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



**Edition 52 DECEMBER 2024**

* **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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**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 (ROI) – “AVAILABLE FUNDING” PAGE**

**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: 4 December 2024 (23:59)**

**Transmission date: 2 Nov 2025 – 25 Jan 2026**

**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**

Applications are now being invited for upcoming Broadcast Appeal slots on Radio Ulster/Foyle.

Applicant organisations should **operate, or provide benefits for, people on a region-wide or sub-regional basis and have good accountability arrangements in place for their work**.  Applicants should additionally be able **to demonstrate how they will use their Appeal opportunity and what they hope it might achieve.**

Application forms and assessment criteria for Broadcast Appeal slots can be accessed at the website address below or can be obtained by contacting **Paula Gilmurray**on**07813968839**or by**email****paula.gilmurray@bbc.co.uk****.**

**These opportunities will be available from January 2025 onwards.**

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

**FUNDING WITH DEADLINES**

**Young Gamechangers’ Fund 2024**

**One-year grants of between £1,000 and £20,000 are available for youth-led groups across the UK** to support activities that **create positive social change in their communities through activism, awareness training, campaigning, disrupting and challenging norms, and building co-operation.**

Through the Young Gamechangers Fund, funding is available for groups with an annual income of less than £100,000 that can demonstrate that **75% of their leadership are young people aged between 10 and 25**, and are committed to **building community cohesion, bringing people together, and designing or testing innovative approaches to established challenges**.

In this round, priority will be given to applications from young people with experience of:

* The criminal justice system.
* Barriers to accessing education.
* Living in rural/isolated communities.
* Living in coastal towns and communities.
* Seeking asylum, being a refugee.
* Social and financial barriers to accessing opportunities.

The following funding stream is available in NI: **Unrestricted flexible grants that can be used for costs such as staff salaries, organisational overheads, maintenance of equipment and venues, and other general running costs.** In addition to funding, successful applicants also get access to peer support networks, training and mentoring.

There is a **two-stage application process**. Groups must first complete an online eligibility checker before being invited to submit a full application.

**Deadline to submit to complete the eligibility checker (Stage 1): 4 December 2024**

(**Note:** Groups should first go through the online eligibility checker by the deadline on 4 December 2024. Successful applicants will then be invited to complete a full application.

**The deadline to submit a full application is 6 December 2024.**Applicants will be notified of any decisions made in February 2025. Guidance notes are available from the Co-op Foundation website).

[£4.5m Young Gamechangers Fund - Co-op Foundation](https://www.coopfoundation.org.uk/how-we-fund/young-gamechangers/)

**NI Rural Micro Capital Grant Programme Opens for Second 2024/25 Funding Round**

Grants are available to **rural community-led, voluntary organisations in Northern Ireland to support projects that address issues of local poverty and social isolation and to implement energy efficiency measures or environmental improvements.**

Applicants to the scheme can apply for **a minimum grant of £500 up to a maximum grant of £2,000, with a minimum of 15% match funding required**. The scheme is being delivered by Rural Support Networks on behalf of DAERA.

Applicants must provide evidence from their application, constitution and accounts to prove they meet all the criteria, and projects must focus on one of the following themes:

* Modernisation (of premises/assets).
* Information communication technology.
* Health and wellbeing.
* Energy efficiency/environmental improvements.

**Grants can be used to purchase capital equipment, improve an asset, or extend the usable life of a capital asset. Funding can also be used to implement energy efficiency measures and/or environmental improvements to their premises.**

All projects must be completed and claims for grants submitted by 25 March 2025.

**Deadline: 5 December 2024 (noon)**.

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/services/rural-micro-capital-grants-scheme-rmcgs>

**BFI National Lottery Discovery Feature Funding (for films)**

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 December 2024 (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)

**Alzheimer’s Society: Accelerator Programme 2025/26**

The Accelerator Programme is designed to **support people in developing and accelerating their product and service innovations to deliver help and hope to people living with dementia**. This could include **a simple product that makes an everyday task easier** for a person living with dementia, or **an innovative idea for a new service or way of working for care home staff**. They provide **up to £100,000** of funding.

**Deadline: 6 December 2024**

<https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/research/our-research/dementia-innovation/accelerator-programme>

**Rosa – Voices from the Front Line (women and girls)**

This funding is for **women’s and girls’ organisations to deliver activism and campaigning to raise awareness of the issues women and girls face.** The campaigns could be targeted at local communities, the general public, local or national government, media, service providers or businesses.

Rosa will fund organisations which:

* Have identified the issue they want to campaign on.
* Have an understanding of their intended audience.
* Are ready to start, or have started, their campaign.
* Need resources to support their campaigning and influencing work.

