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



**Edition 54 FEBRUARY 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>**NI Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA) Upcoming Funding Fayre (Belfast)**Funding Fayre 2025, a key event in our calendar, helps voluntary and community organisations connect with funders and support agencies to gain the advice, funding and networking opportunities to help you thrive. The event is kindly supported by the Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland. **26 February 2025 - 10:00am to 1:00pm**[Funding February: NICVA’s Funding Fayre 2025](https://www.nicva.org/events/funding-february-nicvas-funding-fayre-2025) **(In-person event in Belfast)** |

**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>

**£10 Million Loan Fund for NI Homelessness Charities to Acquire Property Launches**

The Department for Communities (DfC) has announced the launch of a £10 million loan fund that will run **over five years for registered homelessness charities in Northern Ireland to buy property to provide well managed, long term, private rented sector accommodation at an affordable rate**.

The funding is intended to produce a route into housing for those who cannot access permanent social housing or private rented accommodation. The programme contributes to the overall strategic objective of easing pressure on the NI Housing Executive’s use of temporary accommodation, enabling funding to be utilised to prevent homelessness and support the [Homelessness Strategy for Northern Ireland 2022-27.](https://www.nihe.gov.uk/housing-help/homelessness/homelessness-strategy#:~:text=The%20Housing%20Executive%E2%80%99s%20homelessness%20strategy%2C%20Ending%20Homelessness%20Together%2C,homelessness%20in%20Northern%20Ireland%20through%20to%20March%202022.)

The new Loan to Acquire Move-on Accommodation (LAMA) **aims to facilitate the provision of 80 to 100 units of supported accommodation for clients with various support needs who would benefit from a non-traditional approach to tackling homelessness.**

**Loans of between £1 million and £3 million are available at an interest rate of approximately 0.5%. The loan-to-value (LTV) figure should not be more than 80%. Repayment periods of up to 25 years are available** and may include a pause on repayments up to and including the first three years to allow organisations to purchase the properties and generate the revenue for repayment and maintenance.

Funding can be used for the purchase of, and if necessary, renovation of, property within Northern Ireland, with the intention of the property being rented out, at an affordable rate, to those deemed tenancy ready (preferably at Local Housing Allowance (LHA) but not exceeding 80% of local market rate).**All applicants must provide a bespoke business case.** Applications may be made at any time.

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/loan-acquire-move-accommodation>

**FUNDING WITH DEADLINES**

**Halifax Foundation NI: COLLABORATE Programme – Pre-application online meeting**

The COLLABORATE programme is open to **2 or more charities coming together to tackle a social issue at a local level. All collaborating charities must have individual income levels of £500,000 or less.**

**Grants available of up to £20,000. This is a 12 month grant. Your charity must support people in greatest need. For example, supporting people living in poverty; those who are unemployed; those with disabilities or mental ill health, etc.**

The programme is now open for applications however, you must arrange a pre-application meeting prior to completing an application. This is a rolling programme with no deadlines.

Contact **grants@halifaxfoundationni.org** to arrange.

NICVA will deliver group and one to one training for those who wish to avail of this funding. Their next session takes place on **Thursday 20th February 2025**. To book your place, follow this link:

[**Masterclass in collaboration: Elevate your impact | NICVA**](https://url.uk.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/6Q4bCJqyBT8g9OnizVHPSyqlFo?domain=nicva.us2.list-manage.com)

**(N.B. THIS WILL BOOK OUT QUICKLY BUT YOU CAN E-MAI**L grants@halifaxfoundationni.org **to find out when the next session will be).**

For further info on this fund, see: [Collaborate - Halifax Foundation NI](https://www.halifaxfoundationni.org/collaborate/)

**Derry City and Strabane – Good Relations Full Dispersal Funding (asylum seekers)**

The Good Relations Full Dispersal Funding is administered by Derry City and Strabane District Council with funding provided by the Executive Office. The funding is intended **to help community organisations provide language support, advocacy services and initiatives to promote local integration for asylum seekers within the Council area.**

**Four grants of up to £11,000 each are available.**

Applications will be accepted from constituted community and voluntary sector organisations with a base in the Derry City and Strabane District Council area. Applicants will need to have good governance in place including insurance, financial accounts and relevant documentation.

Groups that already hold funding or who have applied for funding from the Council (eg Community Support Grant) or who currently hold a 2024/25 Good Relations grant from Derry City and Strabane District Council area are eligible to apply to this fund.

The following are **not** eligible for funding:

* Projects that do not directly benefit asylum seekers in the Derry City and Strabane District Council area.
* Projects that have already been completed.
* Alcohol.
* The costs of hire of inflatables over 25% of the approved grant.
* Catering/refreshments/hospitality over 25% of the approved grant.
* Costs that are not auditable ie cash payments.
* Repayments of debts, retrospective grants or capital build expenditure.
* Where the primary objective of a project is to raise money for charity.

