrite***](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/dk-kCW7LVuL4XoF6EEFta?domain=nwcn.us3.list-manage.com)***GENERAL SCOPING FORM FOR POTENTIAL FUNDING APPLICATIONS******Please find below a General Scoping Form, developed by the Council’s Funding Advice Unit, which may assist you to scope out your project ideas before applying for any funding. Please note, this is not an application form and is just for your own use.******GRANTS FOR SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER******For free access to SOME latest funding opportunities for schools scroll downwards on this link:*** [*Grants4Schools*](https://www.grants4schools.info/) |

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**USEFUL INFO FOR (SMALL) CHARITIES**

**\*\*\*\*NICVA free training: Governance Health Check for Boards & Committees\*\*\*\***

The Developing Governance Group will deliver **five online workshops** this year, one for each of the Code's five principles, to help organisations start reviewing their practices.

**30 April 2025:** Workshop 2, Principle 2: Working as an effective team
**11 June 2025:** Workshop 3, Principle 3: Maintaining control, making effective decisions and managing risk
**24 September 2025:** Workshop 4, Principle 4: Acting with integrity
**12 November 2025:** Workshop 5, Principle 5: Being open and accountable

These seminars are open to trustees and employees of voluntary and community organisations and those who advise them.

To register for any of the workshops, visit the [NICVA website](https://url.uk.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/gn3kCnrx1iGx50gt9kIVSJoImM?domain=nwcn.us3.list-manage.com)

**\*\*\*\*\*FREE NICVA Membership for small organisations (income of less than £20k pa)\*\*\***

Membership of the NI Council for Voluntary Associations is free for small organisations with an income of less than £20,000 per year. They can provide you with a lot of useful help and information. See link below for details:

[Free NICVA membership for small organisations | NICVA](https://url.uk.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/N2KVC32QNfmWq1jHgf9SQ1-wK?domain=nicva.org)

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| **Association of Chairs – A Toolkit for Financial Leadership for Small Charities**The Association of Chairs has published a [**toolkit for chairs of small charities**](https://url.uk.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/j4TJCzKvkfRO6o0T4ySoS9Xdkq?domain=esmeefairbairnfoundation.cmail19.com). It offers reflections and recommendations on the chair's role when it comes to the financial stewardship of their charity; and signposts to further resources and guidance. <https://www.associationofchairs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/AOC-Finance-Guide-Dec-2024.pdf> |

**GENERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES WITH VARIOUS DEADLINES**

**NATIONAL LOTTERY NI – STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES** (no deadlines – apply anytime)

This new fund is available to voluntary and community organisations across Northern Ireland and will invest £20 million each year in support of NLCF’s 2030 strategy  ‘[It starts with community](https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/about/our-strategy)'.

* **Grants of between £20,001 and £500,000 are available for up to five years.**
* **Grants of between £20,001 and £200,000 are available to organisations with an annual income of under £500,000.**
* **Grants of between £200,000 and £500,000 are available to any size of organisation.**

The Fund has a targeted approach distinct from previous programmes, as it is intended for **projects focused on early intervention with a particular focus on people who experience poverty, disadvantage or discrimination.** The Fund will start by targeting two of the NLCF's mission areas:

* **Help children and young people thrive.**
* **Enable people to live healthier lives.**

Projects must align with at least one of the following outcomes:

* **Communities help to reduce health inequalities.**
* **Communities support people’s physical health, mental health and wellbeing.**
* **People have positive relationships and connections.**
* **Communities help young people to reach their potential and thrive as adults.**
* **Children and young people develop good social and emotional skills.**

Organisations are encouraged to consider how to make their **projects accessible to vulnerable and excluded communities.** The Fund is interested in vulnerable or excluded communities that struggle to access support for reasons such as:

* Living in an isolated area.
* They are socially excluded.
* They can't use online services.

**Organisations are encouraged to make their project inclusive and accessible for these groups.**

The following costs are eligible for funding:

* Equipment.
* Staff costs.
* Training costs.
* Transport.
* Utilities.
* Volunteer expenses.
* Small refurbishment projects that are needed to deliver a service.
* Overheads for the project.

**Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis (no deadlines).**

For more info, see: [Strengthening Communities | The National Lottery Community Fund (tnlcommunityfund.org.uk)](https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/strengthening-communities)

**THE ARTS COUNCIL/ CHOMHAIRLE EALAION (Republic of Ireland)**

**Eligible** arts organisations, artists, and groups working within the arts can apply for The Arts Council / Chomhairle Ealaíon (ROI) funding. **This is mostly for organisations in Republic of Ireland but some cross-border projects may be eligible.** Discover what funding is available and if you are eligible, see website below (scroll down). You can also register for

[online services](https://onlineservices.artscouncil.ie/) to submit an application on this website.

<https://www.artscouncil.ie/available-funding/>

**PRS FOUNDATION: FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MUSIC**

The Performing Right Society (PRS) Foundation is the UK’s leading charitable funder of **new music and talent development**. Check out all their great funding opportunities below:

See the upcoming deadlines for all upcoming opportunities at PRS Foundation here:

<https://prsfoundation.com/funding-s0upport/deadlines/>

Before applying to any of our initiatives, we highly recommend you read the respective FAQs. **All deadlines are 6:00pm**unless otherwise stated.

If you are a music creator, to find out which funds you might be eligible for, click [here](https://prsfoundation.com/funding-support/funding-music-creators/).