Given the large number of applications that are expected with this round, Rosa has advised that they are only able to fund organisations which have identified the issue they want to campaign on; have an understanding of their intended audience; are ready to start, or have started, their campaign and which need resources to support their campaigning and influencing work.

This year (2024) **one-year grants of between £500 and 10,000 are available to cover an 18-month period. This is an increase of £3,000 from the previous round.** Match funding is not a specified requirement. Women's sector voluntary and community organisations in the UK are eligible to apply. To be eligible, applicants must:

* Meet Rosa’s definition of a women’s and girls’ organisation as those which are run by, for and with women and girls.
	+ Their organisation will be governed and led by women.
	+ They will have a Board of Trustees (or similar) where the Chair is a woman, and the majority of members are women.
	+ The majority of their organisation’s employee leadership team will be women.
	+ Their organisation will have the principal objective of working with women and/or girls and the majority of their organisation’s beneficiaries are, and will always be, women and/or girls.
* Be a not-for-profit organisation.
* Have a written governing document, eg, a constitution or set of rules.
* Have a governing body with at least three unrelated members.
* Have a UK-based bank or building society account in the organisation’s name with at least two unrelated signatories.
* Have been active for at least one year and can produce annual accounts for a whole year.
* Have an appropriate safeguarding policy in place.
* Not have received a Voices from the Frontline grant from Rosa in 2022.

Priority will be given to organisations that are:

* **Operating in the top 20% of the most disadvantaged areas in the UK based on the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD).**
* **Based in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland**.
* Led by and for Black and minoritised women and girls.
* Led by and for disabled women.
* Led by and for LGBTQ+ women and girls.

**These are all priority groups and not listed in priority order.**

The funding is for organisations that will raise women’s voices and challenge inequality, including:

* Campaigning for changes in policy and laws including activities such as petitions, social media campaigns and lobbying.
* National campaigns that address issues that affect women and girls.
* Influencing community leaders and power holders about issues that affect women in a particular place or community.
* Gathering evidence or producing tools and reports which enable women and women’s organisations to campaign for change.
* Mentoring or training for women on how to participate in public life and influence social policy.
* Video and media campaigns about specific issues facing women.
* Training activists in campaigning, advocacy, lobbying or public speaking.

**Deadline: 9 December 2024**

<https://rosauk.org/our-programmes/voices-from-the-frontline/>

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| **Pet Plan Charitable Trust** |

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| **Grant size:** no amount specified**Open to:** UK registered charities directly benefitting to one or more of the species supported by Petplan Ltd (i.e. dogs, cats, horses and rabbits). Grants to human charities will be considered when it can be clearly demonstrated that the grant will enhance/give support to the animals’ best interests.**Deadline:**  **9 December 2024**[Apply for a Grant - Petplan Charitable Trust](https://petplancharitabletrust.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant/) |

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**Sported: Cash4Clubs**

**Grants of £2000 (€2000 in Ireland) are available for community organisations working with adults from under-represented communities, delivering sport or physical activity for social purpose**.

The 2024 programme is exclusively focused on **supporting adult clubs**. Funding is available to groups that **deliver activities to over 18s only, with an emphasis on 18–25 year olds**.

The funding will be unrestricted but with an outcome of increasing participation, meaning clubs are able to decide how best to use the grant to engage more adults from their local communities.

**Deadline: 12 December 2024** Apply now as the programme may close early if there is a large volume of applications!

<https://thehub.sported.org.uk/cash4clubs.html>

**Department for Health’s Core Grant Funding Scheme**

Grants of between **£5,000 and £100,000** are available to contribute to the **core costs of not-for-profit organisations in Northern Ireland working to deliver positive health and social care outcomes.** Funding is intended to support work that aligns with the Department of Health's (DoH) strategic and policy objectives. The budget for the scheme is dependent on the DoH's budget for 2025/26. It is expected that at least £1.8 million will be made available.

The funding will **support core costs for the period between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026**, including:

* Up to 25% of a permanent member of staff’s annual salary.
* Relevant training costs.
* Relevant running costs and overheads.
* Essential equipment and minor capital items (less than £15,000 in total).
* Appropriate management and audit costs.
* Costs of involving volunteers.
* Evaluation costs.

**Deadline: 13 December 2024 (noon)**

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/core-grant-funding-scheme-2025-26>

**International Tree Foundation – UK Community Tree Planting Programme**

Grants are available **for community-based organisations across the UK to deliver tree-planting projects that protect and restore indigenous trees and woodlands, support community engagement in tree planting, and increase awareness of the importance of trees and forests to environmental and human well-being.** The UK Community Tree Planting Programme will support projects that meet the following essential criteria:

* Plant trees in public/publicly accessible spaces: sites that are readily accessible to the public, including schools, parks, rights of way, and sites managed by community groups.
* Plant indigenous tree species: this may include traditional fruit trees and ‘honorary’ natives where appropriate.
* Engage community members in tree planting and enjoying the benefits of woodlands.
* Have clear plans for maintenance and sustainability.

