

RURAL FUNDING DIGEST

April 2019

*A monthly bulletin facilitated by your membership of the **Rural Services Network** highlighting a selection of current funding opportunities*

Village Hall Grant Scheme – Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE)

A new £3 million fund for village halls in England will be launched on 5 April by ACRE. The fund aims to prioritise older buildings, helping with updating or adaptations. Information on eligibility and criteria will be available after the launch. You can access more information via the [ACRE website](#).

Smart Energy GB in Communities Fund – National Energy Action

Grants of up to £25,000 are available for organisations that can deliver support to people in the target group: people over the age of 65.

They are seeking applications from large, regionally based organisations, ideally with local networks and with substantial face to face reach, that can deliver support to people over the age of 65. Housing associations and local authorities are eligible to apply too. They are looking for applicants that have a trusted voice in their community and can provide support to people aged 65+ to help them address their concerns and increase the number of people over 65 getting a smart meter.

The deadline for applications is 9 April 2019.

<https://www.nea.org.uk/smartenergygb/grants/>

Community Business Fund – Power to Change

This programme is for existing community business based in England. The fund is designed to support existing community businesses with grants to help them progress towards self-sufficiency. This could be through increasing trading income, securing an asset or significantly reducing revenue costs

Grants of £50,000 – £300,000 are available to cover:

- Capital costs including building, vehicles, equipment of significant value, refurbishment costs.
- Project-specific revenue costs like staff costs, professional fees, volunteer costs

The fund opens for applications on 24 April and closes 22 May 2019.

<https://www.powertochange.org.uk/get-support/programmes/community-business-fund/>

Open Grants Programme – The Clothworkers' Foundation

The Clothworkers' Foundation award grants to UK registered charities, CICs, and other registered UK not-for-profit organisations (including special schools). Grants are awarded towards capital projects which are defined as:

- Buildings (purchase, construction, renovation or refurbishment)
- Fittings, fixtures, and equipment
- Vehicles

Applications must fit within one of the main programme areas: alcohol & substance misuse; disadvantaged minority communities; disadvantaged young people; domestic & sexual abuse; homelessness; older people; people with disabilities; prisoners & ex-offenders; visual impairment.

<https://www.clothworkersfoundation.org.uk/what-we-fund/>

Pebble Grants – The Rank Foundation

This is a funding stream for UK registered charities and recognised churches which are raising money for projects where the total cost is less than £1million. If you are raising money for a particular project for which the mainstay is capital costs (building work, refurbishment or the purchase of long-term equipment) or a one-off short-term activity (such as an annual respite break or holiday for disadvantaged young people) and have already raised a third of the total costs, you may be eligible for this.

The Rank Foundation are currently accepting applications for the May 2019 trustees' meeting.

<https://rankfoundation.com/pebble-grants/>

Funding for Community-led Homes

Together with the Confederation of Co-operative Housing, Locality and UK Cohousing, the National Community Land Trust Network have created 'Community Led Homes' to support their mission of making community led housing a mainstream housing option.

Community Led Homes will provide training, funding and practical support to community led housing groups, councils and developers. This includes a summary of various forms of funding available which you can view on their website:

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

Three new grants have been announced as follows:

1. Community-led Homes Start-up Support Programme: up to £10,000 revenue funding is available for early stage voluntary and community organisations exploring community-led housing. All funding must be committed by March 2020.
2. Community-led homes – becoming a Registered Provider / Investment Partner: aims to help community-led organisations progressing community-led projects to gain the support and funding they require to become a Registered Provider (RP) with the Regulator of Social Housing and/or an Investment Partner (IP) with Homes England. Up to £10,000 is available with applications accepted until mid-February 2020 or until all funding is committed, whichever is the sooner.
3. Homes in Community Hands Programme: operated by Power to Change, this programme will award grants averaging £50,000 to community led housing projects that will create schemes that deliver a majority of permanently affordable homes for rent or sale to locally connected people. These can be either as new build housing or by refurbishing empty properties. Funds will be largely focussed in Leeds City Region, Liverpool City Region, Tees Valley City Region, the West of England and the West Midlands. Funds will also be available to genuinely innovative community led housing projects anywhere in England. Funding must be committed by December 2021.