If you are an organisation, to find out which funds you might be eligible for, click [here](https://prsfoundation.com/funding-support/funding-for-organisations/).

Any queries: email us.

**BBC Charity Appeals**

If you would like a chance to reach BBC audiences with the story of your charity and toapply for a BBC Radio 4 or BBC One Lifeline Appeal, please email the BBC Charity Appeals Unit telling us:

* Name of your charity
* Your Charity Registration number (you **must** be registered with the UK Charity Commission to be eligible)
* Name of **charity contact** (email + phone no.) i.e.the person who is going to fill out the application form.

**Application Deadline: 3 March 2025 (23:59)**

**Transmission date: 1 Feb – 26 April 2026**

The Appeals Advisory Committee meets quarterly to discuss and approve applications. You should be informed of their decision approximately 3 months after the application deadline. Please note you **must**meet the criteria to be eligible for an appeal.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/charityappeals/apply>

**BBC Radio Ulster/Foyle – Apply for a Broadcast Appeal**

The BBC provides **up to 11 broadcast slots** to **local charities each year on BBC Radio Ulster/Foyle.** These opportunities are available to **local charities and organisations that operate at regional or sub-regional level, or which are involved in international work**.

Appeals are accompanied by **short ‘explainer videos’** which are published on the BBC’s digital platforms and can be used to promote awareness of a charity’s work, or to make a request for volunteers and/or financial support. The latter requires additional information about your charity’s finances. All Broadcast Appeals are subject to the BBC’s Editorial Guidelines and its Broadcast Appeals Policy.

Application forms and assessment criteria for Broadcast Appeals can be downloaded by clicking on the website link below. Completed application forms should be submitted to **paula.gilmurray@bbc.co.uk**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/aboutthebbc/northernireland/appeals/apply>

**FUNDING WITH DEADLINES**

**Coca Cola Thank You Fund**

The funding is for community-based projects and programmes across Ireland and Northern Ireland focused on **cultivating inclusive communities by empowering young people aged 16-25 to become skilled and engaged citizens under the pillars of learning and sustainable development**.

Projects must directly impact young people aged 16 to 25 years and align with the themes of:

* **Inclusion:** **Empowering young people through** **education and employability**. Education programmes that promote mentorship, increase employability skills, enhance personal agency and strengthen essential life skills.
* **Inspiration: Supporting young people to take positive action to create a better society.** Projects and programmes focused on community interventions and empowerment initiatives to ensure all young people feel valued, supported and included in society.

**Deadline: 26 March 2025**

[Coca-Cola Thank You Fund 2025 - Irish Youth Foundation](https://iyf.ie/coca-cola-thank-you-fund-2025/)

**Music for All's Community Project Fund Accepting UK Applications**

Music for All, the charity of the UK musical instrument industry, is currently accepting applications for its first funding round of 2025. Groups, schools, any form of educational establishment, community projects, charities, and organisations that are bringing music to their communities in the UK can apply. Priority will be given to applicants who are most in need of help. In the current round, **grants of up to £2,000** are available in the following areas:

* **Working with primary school-aged children –**  community-based groups providing music-making opportunities to young-people aged between 4–11 can apply, including groups operating in caring as well as more formal educational settings. Applicants should be able to demonstrate ways in which they nurture underprivileged young talent through their work.
* **Learning and cognitive challenges –**  community-based groups providing opportunities to make music to those with learning and cognitive challenges, including but not limited to autism, aphasia, dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia, attention deficit and memory loss, can apply. Groups operating in caring and educational settings are welcome to apply.
* **Working with diverse communities from the Global Majority, in collaboration with Black Lives in Music –** community-based groups providing music-making opportunities working with diverse communities from the global majority can apply.

Decisions are usually conveyed within three months of the application deadline.

**Deadline for Round 1 applications: 27 March 2025 (23:59)**

<https://www.musicforall.org.uk/apply-for-funding/community-project-funding/>

**Derry City & Strabane District Council – Mayor’s Young Person’s Bursary**

The Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council, Councillor Lilian Seenoi Barr, has announced the launch of a Young Person’s Bursary – **a £500 contribution aimed at supporting the growth and development of one young person with a talent or skill they wish to nurture but who may lack the financial means to do so.**
The bursary is open to young people across the entire Derry City and Strabane District Council area and is designed to offer a helping hand to someone from a low-income, socially disadvantaged, or vulnerable background.  It could support the development of artistic abilities such as music or drama or help a young person build employability skills that will benefit their future.

**Deadline: Friday 28 March 2025**

<https://www.derrystrabane.com/about-council/mayor/mayor%E2%80%99s-bursary>

**Community Foundation NI: The Thomas Devlin Fund (gifted 15-19 yr olds in arts/music)**

The Thomas Devlin Fund has now re-opened for 2025 for applications from **gifted young people, aged 15 to 19 years, who would like to study, or pursue a career, in creative arts, performing arts or music**. The fund was set up in memory of Thomas Devlin who, at the age of 15, was murdered in an unprovoked attack in 2005. The Fund offers **grants of up to £1,750** to young people, aged between 15-19, who would like to study or pursue a career in any one of the three categories of creative arts, performing arts, and music. ***The Fund would particularly welcome innovative creative arts projects (including fine arts and literary art).***

**Deadline: 28 March 2025**

[The Thomas Devlin Fund - Community Foundation Northern Ireland](https://communityfoundationni.org/grants/the-thomas-devlin-fund-2/)

**James Kane Foundation (education and career opportunities)**

The James Kane Foundation is an independent Charity. In 2025 the Foundation will be moving to an online grant application process. **Expressions of Interest will be reviewed on a fortnightly basis during this application period and we will let you know asap once a decision is made whether to proceed to application or reject.**
 The Foundation will focus on two themes:
• **Enabling STEM related education and career opportunities.**
**• Enabling students to make the correct choices between employment/career and higher-level education pathways.**

**Only projects within Northern Ireland meeting one or both these themes will be eligible**.

The James Kane Foundation will not fund initiatives which it believes schools, colleges or councils have a statutory obligation to provide.

