

RURAL FUNDING DIGEST

February 2021

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

Prince's Countryside Fund

The Prince's Countryside Fund are opening for grant applications of up to £10,000 on Tuesday 2nd February thanks to support from Barclays.

In April 2020, Barclays announced a £100m Community Aid Package to support charities that are helping people and communities most impacted by Covid-19. £10m of this funding has been donated through their 100x100 UK Covid-19 Community Relief Programme with the PCF being one of 100 UK charities each receiving a donation of £100,000, allowing our important work to continue.

They were chosen by a selection committee to support the long-term resilience and sustainability of the UK's rural communities following the Covid-19 pandemic to offer grant funding to projects in economically deprived, rural areas which are delivering vital community services and enhancing the lives of people who live there. Since the start of the pandemic, we have given out over £365,000 to 101 rural communities.

The grant round opens on Tuesday 2nd February for rural communities from across the UK to apply for grants of up to £10,000 and will close when enough eligible applications have been received.

Successful projects will build on the community's responses to the Covid-19 pandemic and must show how they are contributing to the resilience of the community. Applications should be from settlements with up to 3,000 residents and properly constituted, community-led organisations with a turnover under £500,000 per year, which can demonstrate how beneficiaries will be drawn from the local community.

[We are inviting rural communities from across the UK to apply for grant funding with thanks to Barclays - Latest news - The Prince's Countryside Fund](#)

Research & Innovation Fund – National Centre for Rural Enterprise

The National Innovation Centre for Rural Enterprise (NICRE) has recently launched an open R&I funding call.

NICRE aims to foster rural enterprise and unlock potential in the UK's rural economies and shift the existing policy narrative. This call seeks to complement, and extend, NICRE's research and evidence base on four rural enterprise priorities: Productive, Smart, Engaged, Resilient.

Projects will seek to improve rural business productivity and solve associated grand challenges. They should take place over a maximum period of up to 6 to 8 months and relate to, at least, one of the four priority areas for NICRE.

Each project can seek funding up to a maximum of £15,000 and the application deadline is 15 March 2021.

For more information on the scope of the call, eligibility criteria, and an application form, please visit the NICRE website: <https://ncl.ac.uk/nicre/news/item/open-call/>

Youth Covid-19 Support Fund – Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

The £16.5 million Youth Covid-19 Support Fund, which was announced in November 2020, is open to grassroots youth clubs, uniformed youth groups, and national youth and umbrella organisations, to help to mitigate the impact of lost income during the winter period due to the coronavirus pandemic, and ensure services providing vital support can remain open. The funding has been allocated from the £750 million

charities support package and £1.7m of the £16.5m has been allocated to vital youth work qualifications and training.

Applications for the Youth Covid-19 Support Fund opened on 15th of January. The Fund will be administered by PwC. Applications to the Fund will be open for five weeks, and will close at 5pm on the 19th February 2021.

To distribute funding as soon as possible, government will make initial awards on a rolling basis, prioritising those deemed to have the greatest need against the stated criteria.

[Apply for the Youth Covid-19 Support Fund - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

National Lottery Heritage Fund

The National Lottery Heritage Fund has resumed accepting project funding and loan applications under a series of programmes including the following.

National Lottery Grants for Heritage (grants of £3,000 to £10,000 and £10,000 to £100,000): for projects with an emphasis on organisational resilience and inclusion. They will give priority to organisations working with heritage that have not received funding through the Heritage Emergency Fund or the cultural recovery and emergency funds provided by the UK government. The budget for National Lottery Grants for Heritage in phase 1 is £10million. They expect to make decisions on a rolling basis during January and February 2021.

National Lottery Grants for Heritage (grants from £100,000 to £250,000 and £250,000 to £5 million): Beginning 8 February 2021, they will resume accepting applications for grants from £100,000 to £250,000 and £250,000 to £5m. From February 2021, they will prioritise heritage projects that will:

- boost the local economy
- encourage skills development and job creation
- support wellbeing
- create better places to live, work and visit
- improve the resilience of organisations working in heritage

They will also expect all projects to demonstrate that they are building long-term environmental sustainability and inclusion into their plans, as appropriate. New application and good practice guidance will be available on 8 February.

Heritage Recovery and Resilience Loans (loans of £50,000 to £250,000): Heritage Recovery and Resilience Loans are designed to help fund activities and costs that will develop and restart your organisation's income generating potential. Loans offer fixed 0% interest rate, no fees for arrangement or early repayment, optional 12-month repayment holiday, repayment period is up to 5 years. The deadline for applications is 14 February 2021.

[Funding | The National Lottery Heritage Fund](#)

Awards for All, Reaching Communities and Partnerships – The National Lottery Community Fund

The National Lottery Community Fund is open to all applications that meet their criteria, including support during COVID-19. With the COVID-19 pandemic still with us, they'll continue to support people and communities most adversely impacted by COVID-19.

They can support you to:

- continue to deliver activity, whether you're supporting your existing users, responding to the immediate crisis or undertaking recovery activity
- change and adapt, becoming more resilient in order to respond to new and future challenges.

In order to support communities to thrive, they aim to:

- build strong relationships in and across communities
- improve the places and spaces that matter to communities

- help more people to reach their potential, by supporting them at the earliest possible stage.

The Awards for All programme can provide between £300 and £10,000 for up to one year. The Reaching Communities programme offers larger amounts of funding (over £10,000) for up to 5 years. The Partnerships programme also offers a larger amount of funding (over £10,000) for organisations that work together with a shared set of goals to help their community thrive – whether that’s a community living in the same area, or people with similar interests or life experiences.

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/covid-19/learn-about-applying-for-emergency-funding-in-england>

Growing Great Ideas – The National Lottery Community Fund

This is a UK Portfolio funding programme aimed at supporting transformational, long-term change.