Stronger Towns Fund – Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

The Communities Secretary announced on 4 March 2019 a new £1.6 billion Stronger Towns Fund for England.

£1 billion of the new fund will be allocated using a needs-based formula, with the remaining £600 million being available through a competitive process.

The formula is based on a combination of productivity, income, skills, deprivation metrics and proportion of the population living in towns. This targets funding at those places with economies that are performing relatively less well to the England average, whose residents are living on lower incomes, and where larger proportions of the population have low skill attainment.

A full list of these notional regional allocations of the £1 billion can be found on the website.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/stronger-towns-fund>

Marsh Christian Trust

The Trust focuses on providing funding which could help small organisations pay for various running costs, such as volunteer expenses, training days, equipment maintenance and other core outgoings.

The Trust's funding strategy is to provide long-term core funding for such costs, as they understand that many of the organisations they support depend on unrestricted income in order to meet their operating needs.

Grants are unrestricted and range from £250-£4,000, with new applications at the lower end of this scale.

Applications are considered on the basis of the organisation's financial position, performance against charitable aims and objectives and the ratio of voluntary income against fundraising expenses

The Trust aims to build long-standing relationships with successful applicants and, subject to an annual review, continue its support over time.

<https://www.marshchristiantrust.org/grants/>

Heritage Impact Fund – Architectural Heritage Fund

The HIF offers tailored finance for charities, social enterprises and community businesses across the UK to develop sustainable heritage at the very heart of vibrant local economies.

Loans from £25,000 to £500,000 are available for up to three years with tailored terms and both flexible and incentivised interest rates for impactful projects. These could include both capital and interest repayment holidays.

HIF supports applicants across the UK who are undertaking a capital project or are looking to build upon or scale-up an existing enterprise.

The HIF is a joint initiative with contributions from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Historic England, Historic Environment Scotland, Cadw and the Architectural Heritage Fund.

<http://ahfund.org.uk/hif>

Bright Ideas Fund – Power to Change

The Bright Ideas Fund supports new community business ideas through the start-up and planning stages with tailored business support, to the implementation stage with grants of up to £15,000.

The Bright Ideas Fund is funded by Power to Change, the independent trust supporting community businesses in England, and delivered by Locality in partnership with Co-operatives UK, the Plunkett Foundation and Groundwork UK.

The Bright Ideas Fund will close on Tuesday 9 April 2019. The next round will take place in August / September 2019.

<https://mycommunity.org.uk/funding-options/bright-ideas-fund/>

National Lottery Grants for Heritage – Heritage Lottery Fund

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) funds projects which focus on heritage. HLF state that heritage can mean different things to different people. It can be anything from the past that you value and want to pass on to future generations. As a guide, this could include:

- oral history
- cultural traditions

- nature
- natural and designed landscapes
- community archaeology
- historic buildings, monuments and environments
- collections of objects, books or documents in museums, libraries or archives
- histories of people and communities or places and events
- the heritage of languages and dialects
- places and objects linked to our industrial, maritime and transport history

Different grant bands have different criteria:

- National Lottery Grants for Heritage: £3000 to £10,000 for projects up to one year in duration
- National Lottery Grants for Heritage: £10,000 to £250,000
- National Lottery Grants for Heritage: £250,000 to £5 million

There are no application deadlines for applications up to £100,000. Quarterly deadlines apply for applications over £100,000.

The amounts available depend on the type of organisation applying as follows:

- Non-profits and partnerships led by non-profit organisations: £3,000 to £5million
- Private owners of heritage: up to £100,000
- Partnerships led by commercial organisations (for the purposes of achieving economic growth): £250,000 - £5m

A new funding portfolio was launched in January 2019. For information on all HLF programmes visit the website.

<http://www.hlf.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>

Better Broadband Voucher Scheme – Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

The Government has made a commitment to provide every home and business in the UK with access to a basic broadband service so that browsing the web and keeping in touch with families and friends is easier.

The Better Broadband Scheme has been extended for a further year until 31st December 2019, ensuring that a subsidised basic broadband installation remains available to eligible applicants.

If you currently experience broadband speeds of less than 2 Megabits per second (Mbps), the Better Broadband Voucher Scheme may be able to help you access a basic broadband service that will offer download speeds of at least 10 Mbps.