**Eligibility Criteria**

* The Foundation will support applications that are aligned to its mission that is “To progress and facilitate education and career opportunities” and the themes as stated above.
* The Foundation can fund Individuals and the wider community with a focus on:

– **Education bodies including schools, colleges and third level institutions (but will not fund activity which these have a statutory duty to provide.)
 – Employers including private sector companies.
 – Charities and Social Enterprises**

* The Foundation can fund on a multi-year basis.
* Priority may be given to projects that benefit those living in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council area.
* Grants can be used in conjunction with other funding sources you may have already secured.
* The Foundation can fund the same organisation more than once. Applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
* The Foundation seeks additionality in all projects that it funds.

The Foundation intends to allocate in the region of £400,000 per year for large scale projects and will consider multi-year funding. 75% of the budget will be allocated to large grants and 25% to small grants – under £25,000. All potential applicants are asked to submit an Expression of Interest form. This is an opportunity to summarise your project and explain how it meets the theme/themes of the James Kane Foundation. This information will be used to decide whether you’ll be invited to submit a full application or not.

**Deadlines for Expressions of Interest: 28 March 2025 at 4pm**

[https://jameskanefoundation.org/our-approach/](https://url.uk.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/j7MyC0VYKS248OQiwQC5S9liC4?domain=nwcn.us3.list-manage.com)

**Rising Star Awards – 18-30 yr olds in** **Print, Paper, Graphic Arts, Publishing and Packaging**

**Young people in the UK working in or training for careers in printing, publishing or the graphic arts** can apply for financial support through the Rising Star Awards. The scheme provides **grants of up to £1,500 to help cover costs associated with relevant training courses.**

Funding can be used for a range of expenses, including professional qualifications, leadership and management training, creative skill development, technical equipment and soft skills training.

Applicants must be aged between 18 and 30 and have the right to reside in the UK. **The awards are open to those currently employed in the print, paper, publishing and packaging industries, as well as individuals undertaking sector-specific qualifications.**

**Deadline: 30 March 2025**

<https://www.theprintingcharity.org.uk/supporting-people/rising-star-awards_application-process/>

**NI Community Relations & Cultural Diversity Funding**

Northern Ireland's Community Relations/Cultural Diversity Grant Scheme is inviting applications from **locally based voluntary and community organisations** to develop their **capacity to engage in community relations work and to enhance the community relations potential of projects they undertake.**

The scheme is aimed at **community development groups, cultural organisations, women's and men's groups, faith-based groups, tenants' associations, youth groups and rural groups involved in community relations, reconciliation projects and cultural engagement for projects primarily involving adults.**

The funding is for projects which address at least one of the Community Relations Council's objectives:

* Develop opportunities for groups to explore their own cultures, beliefs and traditions increasing their capacities to develop relations with those from other cultures.
* Develop opportunities for groups to extend their knowledge and understanding of others' culture, beliefs and traditions.
* To enable groups to challenge stereotypes of their own and other communities to acknowledge and address differences.
* To increase the ability and confidence of groups and organisations to identify issues which divide them.
* To develop networks of communication, trust and cooperation between divided communities.
* To promote models of good practice for community relations work in Northern Ireland.

Groups can apply for **grants of up to £10,000**, but **most grants will be between £2,000 & £5,000**. There is limited funding, and the programme may close early depending on demand.

**Deadline: 31 March 2025 (4pm)**

<https://www.community-relations.org.uk/funding-scheme/community-relations-cultural-diversity>

**The Arts Society Grants**

**Grants of up to £2,000** are available for UK-registered charities with an annual turnover of less than £3 million **to deliver projects across all aspects of the arts, crafts, and heritage and support local and regional art museums and organisations**.

Funding is available for projects such as:

* Projects that support a wide range of activities to introduce people of all ages and backgrounds to artistic experiences and practice, such as the development and training of skills in the arts, crafts, and heritage through bursaries, sponsorships, and crafts apprenticeships.
* Support for regional museums, galleries, and arts organisations, such as:
	+ Special projects.
	+ Displays.
	+ Internships and part-time posts.
	+ Training.
	+ Conservation activities.
* Regional and local theatres and performing arts spaces and groups.
* Applications with an emphasis on localism and supporting the arts, craft, and heritage at a grassroots level to achieve greater impact for local communities.

There is a two-stage application process. Groups must register their organisation with The Arts Society through their online portal before applying.

**Deadline: 31 March 2025**

<https://theartssociety.org/charity-grants>

**Deutsche Bank Awards for Creative Enterprise**

The Deutsche Bank Awards for Creative Enterprise (DBACE) help creative entrepreneurs turn their ideas into reality. **Aspiring individuals who want to go into business in the creative industries and require practical and financial support are being targeted.** Applicants will be able to explore, develop and establish their creative ideas into sustainable ventures – through business planning training, mentoring and capital funding for starting-up.