**Eligible Expenditure**

The funding is for projects that will make a real difference to asylum seekers who live in the Derry City and Strabane District Council area. Eligible costs include **facilitation fees, room hire, catering, and core expenses directly related to the project, such as operating costs or salaries.**

For further information on how to obtain this fund, please contact one of the following:

1. **Amanda Biega**
Tel: 028 7125 3253 Ext: 4298
Email: amanda.biega@derrystrabane.com
2. **Martin Gallagher**
Tel: 028 7125 3253 Ext: 6984
Email: martin.gallagher@derrystrabane.com

**Deadline: 21 February 2025 (3pm)**

<https://www.dcsdcgrantaid.com/>

**Derry City & Strabane: Ending Violence Against Women & Girls Change Fund 25/26**

[Derry City and Strabane District Council](https://www.derrynow.com/section/2722/derry-city-and-strabane-district-council) has announced that its Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Change Fund 2025-26 (Tier three) is now open for applications.

The Change Fund is a fundamental part of delivering the EVAWG Strategic Framework and focuses on the following Prevention Outcomes:

* Challenging attitudes, behaviours and culture
* Education on healthy and respectful relationships and
* Ensuring Women and Girls feel safe and are safe everywhere.

It’s part of a wider £3.2m investment for Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) Local Change Fund announced by the First Minister and deputy First Minister last month in which £2m has been made available across the 11 Councils in Northern Ireland, of which **£165k has been allocated to Derry and Strabane.**

For further information on how to obtain this fund, please contact one of the following:

1. **Amanda Biega**
Tel: 028 7125 3253 Ext: 4298
Email: amanda.biega@derrystrabane.com
2. **Martin Gallagher**
Tel: 028 7125 3253 Ext: 6984
Email: martin.gallagher@derrystrabane.com

**Deadline: 21 February 2025 (3pm)**

<https://www.dcsdcgrantaid.com/>

**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 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.

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/>

**Naturewatch Foundation – Pet Rescue Grants Programme**

The Naturewatch Foundation’s Pet Rescue Grants Programme is intended **to help frontline animal welfare services provide a second chance to pets who have been exploited for profit.** This year the grant pot is nearly £13,000 and is providing the following grants:

* **A main grant of up to £10,000** for registered UK charities and Community Interest Companies (CICs) with an annual income of up to £5 million.
* **A mini-grant of up to £1,000** for unincorporated non-profits, including unregistered charities and community groups. The mini grant is new this year.

The funding supports projects that help with the rescue or rehabilitation of dogs, cats or rabbits who have been affected by the illegal pet trade. It can be used for things like:

* Veterinary care.
* Behavioural support.
* Specialist facilities or equipment.
* Training for personnel.

There is one application round each year.

**Deadline this year: 21 February 2025**

<https://naturewatch.org/>

**Meadows Award (for artists of colour at The Edinburgh Fringe Festival)**

A funding initiative is open to support underrepresented artists participating in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. The Meadows Award aims to promote diversity, equality and inclusion in the arts by providing financial and professional support. The award includes **a cash prize of £3,000, alongside an opportunity to perform during the festival. Recipients will also receive mentoring and additional support**. **The programme is open to artists or companies of colour based in the UK.** Funding can be used to assist with costs related to festival participation, including production, and promotion. The initiative seeks to enhance opportunities for those who may face barriers in the creative sector. **Deadline: 21 February 2025**

[New Meadows Award Announced by Summerhall Arts to Support all Artists of Colour at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe - Summerhall Arts](https://www.summerhallarts.co.uk/2025/01/new-meadows-award-announced-by-summerhall-arts-to-support-all-artists-of-colour-at-the-edinburgh-festival-fringe/)

**Rural Community Awards (Housing Executive)**

The Housing Executive is delighted to launch our latest Rural Community Awards competition, which recognises **the work of rural groups during 2024.**We want to continue to celebrate the **work of volunteers across NI who are quite often the ‘unsung heroes’ within our communities, going above and beyond to promote health and well-being, individual and community development, social inclusion and to help make life better for all residents.**

**The following awards are available this year:**

* Rural Community Spirit
* Community Champion
* Cleaner & Greener

**Deadline: 21 February 2025 at 4pm**

<https://www.nihe.gov.uk/community/rural-issues/rural-community-awards>

**Security Industry Authority: Grants for Good Causes**

The Security Industry Authority are the regulator of the UK’s private security industry. SIA is an executive non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Home Office. Through their grant for good causes fund, they distribute money they have received through proceeds of crime confiscation orders. They give this money **to UK registered charities and community interest companies. In 2023-2024, the grants awarded ranged from £2,000 up to £23,000**.