The Better Broadband Voucher Scheme, developed by the UK government, provides a voucher worth up to £350 for basic broadband installation to homes and businesses that will not benefit from superfast broadband.

<https://basicbroadband.culture.gov.uk/>

Veterans' Community Centres – Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust

This is a £3 million funding programme to fund renovations and improvements to veterans' community centres.

Grants of up to £30,000 are available. A small number of grants of up to £150,000 will be made to more complex projects.

The Veterans' Community Centres Programme is a specialist pot of funding. Applicants must be Armed Forces charities with an existing building that requires refurbishment.

Most grants will be for £30,000 or less. There will be three rounds of funding. Grants of up to £150,000 will only be made in the final application round. Applicants seeking

between £30,000 and £150,000 must have a mandatory conversation with the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust before submitting an application.

Applications for the first round need to be received by 11 March 2019.

<http://www.covenantfund.org.uk/veterans-community-centres/>

Rural Community Energy Fund

The Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF) supports rural communities in England to develop renewable energy projects which provide economic and social benefits to the community. The fund will provide up to approximately £150,000 of funding for feasibility and pre-planning development work to help projects become investment ready. RCEF provides support in two stages:

- Stage 1 provides a grant of up to approximately £20,000 to pay for an initial investigation into the feasibility of a renewable energy project.
- Stage 2 provides an unsecured loan of up to approximately £130,000 to support planning applications and develop a robust business case to attract further investment.

Following a review, responsibility for delivery of the Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF) is to transfer to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. Government has thanked WRAP for the work done over the past five years in successfully delivering the fund.

For enquiries regarding future funding opportunities through RCEF please contact the Local Energy Team at BEIS localenergy@beis.gov.uk

<http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/rural-community-energy-fund>

NFU Mutual Charitable Trust

The NFU Mutual Charitable Trust was set up in 1998, to promote and support charities in the United Kingdom working in agriculture, rural development and insurance.

The Trust focuses on providing funding to larger initiatives, which would have a significant impact on the rural community. The Trustees are particularly interested in initiatives in the areas of education of young people in rural areas and relief of poverty within rural areas. Grants are available between £1000 and £50,000.

The Trustees meet twice a year to consider applications received. These meetings are currently held in June and November. Applications for the June meeting must be submitted by 31st May 2019 and for the November meeting they must be submitted by 1st November 2019.

<https://www.nfumutual.co.uk/about-us/charitable-trust/>

Local Grants Fund – Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust

Under the Armed Forces Covenant Local Grants programme, grants of up to £20,000 are available for local projects that support community integration or local delivery of services.

Community Integration projects should create strong local links between the Armed Forces community, who are current and former members of their armed forces and their families) and civilian communities; and be able to clearly demonstrate how they will have impact in overcoming barriers to better integration; and improving perceptions, attitudes and understanding. For the project to be truly effective in achieving community integration there should be shared development, delivery and benefits for both communities.

Delivery of Local Services projects should be local projects which offer financial advice, housing, mental and physical health, employability or social support for serving armed forces personnel, veterans, and their families. Projects must be well connected, both to their beneficiaries and to other relevant organisations, and be

able to demonstrate how the services they provide will be well-publicised, accessible and joined up.

Applications can be made up to 2 December 2019, although this will be reviewed quarterly.

<http://www.covenantfund.org.uk/local-grants-and-digital-development-programme/>

Coalfields Community Investment Programme – Coalfields Regeneration Trust

The Coalfields Community Investment Programme (England) Funding Support element is a £500,000 fund created to support activities that tackle some of the key challenges that still remain in coalfield communities.

The fund is open to projects that deliver in the top 30% most deprived coalfield communities and that will make a positive difference in addressing the following themes:

- Skills: Growing the skills of people in order to increase their opportunities
- Employment: Developing pathways to increase the number of people in work
- Health: Supporting projects that increase participation in activities/services that improve the health and wellbeing of people in former coalfield communities.

The total fund value of £500,000 will be committed over the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 at four decision making Committees which will take place quarterly (£125,000 allocated to each Committee).

Demand is envisaged to be highly competitive and based on the 2017/18 programme, the number of successful awards was 22% of all applications received.

The next eligibility survey closes on 7 June and the deadline for applications is 14 June 2019.