In addition, for this funding round proposed projects must meet one or more of the following criteria:

* Engage children and young adults in tree planting and learning about trees.
* Engage vulnerable groups and groups with low access to woodlands.
* Create biodiversity in habitats.
* Conserve soil and water.
* Demonstrate new approaches, such as agroforestry.
* Support rewilding and natural regeneration.
* Support work or research on tree pest and disease resistance and climate change adaptation.
* Support urban tree planting.

Grants are available across two funding streams:

* Grants for community woodland/hedging projects that range from 100 to 25,000 trees planted per year, with a maximum price equivalent to £1.95 per tree.
* Grants for community orchard projects of up to 30 trees planted per year.

There is a two-stage application process. Submit an online Expression of Interest form first.

**Deadline: 13 December 2024 (noon)**

<https://www.internationaltreefoundation.org/uk-grants>

**Great Britain Saskawa Foundation (cultural co-operation with Japan)**

The Foundation is offering **grants of up to £6,000 for cultural and educational activities that foster good relations between the UK and Japan** by advancing the education of the people of both nations in each other’s culture, society, and achievements. Funding is available to support activities in the following fields:

* Arts and culture.
* Science, technology, and the environment.
* Humanities and social issues.
* Japanese language.
* Medicine and health.
* Youth and education.
* Sport.

Grants can be used to pump-prime a range of projects, such as:

* Visits between the UK and Japan by academics, professionals, creative artists, teachers, young people, journalists, and representatives of civic and non-governmental organisations
* Research and collaborative studies, seminars, workshops, lectures, and publications in academic and specialist fields.
* Teaching and development of Japanese language and cultural studies in schools, Further Education colleges and universities.
* Exhibitions, performances and creative productions by artists, musicians, filmmakers, writers, and theatre groups.

Priority will be given to projects in the fields of science and technology, medicine and health, environment and social issues, Japanese studies, and the Japanese language.

Applications originating from the UK and Japan are considered separately at different meetings by the Foundation’s London and Tokyo offices respectively.

**Deadline: 15 December 2024**

[The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation (gbsf.org.uk)](http://www.gbsf.org.uk/)

**Foras na Gaeilge – Colmcille Small Grants Scheme 2024**

Colmcille is a partnership between Foras na Gaeilge in Ireland and Bòrd na Gàidhlig in Scotland. This scheme aims to promote relations between the language communities of Scottish and Irish Gaeilge and to strengthen Scottish and Irish Gaelic through these relations. Colmcille has three schemes funded: Small Grants Scheme for carrying out research and planning joint initiatives, Project Scheme to fund projects (Colmcille's main grant scheme), and a Bursary Scheme to help people learn Scottish Gaelic. They provide Small Grants of € 2,000/£1,750 to develop an initiative with a partner in Scotland or relating to Scottish Gaelic. Once the partnership and the project plan have been agreed under the Small Grants Scheme, an application can be made for the Colmcille Project Scheme, Colmcille's main grant scheme, which provides a higher level of support, if required. Tel: 048 9089 0970

**Deadline: 18 December 2024** Email: colmcille@forasnagaeilge.ie

[240220 Small Grants Scheme Form 2024](https://www.forasnagaeilge.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/240220-Sceim-Miondeontas-Foirm-2024.docx)

**Big Give: Arts for Impact (matchfunding)**

This is an online match funding campaign supporting arts and culture charities working to achieve societal impact across the UK, run in partnership with New Philanthropy for Arts & Culture (NPAC).

The Fund utilises their 1:1 match funding model. Open to registered charities with an annual income of at least £25,000, **charities can seek to raise either £1,000, £2,500, £5,000, or £10,000 in public donations (to be doubled by the match funds).** For a small number of charities (which have an annual income of above £1m as per last filed accounts), they will consider targets up to £20,000 (to be doubled by match funds).

**Deadline: 18 December 2024**

<https://biggive.org/artsforimpact/>

**NI Good Relations Award 2025**

Nominations are now open for these annual Awards which spotlight the essential role that members of the local community play in delivering peace and building united communities here.

**This year there are six award categories:**

* **The Community Relations Council Exceptional Achievement Award**
* **Good Relations Volunteer of the Year Award**
* **Good Relations Community Champion Award**
* **Good Relations Youth Award (Under 25)**
* **Good Relations Connecting Communities Project of the Year Award**
* **Good Relations ‘Housing for All’ Award.**

**Deadline: 19 December 2024**

<https://goodrelationsawards.com/>

**Arts Council NI – Annual Funding Programme**

Grants are available **for organisations in all artforms and practices** to **support core and programming costs** under the Annual Funding Programme provided by the Arts Council NI.