**Deadline: 21 February 2025 @23:59**

[SIA grant for good causes: how to apply - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/learn-about-the-sia-grant-for-good-causes#grants-we-have-awarded-in-the-past)

**Screwfix Trade Apprentice Competition 2025**

The Screwfix Trade Apprentice Competition is now accepting entries from **apprentices and full-time college students** in the UK and Ireland. The competition **seeks to recognise future tradespeople across construction, engineering, manufacturing, and related sectors.**

To be eligible, applicants must be at least 16 years old and enrolled in a relevant trade-related course at a college in England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, or the Republic of Ireland. **They must either have a part-time placement with an employer or be studying full-time for a recognised qualification. Entries are open to apprentices at any stage of their training.**

The winner will receive a £10,000 prize to support their career, while their college will receive £2,000 in Screwfix vouchers. The prize is intended for personal use to help the winner progress in their chosen trade.

**Deadline: 23 February 2025**

<https://press.screwfix.com/entries-are-now-open-for-screwfix-trade-apprentice-2025/>

**The NatureSave Trust**

Naturesave Trust is currently accepting applications to its Spring 2025 round. The Trust obtains 100% of its funding from the premiums generated by Naturesave Insurance and provides funding three times a year **to support specific UK-based environmental, conservation and community renewable energy projects**. The theme for the January - February 2025 funding window is **sustainable and active travel and offers grants between £500 and £5,000**.

Deadline: **27 February 2025** (midday)

<https://naturesave.co.uk/naturesave-trust/>

**Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JCRT) – Peace and Security Programme**

JRCT seeks **a shift in the UK defence and security paradigm away from the highly militarised and “securitised” responses towards a new approach based on participatory and accountable governance, human rights, non-violence, diplomacy and mediation, and environmental sustainability.**

**Funding is at the discretion of the Trustees** and is available for work in the following areas:

* **Challenging militarism** – work which highlights and holds the UK government to account for the human, economic, environmental and security costs of militarised response to conflict.
* **Scrutiny of counter-terrorism measures** in the context of human rights and peacebuilding
* **Building support for alternative approaches to defence and security**.
* **Responding to the harms of systemic racism related to JRCT policy areas**.

The Trust is primarily interested in supporting work focused on achieving an impact in the UK context. Work focused on European or other international institutions (such as the UN and NATO) will only be considered if it has the capacity to have a significant impact in the UK context.

**Groups who have not registered on the JRCT grants management system need to do so by 13 February 2025 in order to submit an application for the current round.**

**Deadline: 27 February 2025 (noon)**

<https://www.jrct.org.uk/peace-and-security>

**Building the Community Pharmacy Partnership (NI)**

|  |
| --- |
| Funding is available to **community organisations working in partnership with community pharmacists on projects and initiatives that address local health and social wellbeing needs across Northern Ireland.**The Building the Community-Pharmacy Partnership (BCPP) is a joint venture between the Community Development and Health Network (CDHN) and the Health and Social Care Board with strategic direction offered by a multi-agency Steering Group. The programme works towards:* Enabling project participants to reach their full potential.
* Promoting the role of community pharmacies in public health advocacy.
* Supporting community partners to address and recognise health inequalities in their community.
* Increasing social capital to build connected and engaged communities.

Both of the programme's grant streams are currently open to applications from community organisations working in partnership with community pharmacists. **Participants must be key in the planning, delivery and evaluation of initiatives**. **Deadline for Level 1 applications: 27 February 2025****Deadline for Level 2 applications: 20 March 2025**<https://www.cdhn.org/bcpp> |

**The Canoe Foundation**

The Canoe Foundation, the official charity partner of British Canoeing, is now open for applications.  The Foundation offers grants for **projects across the UK** that:

* **Increase or enhance existing public access points to water for all forms of paddlesport.**
* **Create launching and landing sites, to and alongside water, for all sectors of the community and all abilities, that are designed to be durable and use sustainable materials when applicable.**
* **Protect and enhance natural blue spaces such as rivers or coastline.**
* **Are “ready to go”.**

Funding is at the discretion of the Canoe Foundation. **In the past, grants of between £500 and £10,000 have been awarded**. The funding will support:

* Launch and landing platforms, ramps and steps
* Improvements to pathways and accessible routes to the water’s edge
* Designated or essential additional parking for water users
* Works that create more sustainable access points
* Access improvement projects that actively engage and allow water users to protect/enhance the waterway or riverbank environment.
* Signage and information that promotes positive behaviour.
* Projects that benefit more than one user group.
* Projects that benefit or provide opportunities to a wide range of paddlers rather than facilities limited to private members.