<https://www.coalfields-regen.org.uk/funding>

Improving community spaces loans – Co-op Foundation

Interest free loans are available for enterprising ideas to improve community spaces. Places and spaces for people to come together and enjoy shared interests are vitally important for building stronger communities. Venues such as parks and community centres need regular income so they can continue to meet the needs of people who use them, love them, and rely on them for local services and social contact.

If your community organisation is thinking about growing its trading activities to generate more sustainable income, the Co-op Foundation might be able to help your plans take off. They offer:

- Interest-free loans of up to £50,000 towards viable business ideas that will benefit the whole community – particularly those facing greater challenges.
- No repayments for the first year, while your trading activities are developing
- If you are based in a more deprived area, or your work mainly benefits more disadvantaged members of the community, we might also be able to offer some grant funding alongside a loan

<https://blog.coopfoundation.org.uk/index.php/2018/05/17/community-is-everybodys-business/>

First Steps Enterprise Fund – Asda Foundation

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

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

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

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

<https://www.sibgroup.org.uk/firststeps>

Rural Community Fund – Calor

Calor offer rural off grid communities the chance to gain funding for projects that will improve local life. Projects supported could be anything from redecorating your community centre or village hall; to new equipment for youth clubs, sports teams or scout groups. Calor additionally state that “we’re open to your ideas.”

They offer grants of up to £5,000 for projects that will provide an on-going service for local communities. Whether you want to support a youth club or start a class for older members of your community, the fund is there to help.

Rural communities with projects off the mains gas grid can submit their projects for funding. The projects that receive the most votes will be shortlisted and then reviewed by a panel of judges, who will select the winning projects for funding.

The fund opened for project submissions on 20 March and will close on 29 April 2019.

<https://www.calor.co.uk/communityfund/>

Cornerstone, Gateway & Foundation Grants – National Churches Trust

The National Churches Trust has three grant programmes currently open:

- Cornerstone grants. The Cornerstone Grant Programme offers grants of between £10,000 and £50,000 towards the cost of urgent structural repair projects costed at more than £100,000 including VAT. The Trust will also consider projects that introduce kitchens and accessible toilets to enable increased community use, costed at more than £30,000 including VAT. Grants will never exceed 50% of the project cost. The next deadline for applications is 1 July 2019.
- Gateway grants. The Gateway Grant Programme offers grants of between £3,000 and £10,000 towards project development and investigative work up to RIBA planning stage 1, to support churches preparing for a major project, and in developing their project to the point at which they can approach a major grant funder. Grants will never exceed 50% of the project costs for this phase. The next deadline for applications is 9 May 2019.
- Foundation grants. The Foundation Grant Programme will offer grants of between £500 and £3,000 towards urgent maintenance works and small repairs identified as high priority within a recent Quinquennial Inspection or Survey Report. Also, small investigative works and surveys. Project costs should not exceed £10,000. The next deadline for applications is 12 May 2019.

<http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/our-grants>

Energy Redress Scheme – Energy Saving Trust

Energy Saving Trust has been appointed by Ofgem to distribute payments from energy companies who may have breached rules. The funds can pay for anything from making a home more energy efficient, to providing advice that helps consumers keep on top of their bills.

Energy Saving Trust has developed an open application process for charities seeking funding from the Energy Redress Scheme. Successful projects will be selected with

input from an independent panel of experts and could cover a range of locations across England, Scotland and Wales.

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

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

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

<https://energyredress.org.uk/apply-funding>

More than a Pub – Plunkett Foundation

The Community Pub Business Support Programme is a unique three year programme established to help support community ownership of pubs in England. Its value is £3.85 million and is jointly funded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Power to Change. Plunkett Foundation is leading this exciting programme and delivering it in collaboration with Co-operative & Community Finance, Keyfund, the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA), Co-operative Mutual Solutions, Pub is the Hub and Locality. For the first time it offers the community pub sector access to an end-to-end support programme including capacity building and a finance package made up of loans and grants.

<https://www.plunkett.co.uk/more-than-a-pub>

Nationwide Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme – Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

The Nationwide Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme (GBVS), announced on 15 March 2018, will provide vouchers worth up to £2500 for a small or medium sized business or £500 to residents to help with the costs of connecting to full fibre broadband.