The programme is accepting applications from the following:

* **Non-profit distributing organisations** that can demonstrate that they require **a year-round resource to deliver the programme.**
* **Commercial organisations,** if the proposed programme is primarily for the benefit of the public, and where there are plans to re-invest any surplus into a similar and ongoing arts programme.

**All new applicant organisations to the programme must have been in receipt of a single award of at least £10,001 from ACNI since 1 April 2022 in order to be eligible for the scheme.**

No minimum or maximum value of grant is specified. **Organisations may apply for one year funding only.** Within the overall grant, funding is also available for successful applicants who can clearly demonstrate that additional costs such as sign language provision, translation and carers' costs are associated with the delivery of their project to relevant people as defined under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

**New applicants must contact the relevant art form officer by 5pm on 9 December 2024, at the latest, to discuss a possible application.**

**Deadline: 20 December 2024 (noon)**

<https://artscouncil-ni.org/funding-for-organisations/annual-funding-programme-2025-26>

**Early Years – The Pathway Fund (NI)**

Early Years, the largest non-profit organisation supporting young children in Northern Ireland, is administering the Pathway Fund on behalf of the Northern Ireland Executive's Department of Education. This initiative aims **to improve outcomes for children aged 0-4, particularly those at risk of underachievement in the school system**.

The fund is designed **to help registered sessional daycare settings, full daycare providers and individual childminders sustain and enhance their services. Its focus is on fostering child development and strengthening the early years sector in Northern Ireland.**

The Pathway Fund includes three streams, offering financial support to a range of early years education providers and registered childminders. Funding ranges **from £500 for registered childminders and Approved Home Childcarers under Stream C to up to £40,000 for larger**

**registered providers under Stream A.**

Funding for the 2026/27 period will depend on the availability of the Department of Education's budget, with no guarantee of awards beyond 2025/26.

**Deadline for 2025/26 and 2026/27 applications: 20 December 2024 (16:00 GMT)**

[The Pathway Fund — Early Years - the organisation for young children](https://www.early-years.org/the-pathway-fund)

**The Workable (NI) (WNI) Programme (disability employment)**

This programme is inviting **relevant organisations to provide appropriate support to assist people with disabilities in the workplace by delivering the Workable (NI) (WNI) Programme.**

Successful organisations will be responsible for delivering the WNI Programme across Northern Ireland **to participants with disabilities who have complex barriers to securing and retaining employment.** WNI Providers will assist participants to integrate into the workplace and assist employers in supporting their staff.

Further information on the Grant Call competition, scope of the WNI Programme, Evaluation Criteria, and guidance on completing the application form can be found in the Specification and Instructions to Applicants documents at the link below.

Deadline: **22 December 2024**. Any applications received after this time will not be considered.

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/wni-grant-call>

**National Lottery Climate Action Fund – Our Shared Future**

The aim of the programme is **to support community-led projects to inspire more people to take climate action by linking climate action to the everyday lives and interests of local communities**, and by linking up different groups across locations. This could be in one country, or across the whole UK. The type of actions supported could include:

* Engaging communities through **arts, sports, or other interests** to link climate action to their daily lives.
* **Influencing policy at regional or national levels** through public engagement campaigns.
* **Involving underrepresented groups in climate action**, particularly those new to it or facing disadvantage.
* **Testing innovative engagement methods** to find the most effective ways to involve diverse groups in climate action.
* **Expanding successful local initiatives to a national scale** by sharing effective approaches.

To be eligible, applications must be submitted by **partnerships consisting of a mix of organisations and sectors, and smaller groups working locally.** This includes:

* voluntary and community organisations
* registered charities
* charitable incorporated organisations
* not-for-profit organisations
* community interest companies
* schools, colleges, and universities (as long as the project benefits and involves the wider local communities)
* public sector organisations
* co-operative societies

**The minimum grant that can be applied for is £500,000; however, most projects are expected to receive funding of between £1 million and £1.5 million over 3 to 5 years.**

A small number of larger or longer projects may also be funded.It is anticipated that up to 25 projects will be funded.

**Deadline: 31 December 2024**

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/climate-action-fund-our-shared-future>

**Kristina Martin Charitable Trust**

Grants are available for UK registered charities **whose work supports those with** **mental health issues** and provides support and activities which tackle, in particular but not exclusively, **suicide, online bullying and grief, fostering hope and resilience, working both in the UK and beyond.**

<https://sites.google.com/kmct.org.uk/kmct/home>

**2025 FUNDING**

**John Ellerman Foundation – Museums and Galleries Fund UK**

This Fund aims to help **strengthen regional museums and galleries in the UK by helping organisations to enhance and sustain curatorial development to attract a broader public. The Fund is open to a wide variety of collection types and has supported visual and decorative arts, archaeology, and social and natural history collections.**

The Foundation has earmarked 10% of its overall grants budget to be awarded through the fund this year, with final decisions to be made in May 2025. **It expects to make about five or six grants for periods of two to three years. While the average grant is around £90,000, requests for higher amounts will be considered for exceptional projects.**

**Regional museums and galleries in the UK, including local authority**, **independent museums and contemporary galleries without permanent collections, are eligible to apply.**

Priority is given to small and medium-sized museums and galleries with an income between £100,000 and £10 million and which are located outside of London. Universities are eligible to apply but due to their size and relative financial stability are less likely to be successful and should contact the Foundation to discuss their proposal before applying.