The programme aims to find the best talent with the ability **to drive positive social impact through their creative enterprise**. DBACE welcomes applications from **UK entrepreneurs aged 18 and over, who have a strong idea or an existing business in the creative industries.**

There is a cash prize fund of £60,000, to be shared amongst the winners. Successful applicants will be provided with up to £20,000 of investment to start or grow their enterprise.

To apply, applicants must have a strong idea or an existing business in the creative industries. They must have a desire to create positive social impact through their enterprise. Applicants do not have to have an established business. They just need to be ready to grow with their idea. The eventual business can be not-for-profit or a commercial idea/enterprise.

**Deadline: 31 March 2025**

<https://dbace.org/>

**PRS Foundation – Women Make Music Programme**

The PRS for Music Foundation is inviting applications for its Women Make Music programme, which offers **funding to support the growth of outstanding women, trans and non-binary songwriters and composers across the UK.** Open to artists from all genres and backgrounds, this initiative aims to challenge industry stereotypes and foster role models for future generations.

**Grants of up to £5,000 are available to support various aspects of music creation, including the development of new music, music creator fees, touring, live performances, recording and release**. Additionally, the funding can cover creative residency costs, fees for creative collaborators, promotion and marketing efforts, and equipment or software purchases that enable new types of performances, provided these costs account for no more than 20% of the total project budget.

The programme's goals include raising awareness of the gender gap in the music industry, increasing the visibility of women, trans and non-binary artists, and encouraging those who may not have previously considered applying for funding to take advantage of this opportunity.

**Deadline: 31 March 2025 (18:00)**

[PRS Foundation Women Make Music Fund](https://prsfoundation.com/funding-support/funding-music-creators/all-career-levels/women-make-music-2/%23%3A~%3Atext%3DWomen%20Make%20Music%20supports%20the%2Cdifferent%20stages%20of%20their%20career.)

**PRS Foundation Open Fund for Music Creators**

Funding is available to support the development of outstanding UK songwriters and composers of all genres and backgrounds, at different stages of their career.

PRS Foundation's Open Fund for Music Creators can **support projects by songwriters, composers, artists, bands, producers and performers who are writing their own music or commissioning others.**

**Grants of up to £5,000 are available** to assist with the following costs and activities:

* Creation of new music.
* Music Creator fee (to cover time and work).
* Touring and live performances.
* Recording and release.
* Creative residency costs.
* Fees to creative collaborators.
* Promotion and marketing (when there is also an element of creation and/or performance).
* Equipment or software costs which enable creation or new types of performances where those costs represent up to 20% of the total project budget.

**The fund is not able to support 100% of project costs; all applicants are expected to show evidence of income from other sources as part of their application.**

**Deadline: 31 March 2025 (18:00)**

<https://prsfoundation.com/funding-support/funding-music-creators/all-career-levels/the-open-fund-for-music-creators/>

**PRS Foundation – Composer’s Fund**

UK composers seeking to advance their careers both nationally and internationally can apply for funding through the PRS Foundation's Composers' Fund. The initiative offers **financial support to composers with a strong track record and aims to enable them to make significant strides in their professional development. Grants ranging from £8,000 to £15,000 are available, helping recipients with activities such as recordings, performances, international collaborations and other creative and professional development opportunities. The fund seeks to support up to 15 composers per year.**

The fund is specifically targeted at composers who have already demonstrated cultural impact in the UK and have the potential to expand their influence both domestically and abroad. Eligible applicants must be UK-based and members of PRS for Music or eligible to join. Funding can be used for a range of activities including promoting existing works, supporting international co-commissions, developing international networks, collaborating with performers and covering childcare costs, among others. Composers must demonstrate how the grant will lead to a significant step change in their career.

**Deadline: 1 April 2025 (18:00)**

[PRS Foundation Composers Fund](https://prsfoundation.com/funding-support/funding-music-creators/next-steps/the-composers-fund/#:~:text=Managed%20by%20PRS%20Foundation%2C%20The,step%20change%20in%20their%20career.)

**The Big Give’s Small Charity Week**

Big Give, Global’s Make Some Noise and NCVO are championing small **charities across the UK, through a seven-day online match funded campaign. Up to £10,000 match funding is available**. This Small Charity Week match funding campaign will help to build the resilience, skills and profile of the small charity sector whilst helping them raise vital, unrestricted funding to further their impact. Charities with an annual income between £5,000 and £1 million from across the UK are able to apply for match funding. Donations made during the campaign, which will run between **23 – 30 June 2025 (coinciding with Small Charity Week)** will be **doubled** through the match funding model. Charities can seek to raise either **£500, £1,000, £2500, £5,000, or £10,000 in public donations.**

**Deadline: 2 April 2025**

[Small Charity Week – The Big Give](https://biggive.org/small-charity-week/)

**Mairtin Crawford Awards for Poetry and Short Story**

The Awards, run by the Crescent Arts Centre in Belfast are aimed at **writers working towards their first full collection of poetry, short stories, or a novel. Both published and unpublished writers are invited to submit between 3-5 poems for the poetry award, and a short story of up to 2,500 words for the short story award**, with the only stipulation being that they have not yet published a full collection of poetry, short stories, or a novel.