The scheme is part of a wider government plan to get more homes and businesses connected to full fibre broadband. It builds on the £200 million Local Full Fibre Networks programme which gives funding to local areas to boost full fibre delivery and on trial voucher schemes operated in four parts of the country.

In November 2018 the maximum amount claimed for a business voucher was reduced from £3,000 to £2,500 to make sure that the scheme reaches even more people with full fibre connectivity.

<https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/>

Main Grants Programme – BBC Children in Need

The Main Grants programme is open to charities and not-for-profit organisations applying for grants over £10,000 per year for up to three years.

The programme looks to support projects which seek to address disadvantage experienced by children and young people of 18 years and under through:

- Illness, distress, abuse or neglect
- Any kind of disability
- Behavioural or psychological difficulties
- Living in poverty or situations of deprivation

Projects are funded which make differences in children's lives that help prevent or overcome the effects of the disadvantages they face. Projects can achieve these differences by either working directly with children or seeking to improve their social and physical environments.

The next deadline for applications is 28 May 2019.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/60DXlxYvbbtcTDm79Mjryj/main-grants-should-i-apply>

Community Housing Fund – Homes England

The government is making available £163 million across England up to 2020 to 2021 through the Community Housing Fund. The Fund aims to support an increase in housing supply in England by increasing the number of additional homes delivered by the community-led housing sector; to provide housing that is affordable at local income levels and remains so in perpetuity; and to deliver a lasting legacy for the community-led housing sector in the form of an effective and financially self-sustaining body of expertise within the house building industry in England.

Under Phase One of the Fund, Homes England is making available grants to eligible organisations to support:

- applications for revenue funding for capacity building and predevelopment costs, including revenue grants to local authorities to support community groups
- capital bids for associated infrastructure costs which will support community housing development

Under Phase Two of the Fund Homes England is making available grants to eligible organisations to help cover the capital costs of acquiring land and building community-led housing schemes.

Both phases are now open.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/community-housing-fund>

Cultural Impact Development Fund

This £3.7 million fund provides small-scale repayable finance to socially-driven arts and cultural organisations. The Fund is supported by Access – The Foundation for Social Investment through the Growth Fund programme, with finance being provided by its partners Big Lottery Fund and Big Society Capital.

The aims of the fund are to:

- Enable risk-taking, ambitious organisations in the arts and cultural sector to take on small-scale repayable finance in order to achieve social outcomes;
- Increase the capability of arts and cultural organisations to articulate, achieve, monitor and evaluate their intended social impact.

The Fund offers unsecured loans (and revenue participation agreements, where appropriate) between £25,000 and £150,000 with repayment terms of one to five years and interest rates ranging between 5.5% and 8.5%.

The investment window is open until August 2021.

<https://www.artsculturefinance.org/our-funds/cultural-impact-development-fund/>

Emergency Essentials Programme – BBC Children in Need

Family Fund Business Services are working in collaboration with BBC Children in Need to deliver the Emergency Essentials programme supporting children and young people living with severe poverty as well as additional pressures such as domestic violence, disability or poor health in the family.

The programme can deliver or fund critical items such as:

- Gas or electric cookers
- Essential household items
- Furniture and kitchen equipment
- Children's beds and bedding
- Washing machines
- Fridges and freezers
- Baby equipment
- Clothing in exceptional or emergency situations.

Applications must be completed by a registered referrer who is part of an organisation that is supporting the family or young person and capable of assessing their needs.

<https://www.familyfundserves.co.uk/emergency-essentials/>

Community Asset Fund – Sport England

Whether it's the park you run through, the hall you do classes in or the pitch you play on, welcoming and accessible spaces have a big impact on a person's experience – and likelihood of coming back.

As part of this, Sport England have produced a guide and accompanying document to explain more about the new Community Asset Fund, how and why they're doing things differently, when they will make decisions plus tips and advice for developing your project or idea.

Sports clubs and community organisations can now apply for investment from the Community Asset Fund – Sport England's new capital fund dedicated to enhancing the spaces in local communities that give people the opportunity to be active.

This fund will have a value of £15 million per annum with the anticipated size of bids between £1000 and £150,000. There is no deadline to apply.