Applicants should demonstrate:

* High-quality delivery in their field at a national level
* National significance, usually through a unique or high-quality collection.
* Commitment to collaborative approaches, either as the focus of the request, or at a minimum with a strong track record of partnership working.

Organisations should be able to show the following:

* An emphasis on the value of curatorial skills.
* A commitment to active collections management, care and review, including disposal.
* A commitment to delivering high quality and innovation.
* Strong leadership and commitment from senior management, board or governing body.
* Effective financial management.
* The difference a grant will make to the organisation, the general public or other audiences.

**The Foundation is particularly interested in receiving applications from those areas where it has made fewer grants, such as Northern Ireland** and Wales.

Funding is not available for the following:

* Individual conservation projects. However, conservation work may be considered as part of a wider request.
* Education and outreach work.

**The Fund is open to a wide variety of collection types including visual and decorative arts, social history and anthropology, science and technology, industrial, and natural history collections. The Foundation is keen to fund work which has a legacy within and beyond the organisation. It prioritises applications that aspire to achieve outcomes for people working in curatorial roles, the collections they work with and the institutions in which they work.**

It is particularly interested in applications for one of the following:

* **Enabling new ways of working through innovation, new thinking and fresh approaches both for established curators or those just starting out.**
* **Ensuring organisations are able to safeguard and advance curatorial skills and make the most of opportunities at a time of development or change.**

The Foundation operates **a two-stage application process**. Interested applicants can sign up for one of the question and answer sessions on Zoom via the link on the foundation website. The dates and times of these are:

* **Tuesday 10 December - 10–11am**
* **Tuesday 17 December - 2–3pm**

**You can sign up for any one of the events above via** [this Eventbrite page](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/museum-and-galleries-fund-2024-25-qa-sessions-tickets-1002938555217).

**Deadline: 6 January 2025 (5pm)**

<https://ellerman.org.uk/apply-for-funding/museums-and-galleries-fund>

**Fight For Sight: The Capacity Building Fund**

The fund offers **unrestricted grants of between £10,000 and £20,000 for not-for-profit organisations in the sight loss sector across the UK whose growth and sustainability are challenged by the uncertain economic climate and cost of living crisis.** The grants will focus on two key areas:

* Collaboration between organisations within the sight loss sector and between the sight loss sector and external organisations.
* Small charities and grassroots organisations.

**Only organisations whose primary purpose is supporting those living with or at risk of sight loss are eligible**. This fund is designed to support organisations to overcome barriers to increasing their capacity.  This could include (but is not limited to):

* Contributions to core costs.
* A merger of organisations.
* Strengthening of systems and processes.

This funding is **not** designed for specific projects.

**Deadline: 7 January 2025 (9:00 am)**

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

**Neat Streets Grant Fund**

The funding is intended **to support local authorities or those who manage public realm space in the UK to replicate Hubbub campaigns in local communities to reduce litter and boost recycling. Five projects will receive £10,000 each of grant funding**. In addition, recipients will also receive support from Hubbub in the form of project management and design time.

**Applicants must provide £5,000 from their own resources or from other sources.**

**Operational costs cannot be funded.**

Applications are accepted from:

* Local authorities
* Business Improvement Districts
* Major property owners or those who manage public space
* Transport hubs eg airports, train stations
* Companies limited by shares or guarantee
* Charities
* Social enterprises

Projects should be based on **the replicable campaigns on the Neat Streets website**:

* Tidy Roadsides - targeted at drivers and roadside litter.
* (Name of city)'s Binning (eg Bristol's Binning) - targeted towards young adults and aimed at urban environments.
* Love Your Forest - targeted towards visitors to forests and other areas of natural beauty.
* Neat Streets - targeted at tourists to the beach.
* In The Loop - targeted to tackling recycling on-the-go in towns and cities.

**Grants can be used to support the purchase of new bins and signage, events and the development of a campaign. Approximately 70% of the funding must be spent on purchasing or upgrading infrastructure** with the rest going towards communication materials, event budgets and litter picking equipment, and overheads. Projects are expected to be ready to launch within three months of receiving the grant. **Only one application is accepted per applicant. Next deadline: 8 January 2025**

[Neat Streets Grant Fund](https://neatstreets.org.uk/neat-streets-grant-fund#:~:text=We%20have%20grants%20of%20%C2%A3,time%20to%20prepare%20their%20bid.)