Applications will be accepted from a range of organisations, including paddle clubs, community groups, charities, parish councils, and local authorities.

**Deadline: 28 February 2025**

<https://www.canoefoundation.org.uk/apply/>

**Linking Generations NI – All Ages April Grants Scheme 2025**

All Ages April Grants Scheme 2025 funding aims **to create connections across generations and links between groups, settings and organisations that wouldn’t normally work together**. LGNI’s vision is that these connections and relationships will continue into the future. Activities can be **a one-off event, or a project delivered over a number of sessions promoting the value of incorporating Intergenerational and Age-friendly values into everyday practice**. **30 small grants of £125** are available and open to a range of groups across Northern Ireland including: older people's groups, care homes, schools, community groups, youth groups etc.

**Deadline: 28 February 2025 (midday)**

[All Ages April Grants Scheme 2025 – Apply Now! – Linking Generations NI](https://www.linkinggenerationsni.com/news/all-ages-april-grants-scheme-2025-apply-now/)

**Help Musicians – Next Level Awards**

Applications are invited from **musicians with a proven track record but limited resources to support larger and longer-term projects**. The initiative is specifically **aimed at musicians who create, perform, or release their own music and lack resources for ambitious projects such as recording albums, going on tour, or joining long-term courses.**

Successful applicants will receive the following:

* Up to £3,000 towards their own music activity.
* Six hours of one-to-one business advice from industry experts.
* Online meet-ups with other awardees and industry guests.
* Invitations to online peer drop-in spaces with other musicians (optional).
* Access to a healthy practice session delivered by BAPAM (optional).

Applications are invited from professional musicians of all genres and disciplines. To be eligible, the applicant must:

* Be aged 18 or over, living in the UK, with the right to live and work in the UK and with a UK bank account.
* Not have more than £10,000 savings or access to other capital that could fund their planned activity.
* Have a track record of making 40% of their income from music over the past two years or longer (exceptions apply for musicians with a long-term health condition and/​or disability that impacts their ability to earn).
* Have control over one or more aspects of their career, ie self-managing, self-releasing, or self-producing.

The grant element of support must be spent within 12 months.

**Deadline: 28 February 2025 (17:00)**

[Help Musicians | Next Level awards](https://www.helpmusicians.org.uk/get-support/develop-as-a-musician/next-level-awards)

**Developing Women in the Community – Phase 3 (NI)**

This Fund is being administered by the NI Executive's Department for Communities as part of the Fresh Start strategy. Funding provided through Phase 3 of the Developing Women in the Community Programme is intended **to support organisations in delivering development programmes to women of all ages, in areas of NI which have been identified as areas in need. In the Derry City and Strabane District Council area, these are: The Moor, Ballyarnett, Foyleside, Waterside, Sperrin**.

The programme provides the opportunity for participants **to partake in a volunteering role within their community and to develop and deliver a small programme**. **Provision of Family Support is a key element of the programme.** This will support women to strengthen structures within their own families by providing guidance and support. Phase Three of the Programme is intended to:

* Equip women with the confidence and skills required to take on roles within their communities.
* Give participants the opportunity to volunteer within their communities.
* Provide participants with the opportunity to design and develop a small programme using the skills and knowledge gained from the programme.
* Include an element of individual and family support, addressing any difficulties or barriers they face, which will give the women the skills and knowledge needed to increase capacity within themselves and their own families, thus provide the support and guidance to influence family members to make positive life choices.
* Be delivered within existing community infrastructures in District Electoral Areas (DEAs) which have been identified as areas in most need, where paramilitarism is prevalent.

Funding is available as follows:

* **£50,000 for year 2025/26**, which must be spent by **31 March 2026.**
* **£25,000 for year 2026/27**, which must be spent by **31 March 2027.**

Applications which include an element of match funding will **NOT** be considered. Applications which include in-kind contributions **will** be considered. Applications will be accepted from the following types of constituted organisations in NI:

* **Community/voluntary/women's groups.**
* **Registered charities.**
* **Other 'not for profit' organisations.**
* **Companies limited by guarantee.**
* **Public sector/bodies/agencies.**

The Developing Women in the Community Programme Phase Three will be delivered to participants from eligible District Electoral Areas (DEAs) which have been identified as having the most need. If the programme is oversubscribed, DfC will prioritise on the basis of need.

**Applicants must have experience of** **delivering training in their local area and be able** **to identify a minimum of 50 women who would benefit most from the development programme**.

Details of the **Developing Women in the Community Programme training modules** to be delivered can be found on the Department for Communities website.  Applicants may employ suitable facilitators to deliver training and provide family support.