<https://www.sportengland.org/funding/community-asset-fund/>

Reaching Communities England – National Lottery Community Fund

The Reaching Communities programme aims to make positive change in communities. Big Lottery particularly want to hear about ideas that support:

- Lasting and sustainable changes to places and spaces
- Communities to develop happier and stronger relationships with each other
- Taking action to focus on the root causes of social problems to tackle them at the earliest possible stage

Through Reaching Communities funding you can apply for between £10,000 and £500,000. Successful grant can fund some or all of the costs associated with delivering a project, including staff salaries, training, volunteer expenses, management costs, equipment, premises costs, monitoring and evaluation and overheads. The programme can also fund up to £100,000 for small scale capital work, such as refurbishment, the purchase of vehicles, land or buildings.

Big Lottery encourage applicants to contact them before applying for additional advice and support before you submit your application.

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/reaching-communities-england>

Awards for All England – National Lottery Community Fund

National Lottery Awards for All offers funding from £300 to £10,000 to support what matters to people and communities. You can apply if your organisation is a:

- voluntary or community organisation
- registered charity
- constituted group or club
- not-for-profit company or community interest company
- social enterprise
- school
- statutory body (including town, parish and community council).

National Lottery Awards for All has three funding priorities. Applications must meet at least one of them. The priorities are:

- bringing people together and building strong relationships in and across communities

- improving the places and spaces that matter to communities
- enabling more people to fulfil their potential by working to address issues at the earliest possible stage.

This is an open programme. Applications can be made at any time.

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all-england>

Partnerships – National Lottery Community Fund

Through partnerships funding, Big Lottery aim to make grants available over £10,000 for organisations who share responsibility and influence with others, who have a shared set of goals and values, and achieve their mission by starting with the bigger picture rather than just what their organisation can do on its own.

Grants are awarded for up to five years and we can fund project activities, operating costs, organisational development and capital costs. The three funding priorities are:

- bring people together and build strong relationships in and across communities
- improve the places and spaces that matter to communities
- enable more people to fulfil their potential by working to address issues at the earliest possible stage.

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/partnerships-england>

Community Centres & Village Halls grants – Trusthouse Charitable Foundation

Trusthouse is interested in applications for capital projects at community centres in the most deprived urban areas and village halls in remote and economically deprived rural areas.

The Foundation wants to support community centres and village halls which are at the heart of small, deprived communities. They expect that you will be providing a range of activities for all ages and abilities which help to promote community cohesion and address local problems of isolation, poverty, lack of local facilities, transport and other issues of relevance to your area.

They interpret ‘community centres’ in the broad sense, so you might be a church, sports facility or other building which offers a range of activities throughout the week which all the community can access.

The Foundation will consider applications for new buildings; upgrading, renovating or extending buildings; improving or creating outside space (but not car parks). You will need to have secured a minimum of 50% of the costs of the project before you start an application.

<http://trusthousecharitablefoundation.org.uk/grants/community-centres-and-village-halls/>

HS2 Community & Environment Fund & HS2 Business & Local Economy Fund – Groundwork UK

Two funds are available to local communities to help with the disruption that will be caused by the construction of Phase one of HS2 between London and the West Midlands; the Community and Environment Fund and the Business and Local Economy Fund. The objective of these funds is to add benefit, over and above committed mitigation and statutory compensation, to communities and local economies along the route.

The administration of these funds is managed on behalf of HS2 Ltd by the charity Groundwork who will ensure both funds remain available for applications throughout the construction of Phase One.

<https://www.groundwork.org.uk/Sites/hs2funds>

Community Shares Booster Programme – Power to Change

The Community Shares Booster Programme is a funding scheme to support community share offers. It will invest equity up to £100,000 to match community shares in societies that can demonstrate higher than average levels of community impact, innovation and engagement. The programme will also provide development grants of up to £10,000 to help societies get investment ready and meet standards of good practice. Match funding will be in the form of equity held on equal terms with other community shareholders.