**Samsung’s Solve for Tomorrow Competition – UK Youth for Social Impact**

The company aims **to empower future innovators to achieve their full potential and become the next generation of leaders to pioneer positive social change.** The competition invites **young innovators who have tech ideas for new products, services or apps that could make a real difference to people and communities most in need.**

The competition is open to **individuals or teams of up to five people aged between 16 to 25 who are resident in the UK. Participants will enter one of two groups, based on age (16-18 years-old; and 18-25 years-old).**

In each group, there is a **£10,000 cash prize available** to develop an idea, **coupled with business industry mentorship to evolve the winning concept. Two runners-up (one in each group) will be awarded £1,000, plus expert mentorship.** All applicants who form part of the winning teams will also be awarded **Samsung tech products** to help them continue their journey beyond this competition.

**Deadline: 12 January 2025 (23:59)**

<https://www.samsung.com/uk/solvefortomorrow/>

**Mike Moloney Award for Young People in Circus (NI)**

**Circusful is welcoming applications for the Mike Moloney Award for Young People in Circus. The award, funded by the National Lottery through the Arts Council NI, aims to support young people based in NI, aged 16-30, who want to develop their Circus Arts/Street Theatre performance and/or related circus practice.**

**Deadline: 13 January 2025 at 5pm**

<https://circusful.org/awards>

**Centre Culturel Irlandais Artists Residency Programme**

[Poetry Ireland](https://url.uk.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/HPLICRoONCrnq09TJh3H16meV?domain=my.newzapp.co.uk) is partnering once again with the Centre Culturel Irlandais for the annual artist residency programme 2025-2026. Tapping into the resources of the CCI and the city of Paris has been described as 'transformational' by many former awardees.   Residencies range from one to three months and can be availed of between September 2025 and December 2026.

**Deadline:** **14 January 2025 @ 5pm**

<https://www.centreculturelirlandais.com/en/stay-create/creating-at-the-cci/artist-residency-programme>

**Education Authority NI T:BUC Camps (Together: Building a United Community) 2025/26**

The T:BUC Camps Programme is a headline action described in the **Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) Strategy** which was announced by the NI Executive in 2013.

The relevant strategic aim relating to young people is:

**“*To continue to improve attitudes amongst our young people and to build a community where they can play a full and active role in building good relations*.”**

The Programme is about building positive relations and long-lasting friendships among young people across all parts of the NI community. Camps must therefore bring diverse groups together to get to know each other, try new experiences and help build longer-term relationships between young people. Good Relations learning must be at the heart of every Camp.

**Any constituted group can apply** e.g. community groups, voluntary organisations, schools etc. **Up to £22,500 of funding is available to engage up to 60 young people aged 9-25 years.** Eligible costs include transport costs, residential costs, venue hire, day trips, food costs, equipment/materials, facilitators, staff costs and more.

Applications for 2025/26 **open on 6 December 2024**.

**Deadline: 17 January 2025 at 4pm**

<https://eanifunding.org.uk/tbuc/>

**(Website link still to be updated from last year at time of publication).**

**Big Give - Green Match Fund**

The climate crisis demands urgent action, and the Green Match Fund is committed to amplifying the impact of every donation, doubling the difference for global efforts to protect and preserve our planet. Utilising their **Multi Model of match funding, charities which are working on environmental issues as part of their core mission with an annual income of at least £25,000 can select either the 1:1 or Pledge Model of match funding**.

Up to £10,000 in public donations through the 1:1 Model (to be doubled by match funds) or up to £100,000 in public donations through the Pledge Model (to be doubled by match funds). Charities can receive **up to £50k in Champion funds**.

**Deadline: 17 January 2025**

<https://biggive.org/green-match-fund/>

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

Community organisations across NI have the opportunity **to secure match funding for projects aimed at promoting accessibility and inclusion in sports, coaching, officiating and leadership roles for traditionally excluded groups**. The initiative is designed to connect communities and increase participation in sport and physical activity, particularly among groups that have historically been underrepresented. These include **women and girls, people with disabilities, children and young people aged 11-18, older adults over 50, ethnically diverse communities, the LGBTQ+ community, and those living in rural or high-need areas**.

Unlike traditional grants, **this programme requires applicants to first raise funds through Crowdfunder's platform. Once a project secures at least 25% of its funding target from a minimum of 25 unique supporters, Sport NI will pledge up to 50% of the total project costs, capped at £5,000.**

Eligible applicants include constituted sports clubs affiliated with recognised governing bodies, community or voluntary organisations focused on sport or physical recreation, charitable trusts, and Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) offering extracurricular sports activities.