**Deadline: 9 April 2025**

[mairtin crawford award | Belfast Book Festival](https://belfastbookfestival.com/mairtin-crawford-award)

**Community Foundation NI – Keadue Community Grants Fund**

Grants are available to **constituted groups, community organisations and small registered charities** **based in Derry City and surrounding Waterside areas for projects to support the alleviation of poverty and disadvantage**.

The funding is intended to provide support to address short and long term crises caused by a range of social factors such as **poverty, addiction, and low educational, those suffering from ill health, a disability, family breakdown, abuse, bereavement and/or loneliness and isolation.**

Organisations can also apply for **running costs** to maintain the support offered to those in crisis and need. **Partnerships are encouraged to apply, with one organisation identified as the lead. A total fund of £100,000 is available per year. Grants of between £10,000 and £20,000 are available per organisation, awarded over periods of up to two years. Organisations may re-apply in subsequent years following completion of grant evaluation and monitoring reports.**

Grants can be used to fund the following activities:

* An existing support programme.
* Creation of a new programme.
* Staff costs including salaries, core costs and specialist training.
* Small scale capital costs including premises refurbishment and the purchase of equipment.
* Events and awareness raising activities.
* Capacity building activities to address elements of organisational sustainability.
* Partnership building activities to strengthen support and impact.
* Volunteer costs and associated expenses.

**Deadline: 11 April 2025 (13:00)**

[Keadue Community Grants Fund - Community Foundation Northern Ireland](https://communityfoundationni.org/grants/keadue-community-grants-fund/)

**All-Ireland Heritage Skills Programme** (construction master craftspeople)

The All-Ireland Heritage Skills Programme supports those working in the construction sector in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to push their skills to the next level and continue on their journey to **becoming the next generation of master craftspeople**.

The All-Ireland Heritage Skills Programme partners believe that it is crucial **to preserve the wisdom and knowledge that embody many of the traditional building skills** which have shaped our historical built environment. As many workers in the sector now reach retirement age it is vital that these skills are passed on to the next generation of master craftspeople. Ensuring that we can continue to restore and conserve our history but importantly demonstrate the significant role that traditional craft skills can play in creating new spaces and places.

**Programme Dates:** 13 July 2025 – 3 July 2026

**Deadline: 11 April 2025**

[All-Ireland Heritage Skills Programme - The King's Foundation](https://kings-foundation.org/study/all-ireland-heritage-skills-programme/)

**Ulster-Scots Agency – Summer Schools Grant**

The funding is intended to support **the delivery of summer schools taking place between 1 July and 31 August annually**. Funding is provided at the discretion of the Ulster-Scots Agency, to fund **up to 75% of total project costs**. **Applicants are required to provide at least 25% of their total project costs from other sources.**

Applications will be accepted from voluntary and community organisations to support the delivery of Ulster-Scots summer schools to children aged 7 to 16 years. The funding is intended to support two options:

* **Standard Summer School** offering up to 10 Ulster-Scots workshops/activities with a maximum of 20 hours of activities.
* **Drama Summer School** providing funding for drama tutors to deliver a week-long programme culminating in a production, along with a maximum of five Ulster-Scots workshop/activities.

All supported summer schools must include an Ulster-Scots language workshop. Applicants must register with the Ulster-Scots Agency to apply. Following a successful registration, an application form and guidelines will be emailed to the group.

**Deadline: 14 April 2025** **(15:00)**

<https://www.ulsterscotsagency.com/news/article/526/ulster-scots-agency-opens-summer-schools-grant/>

**National Lottery Community Fund: Sustainable Community Buildings (NI)**

Voluntary and community organisations can apply for **grants to make their buildings more energy-efficient, as part of an initiative aimed at reducing carbon footprints and saving on energy bills.**

Grants of **up to £50,000** are available to support energy-saving measures such as **solar panels, energy-efficient lighting, insulation and other sustainability upgrades.** In addition to financial support, organisations that apply to the programme will receive **free carbon literacy training**. This training will help organisations identify ways to reduce their carbon footprint. Assistance to develop and implement environmental plans to guide sustainability improvements and cut long-term costs is also offered.

Eligibility includes: registered charities, community interest companies, and not-for-profit organisations. **Buildings eligible for funding must be owned or under a long-term lease of at least six years.**

**The grants can be used for capital funding** and priority will be given to buildings that are well-used by the community. Organisations will be guided by sustainability experts to identify the most appropriate energy-efficient improvements for their buildings. By focusing on reducing carbon emissions and enhancing sustainability, the Sustainable Community Buildings programme offers a vital opportunity for community organisations to both improve their environmental impact and save on operating costs.

**Deadline: 23 April 2025**

[Sustainable Community Buildings | The National Lottery Community Fund](https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/sustainable-community-buildings#section-1)

**Science and Technology Facilities Council – Public Engagement Spark Awards**

UK-based **schools, universities and colleges, museums, libraries, science communicators, CICs, community groups and others** are invited **to apply for funding from £5,000 to £20,000** under the Science and Technology Facilities Council’s (STFC) Public Engagement Spark Awards 2025A**.** The initiative **supports public engagement activities to introduce new audiences to STFC research, highlight scientific achievements and demonstrate the value of STEM in the UK**.