The following are **not** eligible for funding:

* Costs deemed not to be directly related to the Developing Women in the Community Programme Phase Three.
* Capital works.
* Loan repayments and endowments.
* VAT that can be recovered from HM Revenue and Customs.
* Retrospective funding or costs that will be incurred after the communicated grant period.
* External project evaluation costs.
* Costs deemed to be disproportionate to the size and scale of the project.
* Goods and services which are being funded by another organisation during the timeline of the Developing Women in the Community Programme Phase Three.
* Consultancy fees, including those incurred in completing a Developing Women in the Community Programme Phase Three application.

Projects may include the following costs and activities:

* **A management fee of up to 10% of the total grant awarded.**
* **Costs associated with goods and services deemed relevant and appropriate to project delivery.**
* **Costs/expenses that remove barriers to women's participation in a project (e.g. child care, elder care, transport).**
* **Facilitation fees proportionate to the size and scale of the project.**
* **Accreditation fees.**
* **Project specific venue hire.**
* **Costs to enable participants to develop and deliver a small programme.**

**Deadline: 3 March 2025 (16:00)**

Applicants must be registered with the Government Funding Database (not applicable to public sector bodies or organisations). Guidance notes and the online application form are on the website below. For enquiries, email: FreshStart@communities-ni.gov.uk

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/developing-women-community-programme-phase-three-2025-2027>

**PRS Foundation – Hitmakers Fund (music creators)**

Funding is available for **UK-based songwriters and producers working in popular music genres to support career development and skills enhancement.** The programme is managed by PRS Foundation, an independent charitable foundation established by PRS for Music.

**Grants of between £5,000 and £10,000 are available**. The funding is intended to help experienced music creators at key stages in their careers by supporting activities such as **songwriting, production, skills training and studio hire.**

Applications are open to songwriters who create music behind the scenes and do not perform or produce, as well as producers who contribute to songwriting and are credited as writers. **Applicants must have a professional track record, with at least five credited works registered with PRS for Music. They must also submit at least two commercially exploited works for consideration**. Applications can be made directly or through representatives such as managers, publishers or legal advisors.

Eligible costs include time for music creation, training courses, creative development, studio hire and international activities that enhance an applicant's profile. Funding can also cover **up to 25% of costs for purchasing equipment, software or hardware.**

**Deadline: 3 March 2025 (18:00)**

<https://prsfoundation.com/funding-support/funding-music-creators/next-steps/the-hitmaker-fund/>

**Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JCRT) - Northern Ireland Programme**

This programme **offers grants (there is no set amount) for UK registered charities whose work to promote peace, equality, inclusion and human rights contributes to the ongoing transformation of the Northern Ireland conflict.** Funding is available for work in the following priority areas:

**Strengthening human rights and equality**- work which:

* Aims to ensure the implementation of human rights commitments by the state.
* Promotes policy initiatives and advocacy campaigns aimed at achieving equity and inclusion for marginalised or minoritised communities.
* Strengthens the anti-racist voice in systems of power and accountability in Northern Ireland.

 **Reimagining society** - work which:

* Fosters a positive, forward-thinking political landscape in Northern Ireland, emphasising participation, inclusion and sustainability.
* Promotes inclusive, evidence-based and responsible public discourse.
* Facilitates the growth of progressive social movements within Northern Ireland.

**Cultivating peace and reconciliation**- work which:

* Promotes a shared understanding of the root causes of past violence.
* Encourages groups engaged in armed struggle to take steps towards exclusively non-violent strategies and to engage in comprehensive processes of transition from paramilitarism to civilian life.
* Assists communities heavily influenced by paramilitarism in cultivating democratic, anti-sectarian, and non-violent methods for expressing and managing political differences.

Applications will be considered from organisations that are registered, excepted or exempt charities based within the UK. **While the primary focus of the programme lies within Northern Ireland, the committee will consider applications for initiatives that work on an all-island basis, or that will strengthen civil society relationships on an East-West or North-South basis (in partnership with organisations in Britain and Ireland).** Local work will be supported only where it is likely to have a wider impact, for example if it is testing a model which can then be replicated or is addressing a local issue that has wider social or political implications.