**Projects must align with the programme's goal of 'levelling the playing field'**. To apply, organisations must set up an eligible project on the Crowdfunder UK website and meet the initial fundraising criteria. **For campaigns requesting between £4,000 and £5,000, a bespoke project video is required.**

**Deadline: 20 January 2025 (at 2pm)\* or whenever funds are exhausted**

**\*Check website for different deadline dates for different phases of this fund\***

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

**National Churches Trust: Treasure Island Grants for NI**

The Treasure Ireland Grants Programme can offer **between £500 and £10,000 to Places of Worship in Northern Ireland for urgent and essential maintenance and repair projects costing up to £100,000 (incl. VAT)**. They will consider applications from listed and unlisted Christian places of worship of any denomination that are located in NI. **You must have 50% of the funds required at the point of application.**

**Next deadline: 20 January 2025 (midnight)** (And further upcoming deadline in **May 2025**)

[Treasure Ireland: specialist support for Northern Ireland places of worship | National Churches Trust](https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/impact/campaigns/treasure-ireland)

**Art Fund Museum/Gallery of the Year 2025 Award**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| The prize recognises and celebrates outstanding work and projects across UK museums and provides a platform to encourage audiences to engage with museums far and wide.The theme for 2025 is ‘**the people who make you’**. In addition to looking at the overall achievements of the applicant organisation, the Fund is keen to hear about the wide range of people that make their achievements possible and bring their museum or gallery to life.The winner's prize money is **£120,000, with £15,000 going to each of the four other finalists, bringing the total prize money to £180,000.****The Prize is open to all museums and galleries in the United Kingdom**. The Trustees normally expect applicants to be participants in the accreditation scheme operated by Arts Council England or equivalent. To be eligible, applicants must:* Be able to demonstrate positive change and impact of the activity.
* Be based in the UK and be either a public museum, gallery, historic house, library or archive which has spaces for the public to visit and experience the visual arts or other object-based collections.
* Be able to demonstrate that they usually operate to best practice standards or have a good track record in delivering high quality public activity.

Activity must have taken place from autumn 2023 through to winter 2024/25.**A webinar for applicants will be held on 17 December 2024 (12:00 to 13:00).****Deadline: 27 January 2025 (12:00 noon)**<https://www.artfund.org/professional/get-funding/programmes/art-fund-museum-of-the-year> |   |

**NI's Community Relations and Cultural Diversity Funding**

The scheme is aimed at organisations such as **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**. It supports the development of such group’s capacity to **engage in community relations work and to enhance the community relations potential of projects they undertake.**

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 in order 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 co-operation 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 awarded will be of between £2,000 and £5,000. Deadline: 31 January 2025 (4pm)**

[Community Relations / Cultural Diversity | Community Relations Council (community-relations.org.uk)](https://www.community-relations.org.uk/funding-scheme/community-relations-cultural-diversity)

**Amazon Literary Partnership Grants 2025**

With the goal of **helping all communities in the UK and Republic of Ireland tell their stories through writing**, the Amazon Literary Partnership supports not-for-profit literary organisations that **empower writers to create, publish, learn, teach, experiment, and thrive**.  The grant funding is intended **for innovative groups that amplify diverse voices and strive for a lasting impact on writers' lives, the literary and publishing communities and broader society.** (Amazon has provided neither the total amount of funding available nor the level of individual grants.)

To be eligible, applicants must be a registered non-profit organisation in the UK or Republic of Ireland, whose core mission is **to develop emerging writers, support diversity, celebrate storytelling, and/or build authors’ careers**. Organisations should be structurally and financially sound; display energy, passion, and reach; have an online presence, and an enthusiastic membership or readership. A list of previous winners can be found on the Amazon Literary Partnership webpage.

**Deadline: 31 January 2025 (with notification to grant recipients by 16 May 2025)**

<https://press.aboutamazon.com/uk/news/books-and-authors/2024/11/the-amazon-literary-partnership-opens-for-2025-grant-applications>

**Tenth and Final Charity Governance Awards**

The capacity building funding is designed **to support the creation of a sight loss sector that is coherent, sustainable, and resilient** to the rising demand for equal service provision across the UK. Focusing on two key areas: Collaboration between organisations within the sight loss sector and between the sight loss sector and external organisations and small charities and grassroots organisations, **funding of between £10,000 and £20,000 is available for registered organisations** offering offer services **to blind and partially sighted people directly**.

Funding supports capacity and may contribute to **core costs, mergers, strengthening of systems and processes, and other areas**.