Power to Change has provided £3m funding for the Booster Programme over a five-year period from 2017-22. The programme is expected to match fund around 60 share offers in the first three years of the programme (to 2020) and then provide active investor support to societies on a continuing basis. The programme is run by the Community Shares Unit, a joint initiative between Co-operatives UK and Locality. The Community Shares Unit was established in 2012, since when there have been over 350 community share offers in the UK, raising more than £120m in share capital from over 100,000 people. Community shares are defined as non-transferable, withdrawable shares in an asset locked society that has at least 20 member-shareholders and £10,000 in share capital.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

<https://www.communitysharesbooster.org.uk/how-it-works>

BlueSpark Foundation grants

Schools, colleges and community groups in England can apply for grants to Blue Spark Foundation for a wide range of projects. The Foundation value academic, vocational, artistic and sporting endeavour in equal measure but are particularly keen to support projects which will help enhance the self-confidence, team working skills and future employability of children and young people.

Many grants will be under £2,000, most will be under £5,000 and only in a few cases will grants exceed £10,000.

Projects which could be supported include drama, music, sport, art and design, debating, public speaking, academic education, vocational training, community projects, enterprise projects and educational excursions. This list is illustrative and not exclusive as to the types of project that the Foundation support.

<http://bluesparkfoundation.org.uk/>

Website Grants – Transform Foundation

Transform Foundation provide funding of up to £18,000 to cover the strategy, design, build, content strategy, training, QA and launch of a new mobile optimised website, with sophisticated marketing, fundraising, appeals, social media, e-commerce and website management tools. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

The grant covers 100% of the website design and build costs with the Foundation's current grant partner. Applicant organisations will need to cover ongoing costs for a minimum of a 12 month commitment

They are specifically targeting small and midsize charities – generally with an income between £350k and £30M a year.

<https://www.transformfoundation.org.uk/website-grants>

Project Viability Grant and Project Development Grant – Architectural Heritage Fund

The Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) which supports the conservation and re-generation of historic buildings, has two further grants available:

- Project Viability Grants – grants up to £7,500 are available to fund studies to look at potential uses for a building and at its current condition, and produce a Viability Report to a standard template.

- Project Development Grants – grants up to £30,000 are available to assist an organisation to cover some of the costs of developing and co-ordinating a project and taking it towards the start of work on site.

The deadline for applications for both Project Viability Grants and Project Development Grants of up to £7,500 is the last day of each calendar month. Project Development Grant applications for more than £7,500 go to Trustee Grants Panel meetings for decision. The deadline for the next meeting is 23 April 2019.

<http://ahfund.org.uk/grant/>

Family Fund – The Family Fund Trust for families with severely disabled children.

The Family Fund helps families across the UK who are raising a disabled or seriously ill child or young person aged 17 or under. You can apply to Family Fund subject to a number of criteria which include that you are the parent or carer of a disabled or seriously ill child or young person aged 17 or under and that you have evidence of entitlement to one of the following: Universal Credit, Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Incapacity Benefit, Employment Support Allowance, Housing Benefit and Pension Credit.

See the website for more details.

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

Landfill Communities Fund – SUEZ Communities Trust

SUEZ Communities Trust (formerly SITA) provides funding awards of up to £50,000 to not-for-profit organisations to undertake work that is eligible under the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF). Applications are considered for three areas of work which qualify for funding through the LCF. These include:

- Public Amenities
- Historic Buildings, Structures or Sites
- Biodiversity

Projects can be supported that make physical improvements at sites located in any of 100 funding zones around qualifying sites owned by SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK.

<http://www.suezcommunitiestrust.org.uk/>

Grant schemes for electric vehicle charging infrastructure – Office for Low Emission Vehicles

The government offers grants to support the wider use of electric and hybrid vehicles via the Office of Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV). This includes:

- The Electric Vehicle Homecharge Scheme (EVHS) provides grant funding of up to 75% towards the cost of installing electric vehicle chargepoints at domestic properties across the UK.
- The Workplace Charging Scheme (WCS) is a voucher-based scheme that provides support towards the up-front costs of the purchase and installation of electric vehicle charge-points, for eligible businesses, charities and public sector organisations.
- The On-street Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS) provides grant funding for local authorities towards the cost of installing on-street residential chargepoints for plug-in electric vehicles.

For more information visit the website below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-grants-for-low-emission-vehicles>

European Structural and Investment Funds – Department for Communities and Local Government

A variety of funds under the European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) are currently available in different parts of the country. ESIF includes money from the European Social Fund (ESF), European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

Deadlines for applications vary. Please see the website below for more information.