\*\***Register by 17 February 2025 on the JCRT Grants Management System if you have not already done so in order to submit an application for the current round**\*\*

**Deadline: 3 March 2025 (9am)**

<https://www.jrct.org.uk/northern-ireland>

**Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JCRT): Sustainable Future Programme**

The overall focus of this grant is on **developing and promoting sustainable, low-carbon alternatives to the current consumerist and growth-based paradigm**. The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust will support a range of actions to achieve aims that concentrate on (**there is no stated grant amount):**

* **Better economics**
* **Beyond consumerism**
* **New voices.**

Funding will be focused on:

* Groups and organisations that struggle to obtain funding elsewhere (for example, only one core funder or no core funding)
* Those that are actively building power amongst communities
* Those with a track record of community organising around climate, economics, or the environment
* Groups and organisations that effectively connect the intersecting harms of climate breakdown, racial injustice, economic inequality, and the legacies of colonialism
* Groups and organisations that consider the needs and well-being of staff, volunteers, and other participants
* Projects for which there is a demonstrable need.

**Please note that you must have registered an account with the Trust before Monday 17 February 2025 to apply in this round**

**Deadline: 3 March 2025 (12 noon)**

 <https://www.jrct.org.uk/sustainable-future>

**The Prudence Trust: Strength in Data Grants Programme (for youth mental health charities)**

**Charities and community interest companies (CICs)** working **to deliver mental health support to young people aged between 10 and 30 to deliver mental health can apply for funding to help build monitoring and evaluation (M&E) capacity.**

**Through the What's Working? Strength in Data Grants Programme**, the Prudence Trust is offering around **five to six grants of at least £10,000 to bolster organisational capacity to do quality data collection and to make use of that data to periodically review services**.

To apply, groups must:

* Have an income of at least £250,000 and two years published annual accounts
* Work exclusively with young people.
* Deliver direct mental health support.
* Already collect mental health or well-being data.

Eligible costs include:

* Upskilling of staff responsible for monitoring and evaluation.
* Salaries for dedicated data or Monitoring & Evaluation roles.
* Software or hardware needed to improve data infrastructure, such as databases.
* Costs to work with an external evaluator or academic on specific programmes.

There is no maximum award amount specified. However, it is unlikely that the Trust will award grants over £300,000.  There is a two-stage application process. Groups must first submit an Expression of Interest form before being invited to complete a full second-stage application.

**Deadline for first stage applications: 3 March 2025 @ 4pm**

[New Funding Opportunity from The Prudence Trust](https://theprudencetrust.org/what-we-fund/whats-working-2025-strength-in-data/)

**Líofa Gaeltacht Bursary Scheme (for adult & child learners of Irish)**

The Gaeltacht provides attendees with an opportunity to immerse themselves in an Irish speaking community, increase their knowledge and use of Irish through attending classes, and taking part in a wide range of cultural activities including sport and music through the medium of Irish.

The Gaeltacht Bursary Scheme **is open to students whose parents are in receipt of a means-tested benefit, or adult learners in receipt of one of the qualifying benefits.** As demand for the bursary is very high, preference is given to those adults or students who have not previously received a bursary and who meet the criteria set out in the application form.

**Deadline: 3 March 2025**

<https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/dfc/copy-of-l-ofa-gaeltacht-bursary-scheme-2025/>

**Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JCRT): Power and Accountability Programme**

This programme aims to support people **to create a world in which power is more equally shared, and in which powerful institutions are responsive and accountable to wider society and aligned with the long-term public interest.**

The priorities are:

* **Strengthening corporate accountability**
* **Strengthening democratic accountability**
* **Encouraging responsible media.**

JRCT will consider applications for national work in the UK, or elsewhere in the EU for work at a pan-European level.Organisations that are a registered, excepted or exempt charity based within the UK and all of their work fits within the published programme are encouraged to apply for unrestricted or core support, although they may apply for programme or project funding if they prefer. **There is no set grant limit.**

Applications will be accepted from a range of organisations. It is not necessary to be a registered charity to apply to the Trust, however, the Trust can only support work which is legally charitable as defined in UK law. **Organisations should be undertaking work at a national level.** This means work that seeks to make positive change across the UK as a whole **or across one or more of its member countries - England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.**

**Groups who have not registered on the JRCT grants management system need to do so by 18 February 2025 in order to submit an application for the current round.**

**Deadline: 4 March 2025 (10am)**

<https://www.jrct.org.uk/power-and-accountability>

**Nature Recovery Challenge Fund**

Funding is available to **constituted not-for-profit organisations and local authorities** in Northern Ireland through the newly launched Nature Recovery Challenge Fund Competition, established by the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

This competition, part of DAERA’s wider Environment Fund, aims to support nature restoration initiatives that contribute to **nature recovery networks, species recovery, and the 30x30 goal of protecting 30% of land and sea for nature by 2030.**

The **minimum grant is £50,000 and will cover up to 80% of eligible project costs. While there is no upper limit on project costs, applications will be evaluated based on Value for Money due to high demand.** Funding is available from 2025/26 to 2027/28, and all funds must be spent by 31 March 2028.