**Deadline: 24 April 2025 at 16:00**

[Public Engagement Spark Awards 2025A – UKRI](https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/public-engagement-spark-awards-2025a/)

**Everyday Energy Competition** **(for UK Primary Schools)**

Schools educating children aged 5-11 in the UK can enter the Everyday Energy Competition, which **encourages young people to promote energy saving habits in their communities**. Participants must design a banner illustrating the small changes they will make as part of their class’s Everyday Energy pledge, alongside an inspirational message to engage others.

**The competition offers a £5,000 British Gas Positive Energy Grant to the first-place school, supporting sustainability and accessibility improvements. The winning design will also be used to create a banner for display at the school.**

Additionally, **25 runner-up schools will each receive a £500 grant to support eco-clubs, eco-councils or other sustainability-focused educational initiatives. These schools will also receive a banner featuring the winning design for display outside their premises.**

The competition is open to all UK schools and equivalent education organisations catering for children aged 5-11. Home-educated children may enter, but home education settings are not eligible for the grant funding. The £5,000 grant must be used for ecological infrastructure or initiatives to enhance sustainability and accessibility within the winning school.

**Deadline: 25 April 2025 (17:30)**

<https://www.getset.co.uk/everydayenergycompetition>

**Sea-Changers Coastal (water drinking) Fountain Fund**

The purpose of the fund is to **reduce the impact of single-use plastic water bottles on coastal habitats by funding communities to purchase water drinking fountains and install them for use by the public in busy or environmentally important areas.**

**Grants of up to £2,500 are available, per applicant, towards the cost of a fountain**.

**Deadline: 25 April 2025**

[Coastal Fountain Fund 2025 | Sea-Changers](https://www.sea-changers.org.uk/coastal-fountain-fund)

**The Honourable The Irish Society – Small Grants Programme (Derry area)**

We welcome applications from **local organisations – from amateur sports and senior citizens clubs; youth groups; community, residents, workers and health associations to schools and other educational bodies** – across the **Derry City & Strabane District Council area** and Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council areas, and also the northern (Magherafelt & Cookstown) part of the Mid Ulster District Council area.

Organisations must be in existence for more than 12 months and must have their own bank account. Community Groups, Clubs, Associations can apply **for grants up to** **£1,000**

Our grants are **mainly for capital purposes, however, we can assist with facilitator fees**.  Unfortunately, we don’t cover running costs.  Additional information is provided on the attached [application form](https://url.uk.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/n_scC7L1RSmPXgJs81cWUoQ9qg?domain=nwcn.us3.list-manage.com) and on the website below.

**Deadline: 30 April 2025**

<https://honourableirishsociety.org.uk/charitable-grants>

**The Brit Trust (Music & Creative Arts)**

The BRIT Trust welcomes applications from registered charities for grant funding consistent with its mission of "**improving lives through the power of music and the creative arts**”. The Trust considers all applications from **registered charities and CICs**. **No grant amount is listed**.

To date The BRIT Trust has made more than 280 grant commitments totalling almost £30 million to a wide range of causes and charities across the UK that inspire people to realise their full potential and life chances, whatever their abilities, ethnicity, gender and sexuality.

**Deadline: 30 April 2025**

<https://brittrust.co.uk/brit-trust-grants/>

**MCS Foundation Main Grant 2025 (for retrofitting of housing)**

The MCS Foundation is the operating name of the MCS Charitable Foundation, a UK registered charity. The aim of the Foundation is **to increase public confidence, awareness and access to renewable energy and low carbon solutions across the UK. The Foundation supports education and engagement programmes, funds research and facilitates innovative solutions to drive widespread adoption.** The Foundation has so far supported over 65 organisations with grants totalling £3 million: 21 grants issued in 2024 and 11 grants issued in 2023.

The 2025 funding is for projects that are one or both of the following types:

* **Retrofit in action**: projects demonstrating or experimenting with methodologies in the real world and actively evaluating results.
* **Retrofit research**: research projects which aim to research a particular issue and better inform retrofit work in the future.

Building on the Foundation’s knowledge of the sector and stakeholder consultation there is particularly interested in grants responding to one or more of the following questions:

* What are effective grant and finance mechanisms to deliver measures?
* How do we engage citizens in retrofit and then turn engagement into action?
* How do we increase the numbers of people entering the retrofit supply chain?

**The total funding pot of £300,000 is available. The maximum grant is £50,000 inclusive of VAT.**It is expected that around six grants will be awarded in this round, if the maximum amount of funding is requested.  Applications may be submitted by any incorporated organisation including but not limited to private/public organisations, not-for-profit and charities.

The funding will support **direct project costs, such as staffing, venue hire for an event, focus group expenses, grants to homeowners, or project specific equipment**.

**Deadline: 1 May 2025**

[Main grant call 2025 - MCS Foundation](https://mcsfoundation.org.uk/funding/main-grants/)

**Link to info webinar on 1st April**: [The MCS Foundation Grant Call 2025 - webinar](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=VN__c2iZyESkPN4xuQmMCdD5FBTFlydDmhSQebn0TcJUQVBFTFUwMjM2SU5aWllMS01CMTZOSTQxQi4u&route=shorturl)

**BFI National Lottery Discovery Feature Funding (for films) – Round 6**

The BFI National Lottery Discovery Feature Funding is administered by the British Film Institute (BFI) with funding provided by the National Lottery. The programme **supports original live action and animation feature filmmaking by debut directors.**

Grants of up to £1 million are available for features with budgets of up to £3.5 million. It is expected that most awards will range between £500,000 and £850,000.