<https://www.gov.uk/european-structural-investment-funds>

Tesco Bags of Help – Tesco and Groundwork

Bags of Help is Tesco's local community grant scheme where the money raised by the carrier bag charge in Tesco stores is being used to fund thousands of community projects across the UK*. The projects must meet the criteria of bringing benefits to the community. In England the scheme is administered by Groundwork.

Bags of Help is always open for applications from charities and community organisations. Applications are assessed by Groundwork to ensure they are eligible. In areas where application numbers are high, Tesco colleagues will shortlist the projects to determine which go forward to the customer vote.

Three community projects in each local area will be voted on by customers in Tesco stores throughout the UK, with projects changing every other month. Following the vote, the project that received the most votes in its area will receive a grant of up to £4,000, second place receiving up to £2,000 and third place up to £1,000.

<http://www.groundwork.org.uk/Sites/tescocommunityscheme>

Home Building Fund – Homes & Communities Agency

The government has created a £3 billion fund "to increase the number of homes built in England." You can apply if you're a private sector business that builds new homes or prepares sites for housing developments. This includes small builders, community builders, custom builders and regeneration specialists, as well as larger builders and developers.

The fund provides development finance and infrastructure finance via loans. More information on how the fund works and who can apply is available in 'An Introduction to the Home Building Fund' which you can access via the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/homebuildingfund>

Fans Fund Small Grants Scheme – Football

The Premier League Fans Fund is a three-year commitment from the Premier League to fund projects and organisations which improve the relationship between fans and their clubs, the way football supporters engage with each other and fans' experience of the game.

The Fans Fund Small Grants Scheme offers grants of up to £20,000 for projects that look to address the aims of the scheme which are to:

- Improve the relationship between fans and their clubs
- Improve the way football supporters engage with each other
- Improve fans' experience of the game.

Applications are accepted at any time.

<http://www.fsif.co.uk/funding/fans-fund-small-grants-scheme/>

Arts Council National Lottery Project Grants – Arts Council England

Grants of between £1000 and £100,000 are available for eligible individuals, organisations, libraries and museums for a range of activities including: Audio-visual, broadcast and transmission, buildings and infrastructure, capacity building, commissioning, digital creation, diversity and equality, education and learning,

exhibition, festival, organisational development, original work, participation, performance, production, professional development, publishing, research and development, sector development, talent development and touring.

This is a rolling programme with no deadlines.

<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/projectgrants>

Help the Homeless grants

Help The Homeless makes grants to charitable organisations with the aim of helping homeless people return to the community and enabling them to resume a normal life. Grants are available to small and medium-sized charitable organisations to fund the capital costs of projects with grants of up to £5,000. The quarterly deadlines for grant applications each year are: 15 March, 15 June, 15 September and 15 December.

<http://www.help-the-homeless.org.uk/>

Grants for War Memorials – War Memorials Trust

War Memorials Trust administers a number of grants schemes which between them cover the whole of the UK. Currently programme funders include the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, Historic England, Historic Scotland and War Memorials Trust. Grants are currently available up to 75% of eligible costs with a normal maximum grant of £30,000.

War Memorials Trust seeks to help all war memorial custodians, whatever the nature and size of their war memorial by facilitating repair and conservation projects.

Annual deadlines are 31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December.

<http://www.warmemorials.org/grants/>

Premier League and The FA Facilities Fund – Football Foundation

The Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund provides grants for building or refurbishing grassroots facilities, such as changing pavilions and playing surfaces for community benefit, with money provided by the Premier League, The FA and the Government (via Sport England) and delivered by the Foundation. The Fund is available to football clubs, schools, councils and local sports associations and gives grants for projects that:

- Improve facilities for football and other sport in local communities.
- Sustain or increase participation amongst children and adults, regardless of background age, or ability.
- Help children and adults to develop their physical, mental, social and moral capacities through regular participation in sport.

Grants are available for between £10,000 and £500,000.

<http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/premier-league-the-fa-facilities-fund/>

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The Rural Services Network is an organisation comprising 150 local authorities and 100 other public service providers seeking to establish links across public service, identifying and broadcasting best practice, and making representations on rural service issues. For details please go to our website rsnonline.org.uk