The competition fund is **primarily capital funding**, with a particular focus on initiatives that will:

* Increase the area of wildlife habitat.
* Protect and improve the management of habitats.
* Create ‘nature networks’ which will enhance habitat connectivity.
* Support higher species populations or greater species diversity.

Projects which support the conservation of Lough Neagh are particularly encouraged.

**Deadline: 7 March 2025 (noon)**

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/nature-recovery-challenge-fund-competition-2025-26-2027-28-standard-terms-and-conditions>

**Shaping the Future: A Fund to Support Leadership in the Migration Sector**

Grants are available for **grassroots organisations and individuals with lived experience of migration to bolster leadership in the migration sector with a focus on lived experience leadership, wellbeing, and systems change within the UK.**

Three funding pots are available:

* **Individuals: Grants of up to £10,000 to support personal leadership development.**
* **Organisations: Grants of £10,000 and £60,000 to strengthen leadership within organisations.**
* **Collaborative partnerships: Grants of £60,000 and £100,000 to support collaborative initiatives that foster leadership across networks.**

**Applicants can apply for funding for up to two years.**

The funding is focused on projects aiming to:

* Develop the capacity and capability of leaders in the migration sector; supporting leaders to develop their knowledge and skill set to become better leaders.
* Support the wellbeing of leaders in the migration sector.
* Advocate for systemic change in the migration sector and centre sustainability.

The funding can be used for a number of different things including but not limited to:

* Pathways for entry and career development in migration organisations.
* Skill, knowledge, resources and access building for individuals working in the sector.
* Curated spaces for collective healing, rest and joy building.
* Strategic partnerships.
* Communications and storytelling work.
* Opportunities for co-creation and participatory approaches to work.
* Wellbeing support for those working in the sector.

Through this initiative, organisations and individuals can design and tailor their own leadership programmes or approaches to meet the specific needs of their teams and communities.

An information webinar will be held via Zoom on:

* **24 February 2025 (13:00)** [Registration required](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_6-C-LEZ2Rq-0u-4OyHduOg#/registration)

**Deadline: 12 March 2025 (17:00)**

<https://global-dialogue.org/shaping-the-future-a-fund-to-support-leadership-in-the-migration-sector/>

**Jeans for Genes Grant Programme – Core Grants**

Grants are available to small frontline, **genetic condition charities to help with their organisation's core costs** to enable them to be in a stronger, more resilient position to continue to provide vital support to their communities, in the long term. In 2022, Jeans for Genes launched a new funding strategy which focused their grantmaking on trying to achieve the following impact goals:

* Organisations serving the genetic condition community become stronger, more resilient and sustainable improving their ability to meet need and provide appropriate support in the long term.
* Every individual in the UK living with a genetic condition and their family is able to access the appropriate support at the time they need it so that they feel supported, valued and included.

The funding aims to support frontline genetic condition specific charities in the UK to:

* Be empowered, strong and sustainable.
* Be flexible and responsive to changing circumstances.
* Invest in organisational development, systems and processes.
* Strengthen their governance.
* Effectively demonstrate the impact that they make.
* Collaborate, share expertise and resources.

**Single year grants of up to £5,000 are available. Grants are for one year funding with funds being spent in that year**. Organisations registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland can apply. The following are not eligible for funding: Individuals, Laboratory-based research, Autism, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Diabetes, Cancer (except for those types of cancer that are caused by a genetic disorder).

The funding will contribute towards the organisation's running costs. These could include, for example, support costs, management costs, communications, income generation, administration costs, governance activities, general overheads or other spending that is not project specific.

**Deadline: 14 March 2025**

For further information, e-mail: grants@jeansforgenes.org

<https://www.jeansforgenes.org/jeans-for-genes-grant-programme/apply-for-a-grant/jeans-for-genes-grant-programme>

**Jeans for Genes Grant Programme - Project Grants**

The Fund's objective is that **every individual in the UK living with a genetic condition and their family is able to access the appropriate support at the time they need it so that they feel supported, valued and included.**

The funding is intended to support projects that:

* Create added support networks or develop existing ones.
* Inform and empower individuals living with a genetic condition and their families and carers.
* Address a key transition point (eg point of diagnosis or transition to adult services or bereavement).
* Improve the physical, mental or emotional wellbeing of affected individuals, families and carers.
* Enable knowledge, awareness, skills or attitudes to be acquired that are then applied so that those with a genetic condition and their families are supported, valued and included.
* Engage with diverse and marginalised communities who are also living with a genetic condition to identify and challenge policies, practices and perceptions that contribute to health inequalities.