**Deadline: 7 January 2025 (9am)**

[The Charity Governance Awards](https://www.charitygovernanceawards.co.uk/)

**The Royal Countryside Fund – Supporting Rural Communities Programme**

The Fund launched their [new strategy](https://www.royalcountrysidefund.org.uk/news/the-royal-countryside-fund-sets-ambitious-new-strategy-to-support-farming-and-rural-communities-across-the-uk/) on 26 April 2024 in which they set out their vision for the Fund’s work over the next four years. The Fund will be taking a more holistic approach to support; facilitating, connecting, and funding, **with a focus on long term sustainability. The aim is to “power up, not prop up” communities, to inspire change and encourage economic vibrancy.** Support will be focused on **isolated rural areas with populations usually less than 4,000, where the project is required due to a lack of alternative services in that locality.**

The new funding programme is offering grants of **up to £25,000 to be spent over a period of up to 24 months** for projects that fall under four key themes:

* **Keeping young people in the countryside** – support for projects which increase access to skills training and employment opportunities in rural communities, creating greater opportunities for young people to stay, live and work in the countryside.
* **Powering up rural communities** - support for organisations which aim to provide financial benefits to the locality through developing innovative, replicable projects which address local needs.
* **Increasing environmental sustainability** - support for community-driven projects which aim to increase the environmental sustainability of their community through reducing emissions/environmental impact, creating positive benefits for the community and improving the quality of the local environment.
* **Building emergency resilience in rural areas**– support for communities to develop preventative measures and plans to respond to the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events, helping them to be better prepared to cope with and recover from emergencies.

The new programme is looking for organisations to demonstrate how they meet one or more of these key characteristics:

* **Community-led.**
* **Working towards a long-term vision.**
* **Facilitate collaboration/connectedness.**
* **Demonstrate innovation.**

Applications will be accepted from properly constituted, not-for-profit and community-led organisations in rural areas with a turnover under £500,000 per year, that can demonstrate how beneficiaries will be drawn directly from the local rural community.

The following types of organisations may apply: Constituted voluntary or community organisations, Registered, exempt or excepted charities, Charitable incorporated organisations (CIO), Not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, Community interest companies (CIC), Community benefit society, Co-operative society.

The funding is for communities to create tangible change. This could be a project that generates a new income stream for the local community, or the delivery of training to develop skills opportunities for young people. It could also be activities to increase community awareness and engagement in the local environment, or an initiative to bring the community together to plan for the impacts of climate change. There is particular interest in innovative solutions to the challenges facing rural areas. This could be, for example, a project that has not been done before that could be replicated in other rural communities, helping to increase the scale of change.

The grants can be used for:

* **Direct costs to deliver activities in the community –** such as project staff, materials, equipment, room hire, volunteer expenses and project evaluations.
* **Organisational development** – such as business planning, testing new ways of working, staff training and development, developing governance and leadership, tech or IT purchases or upgrades, developing and sharing impact and learning, and increasing capacity to support collaboration and partnership working.
* **Core or fixed costs to support the day-to-day running of the organisation** – such as core salaries, utilities, equipment.
* **Refurbishing or developing of land and buildings** (excluding funding of statutory requirements, planning permission/building regulations) and providing that planning permission is in place and a rent/lease agreement has been secured if necessary.

**A webinar for prospective applicants will be held on 17 December 2024 (18:00). Registration is required and can be done on**[**Zoom**](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ULHaYY39R0-Sp_RJRiGSdw?_gl=1*162w6zs*_gcl_au*ODI4ODM4NjI5LjE3MzE1Nzk0ODY.*_ga*MTcxNTQxOTI2Mi4xNzI4OTA3NjQy*_ga_L8TBF28DDX*MTczMjAxMjg0NS44LjEuMTczMjAxMzA0MC4wLjAuMA)**.**

There is a two-stage application process:

* The first step is to send a short video and complete a simple ‘Expression of Interest’ (EOI) form by the deadline of **21 February 2025.**
* Shortlisted organisations will be invited to submit a full proposal between 8 March 2025 and **5 April 2025**.

Successful applicants will be notified in May 2025.

Applicants may discuss their project with the Fund before applying.

<https://www.royalcountrysidefund.org.uk/how-we-help/rural-communities/>

**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>

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

Only works carried out to repair, maintain or alter the fabric of an existing listed building are eligible. Applicants can submit:

* one claim with a value of between **£500 and £1,000** (excluding the VAT paid) in any 12-month period; and
* any number of claims for eligible work to the value **of £1,000 or more** (excluding VAT) may be made.

Eligible works must be carried out by a VAT registered contractor. To be eligible, the place of worship must be listed with the relevant statutory listing agency. All denominations eligible.

**Deadline: 31 March 2025** <https://www.lpwscheme.org.uk/>

**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/>

**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)

**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>

**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.

**Applications can be submitted at any time until 31 October 2025**

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

**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/>

***Compiled by: KAREN DYSON, DCSDC, FUNDING ADVICE OFFICER Last updated 4/12/2024***