The funding is a contribution towards the total budget of the film, and can be used for crew and cast payments, production fees, legal costs etc. Applications must be made by the film's producer through a limited company, registered and centrally managed in the UK.

**Deadline: 6 May 2025 (17:00)**

[Making an application for BFI National Lottery Discovery Feature Funding | BFI](https://www.bfi.org.uk/get-funding-support/create-films-tv-or-new-formats-storytelling/discovery-impact-feature-funding/making-application-bfi-national-lottery-discovery-feature-funding)

**Marilyn Stafford FotoReportage Award**

This scheme provides **financial support to a professional female photographer to complete a documentary photo essay addressing a social, environmental, economic or cultural issue.**

The winner will receive **a grant of £3,000**. Shortlisted applicants will have their work featured on the FotoDocument website and promoted through social media.

The award is open to female documentary photographers, including those who identify as female, at any career stage. Applicants must have already begun the project for which they are seeking funding and be able to present work in progress. They must also have completed at least one previous documentary photo essay. Applicants must be over 18 and can be of any nationality and based anywhere in the world.

**Deadline: 16 May 2025 (17:00)**

<https://www.marilynstaffordphotography.com/fotoaward/>

**The Big Give: Women and Girls Match Fund**

A **seven-day online match funding campaign** working with exceptional charities dedicated to serving the women and girls in our communities, fostering a future where every individual can thrive without limitations.

The Fund utilises their **‘1:1’ Model of match funding** meaning a public donation of £50 becomes £100 during the campaign. Open to UK-registered charities with charity number or tax-exempt status and have an annual income of at least £25,000 (as per last filed accounts on the Charity Commission). Free to register with BigGive and raised funds are unrestricted.

Application window open now until **May 30th 2025**

[Women and Girls Match Fund – The Big Give](https://biggive.org/women-girls-match-fund/)

**The Pink Ribbon Foundation Grants (Breast Cancer)**

The Pink Ribbon Foundation provides **grants of up to £6000 for practical projects and initiatives, which aim to help registered charities to deliver good physical and mental health to individuals with and recovering from breast cancer.**  They expect projects that receive funding to be delivered within 12 to 18 months. For the 2025 grant period and with requests for assistance growing, the Foundation decided to focus in the main on organisations with limited financial resources to deliver their services. Applications are now open to receive a grant in 2025.

**Deadline: 30 May 2025**

[The Pink Ribbon Foundation](https://www.pinkribbonfoundation.org.uk/getsupport-apply)

**National Churches Trust’s Treasure Island Grants (FINAL ROUND)**

**Listed and unlisted Christian places of worship, of any denomination, in Northern Ireland** can apply now for **grants of up to £10,000 for urgent and essential church maintenance and repai**r work taking place in 2025/26.

To be eligible, the church building must have been constructed as a place of worship at least 30 years ago. The building must be open for regular public worship for a minimum of six services per year and must be open to the public beyond worship for at least 100 days per year. Applicants must be the owners of the building or have the right to carry out the work. If the church is not part of a main denomination, or registered with Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, they must be a registered charity.

**Grants of between £500 and £10,000 are available for projects that cost up to £100,000 overall (including VAT and fees). Match funding of at least 50% is required.**

The funding is for maintenance and repair works, such as repairs to stonework, roofs, window and door structures, non-compliant lightning projection systems, to a main church building or an attached hall.

**This is the final Treasure Grant round**. Future applications will fall under the National Churches Trust’s Medium Grant Programme, which is competitive across the UK.

**Deadline: 2 June 2025 (midnight)**

<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/treasure-ireland/grants>

**The Theatres’ Trust/Wolfson: Theatre Improvement Scheme**

The Theatres Trust's Theatre Improvement Scheme, in association with the Wolfson Foundation, offers **capital funding for theatres**. The theme for the fund for the **current three-year partnership is Improving Environmental Sustainability** as this is an urgent priority for the sector. Theatre operators can apply for grants of **up to £20,000 towards their building or equipment as part of the scheme**.

**Deadline: 5 September 2025**

<https://www.theatrestrust.org.uk/how-we-help/grants-funding/theatre-improvement-scheme>

**Heart Research UK: Healthy Hearts Grants NI**

Heart Research UK offer Healthy Heart Grants of **up to £15,000 for community projects aimed at supporting adults to reduce their risk of coronary heart disease, helping them to live healthier, happier and longer lives**. They currently only accept applications from small, registered charities and community interest companies with annual incomes of less than £1 million.

**Northern Ireland fund opens at 9am on 20 August 2025**

**Deadline: 17 September 2025 at 5pm.**

Online presentation date for shortlisted applications is **5 November 2025**

<https://heartresearch.org.uk/healthy-heart-grant-apply/>

**Maker Relief Fund (for craftspeople in need)**

The Maker Relief Fund is offering grants to **UK-based professional craftspeople facing financial hardship. Grants of £1,000 will be awarded to 50 eligible applicants over the course of a year, starting in November 2024 and running through to the end of October 2025.** These grants are intended to provide flexible financial support, allowing recipients to use the funds without restrictions. Practising professional craftspeople are eligible to apply if they identify with one or more of the following groups:

* Individuals on low incomes.
* Working-class people.
* Black and ethnically diverse people (including Gypsy, Roma, and Travellers).
* People with disabilities, neurodiversity or those managing chronic physical or mental health issues.
* LGBTQIA+ individuals.
* People with caring responsibilities.