Grants of up to £20,000 are available. Grants are for one year funding with funds being spent in that year. The project funding is restricted to the delivery of a defined set of activities and the costs involved in delivering those activities including staff costs and a percentage of overheads (up to 15%). Organisations registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland can apply.

To be eligible, applicants must:

* Be based and deliver their work in the UK.
* Be a genetic condition specific charity.
* Have an annual income of less than £1 million (as reported in their most recent set of accounts filed with The Charity Commission).
* Have appropriate safeguarding policies in place.

The following are **not** eligible for funding: Individuals, Hospices and special needs schools if they support a range of beneficiaries that include those with genetic conditioning among them, Laboratory-based research, Autism, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Diabetes, Cancer (except for those types of cancer that are caused by a genetic disorder).

For further info, e-mail: grants@jeansforgenes.org

**Deadline: 14 March 2025 (23:59)**

<https://www.jeansforgenes.org/jeans-for-genes-grant-programme/apply-for-a-grant/jeans-for-genes-grant-programme>

**Female Filmmakers in Tech and Art GAP Fund**

Women filmmakers working on **feature-length documentaries that explore the intersection of art and technology** can apply for financial support through the Female Filmmakers in Tech and Art GAP Fund. The fund is a collaboration between Female Film Club, UNLEYEK and 19.Studio, aiming **to support the completion of documentaries in the production or post-production phase**. **Funding awards of up to £8,000** are available to assist with key aspects of the filmmaking process, such as editing, sound design and visual effects.

**Applications are open to women filmmakers and non-binary individuals who identify with the female experience**. The fund is intended to advance the representation of women in the creative industries and promote stories that highlight the relationship between art and technology. Projects must be at the production or post-production stage and require financial support to be completed.

**Deadline: 18 March 2025**

<https://www.unleyek.com/filmfundsforfemalefilmmakers>

**Department of Foreign Affair (ROI) – Reconciliation Fund – Annual Funding Round**

The Reconciliation Fund’s Annual Funding Round (for 12-month funding) is now open for applications.  The link to the online application portal is now live at  [Home  · DFAT Grant Application Portal](https://url.uk.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/38ZNCXoLWCnmOlAi6fJTWad5Q?domain=funding.dfa.ie/)

We will accept applications through our online application portal until the **final** **closing date of Wednesday 19th March 2025 at 12.00 midnight.**   **No late applications will be accepted.**

Due to the high volume of traffic on the online application portal, **it may take some time to receive the email to register as a new user, or to reset your password**, so please allow for this when planning the submission of your application.

A user guide to assist with our online application system is available [**here**](https://url.uk.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/qj-xCYvW8i35AKYiGhLTxKIVb?domain=gov.ie), which you may find useful.  **Please read this before beginning the application process**. This guide includes details of the questions which applicants are required to complete during the registration and application stages of the process.  **Please ensure that the “My Organisation Details” for your organisation is completed through the “Manage Contacts & Organisation Tab” prior to clicking “begin a new application”. Applications that do not have this section completed will not be appraised.**

If you are applying from a 3rd level Institution (university etc.) please contact the Reconciliation Fund Team **prior** to registering on the portal for instructions on how to register.

If you have any questions arising from this email for which you cannot find answers in our webpage information, please feel free to contact us at reconciliation@dfa.ie.

**Deadline: 19 March 2025 at 12 midnight**

[www.dfa.ie/reconciliation](http://www.dfa.ie/reconciliation)

**Imperial Community Impact Fund**

With an annual fund of £10,000, this grant scheme offers up **between £500 to £1,000 per project** **to encourage and empower local organisations working in the fields of environment, sustainability, creativity, and addressing local problems.**

They invite **community groups and charitable organisations** to apply for funding to bring their impactful projects to life. Their goal is to support initiatives that drive meaningful change, whether it's through environmental conservation, creative community engagement, or solving pressing local issues.

**Deadline: 20 March 2025 at 5pm**

[Learn More About The Imperial Community Impact Fund](https://www.imperialpolythene.com/community-impact-fund)

**Probation Board NI – Community and Voluntary Sector Funding**

The funding is **intended to secure placements for individuals subject to Community Service/Supervised Activity Orders imposed by the Courts**, wherein they complete unpaid work within local organisations, as part of PBNI's commitment to community-based restorative practice. **PBNI will fund each placement to the value of £250.**The programme is open to Northern Ireland-based voluntary and community groups.

<https://www.pbni.org.uk/community-and-voluntary-sector-funding>

**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/>

**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.

The James Kane Foundation recognise the time and amount of work that is involved in planning a project and applying for funding. The Expression of Interest acts as a filter regarding any projects which are unlikely to receive funding and saves the time involved on working on a full application.

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)

**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/>

**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 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/>

**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)

**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/>

**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 18/02/2025***