The initiative aims to support these people in sustaining their careers during times of financial difficulty.

**Deadline: 31 October 2025**

<https://www.heritagecrafts.org.uk/makerrelieffund/>

**Sport NI – Creating Opportunities (with Crowdfunding)**

This programme is provided by Sport NI and is designed to enable investment in new and additional projects to connect communities, enabling more people to take part in sport and physical activity.

**Please note this is a match-funding initiative delivered in partnership with Crowdfunder and thus not a traditional grant scheme (funds awarded are conditional upon applicants first securing crowdfunding via Crowdfunder's platform).** **Approved applicants will receive from Sport NI project match funding of 50%, up to a maximum of £5,000. Applicants are required to raise a percentage of their total project costs from crowdfunding.**

The focus of the programme is to 'level the playing field', so that accessibility and inclusion is felt and experienced by those **who have been traditionally excluded f**rom not only participating in sport, but playing an active role within the club (eg coaching, officiating and leading as part of a board).

To be eligible, applicants must be one of the following:

* A constituted sports club which is affiliated to a governing body of sport which is recognised by Sport NI or Sport Ireland.
* A community or voluntary organisation that delivers or enables sport and/or physical recreation as its primary activity. Sports and activities must be recognised by Sport NI.
* A charitable trust that delivers or enables sport and/or physical recreation as its primary activity. Sports and activities must be recognised by Sport NI.
* A constituted Parent Teacher Association (PTA) that delivers or enables new/additional extracurricular sport and/or physical activity including outdoor activity residentials. Sports and activities must be recognised by Sport NI.

The Creating Opportunities initiative is being administered by Sport NI through the Crowdfunder UK website. If the fund’s conditions are met, **Sport NI will pledge up to 50% of the applicant's target up to a maximum of £5,000. The applicant must then raise the remaining amount from their supporters to achieve 100% of their funding target.**

Applications should focus particularly on people from at least one of the following priority groups:

* **Women and girls.**
* **People with disabilities.**
* **Children and young people - especially those aged between 11-18 years.**
* **Older people aged over 50.**
* **Ethnically diverse communities.**
* **LGBTQ+ community.**
* **People living in areas of greatest need (based on NISRA postcode, quartile 1).**
* **People living in rural areas (based on NISRA postcode).**

Sport NI will consider supporting almost any project (within reason) providing it delivers the outcomes of the Creating Opportunities programme. Sport NI can also **consider reasonable running costs associated with the delivery of a Creating Opportunities project.**

All projects must be completed, and Sport NI funding spent by 31 March 2026.

**Deadline: 29 January 2026** (unless the funds are exhausted before this date)

Applications are made by setting up an eligible project on the Crowdfunder UK website.

To receive a pledge from Sport NI, applicants will need to do two things:

* Raise at least 25% of their initial target.
* Raise this from a minimum of 25 qualifying (unique) supporters.

If the application is approved by Sport NI, the applicant will get match funding of 50%, up to a maximum of £5,000. This offer will be valid for two weeks after the date of notification. If the applicant does not launch their crowdfunding campaign within two weeks of notification, the offer will be rescinded.

Campaigns requesting from £4,000 to the maximum £5,000 must include a bespoke project video which outlines:

* Who the club is.
* What the project is about (how it will contribute to 'levelling the playing field').
* What the project will deliver.
* Why the funding is needed.
* How the money raised will be spent.

[Creating Opportunities | Sport NI](https://www.sportni.net/funding/creating-opportunities/)

**Duke of Edinburgh – Access Without Limits Funding**

This Fund aims to **open up access to the DofE Award to young people living in difficult circumstances, including those unable to afford to take part due to the cost of living crisis.**

**Grants of up to £10,250 are available**. The grant will be combined with support from a dedicated member of staff who will help the grant recipient set up, launch and deliver the Award programme. The package includes:

* Licence fee support for community and voluntary organisations.
* Access to staff and volunteer training courses.
* Free participation places for young people.
* Expedition kit start-up costs.

Not-for-profit voluntary, community or social enterprise organisations can apply. To be eligible, organisations must fit into several specific criteria – please check website for details. Note that for successful applicants, the first year will be covered by the grant and **50% will be required in the second year. All funding must be spent by 31 March 2026.**

**Deadline: 31 January 2026**

Applicants will need to initially discuss their project with an Operations Officer and should contact Georgina Harper at DofE for further information about how to go about this (e-mail: georgina.harper@dofe.org)

<https://www.dofe.org/access-without-limits/community/>

**Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme (UK) (extended)**

**The scheme gives grants towards VAT paid on repairs and renovations to the UK’s listed sites of worship, such as works to the foundations, masonry and monuments integral to the buildings.**The extension of the scheme recognises that listed places of worship represent an important part of UK heritage and provide spaces for communities to come together. Listed places of worship of any size or faith within the UK can apply to the scheme for support with repairs and renovations until the end of March 2026.

There will be **a cap of £25,000 that an organisation can claim during the year. This can still be spread across multiple claims.**

**Deadline: 31 March 2026**

<https://www.lpwscheme.org.uk/>

***Compiled by: KAREN DYSON, DCSDC, FUNDING ADVICE OFFICER Last updated 24/03/2025***