The UK Portfolio is where The Fund explores new approaches, experiment with how to do things differently, and look to fund work that is more future focussed.

The Growing Great Ideas programme has a focus on supporting transformational and long-term change. They are looking for visionary initiatives that go beyond individual organisations, and instead focus on ecologies, platforms, ecosystems, assemblages, networks and constellations. They expect these initiatives to be generating an infrastructure through which many things are possible.

They are looking to invest in different combinations of people, communities, networks and organisations that demonstrate an ability to seed and grow alternative systems, accelerate the deep transition of 21st-century civil society, and to learn and adapt as they go.

The minimum grant size is £150,000 and the minimum length is two years.

[Growing Great Ideas | The National Lottery Community Fund \(tnlcommunityfund.org.uk\)](https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk)

Covid-19 Support Fund – UK insurance & long-term savings industry

The UK insurance and long-term savings industry operates the Covid-19 Support Fund to help support some of the people hardest hit by the Covid-19 crisis.

The Fund has raised over £100 million, with £84m having been pledged in voluntary contributions from firms across the insurance and long-term savings sector. The Fund will work in partnership with the Charities Aid Foundation, and a network of partners, including the National Emergencies Trust and Business in the Community.

The key aim is to provide immediate relief to charities affected by Covid-19, as well as a longer-term programme of support for people, communities, and issues where there is the greatest need, including:

- Community based charities that are under unprecedented strain
- Charities supporting the most vulnerable – in particular, families and children living in poverty and older people in isolation
- Initiatives to promote wellbeing and mental health across society

[Home - Covid-19 Support Fund](#)

Seafarers UK Grants

Seafarers UK is a leading provider of grants to maritime charities and charitable maritime projects, working to help serving and ex-serving seafarers and their families who are experiencing hardship. They meet this aim through supporting organisations which provide welfare and support services for seafarers.

Their grants policy is to support seafarers who are:

- Older seafarers, over the usual age of retirement, and their dependants.
- Working age seafarers working at sea in the maritime industries, former seafarers under retirement age and Merchant Navy cadets and trainees.

- Families and dependants of current or former seafarers who are still of working age.
- Young people in maritime youth groups focusing on those considering or pursuing a career at sea.

Applications can be submitted at any time of year.

[Seafarers UK: Grant funding](#)

Small Grants Scheme – Foyle Foundation

This Small Grants Scheme is designed to support charities registered and operating in the United Kingdom, especially those working at grass roots and local community level, in any field, across a wide range of activities.

Online applications can be accepted from charities that have an annual turnover of less than £150,000 per annum. Larger or national charities will normally not be considered under this scheme.

The focus will be to make one-year grants only to cover core costs or essential equipment, to enable ongoing service provision, homeworking, or delivery of online digital services to charities that can show financial stability.

The priority will be to support local charities still active in their communities which are currently delivering services to the young, vulnerable, elderly, disadvantaged or the general community either directly or through online support if possible.

Grants are available between £1000 and £10,000.

[Small Grants Scheme - \(foylefoundation.org.uk\)](#)

Community Business Renewal scheme – Power to Change

Power to Change has launched the Community Business Renewal Initiative, a package of support for community businesses, in response to the covid-19 crisis. The support package contains a number of elements including:

- *Community Business Renewal Fund.* This £3 million fund provides unrestricted grants of between £10,000 and £20,000. Round three of the fund opens at 10am on Tuesday 2 March and closes at 4pm on Tuesday 9 March.
- *Community Shares ReBoost Fund.* This aims to support community businesses to raise community shares capital that can support their recovery, pivot or expand the business in response to Covid-19. The ReBoost fund provides grant funding (£3 - £5k) and matched equity investment (typically up to £25k).

You can find more details on all elements of the Community Business Renewal scheme on the Power to Change website.

[Community Business Renewal Initiative - Power to Change](#)

Carbon Emissions Reduction Fund – Energy Saving Trust

Ofgem Energy Industry Voluntary Redress Scheme launched its new Carbon Emissions Reduction Fund in December. The fund will support charity initiatives that reduce the climate change impact associated with energy use.

Managed and delivered by Energy Saving Trust, the Energy Redress Scheme collects voluntary payments from energy companies that may have breached rules to compensate the effects on energy consumers that may have been affected. In line with Ofgem's strategic approach, this fund looks to meet the challenge of achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

The first round of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Fund contains £1 million and is open to charities in England, Scotland and Wales. The Carbon Emissions Reduction Fund aims to benefit all domestic energy consumers, not only those in vulnerable situations. The fund awards grants between £50,000 and £500,000 to projects that meet the following criteria:

- demonstrate measurable and lasting reductions in the carbon intensity of energy end use and accelerate the transition to net zero carbon
- show a realistic prospect of delivering broadly replicable benefits to existing and/or future energy consumers
- proved to be efficiently managed throughout the project.

The closing date for applications is 11 February 2021. Charities that are registered with the Energy Redress Scheme and have passed the due diligence process are eligible for application.

[New Carbon Emissions Reduction Fund Available | Energy Redress scheme](#)

Outreach Grants – British Ecological Society

For the purposes of this grant scheme, ecology is defined as the scientific study of the distribution, abundance and dynamics of organisms, their interactions with other organisms and their physical environment. Applications should promote and engage the public with the science of ecology. Grants will not be awarded for purely nature conservation purposes or any activity that does not promote the science of ecology.

Grants of up to £2000 are available to support projects that:

- Increase public understanding of, and engagement with, ecology
- Stimulate discussion about ecology and its implications for society
- Inspire and enthuse people of all ages about the science of ecology, especially those not previously interested
- Develop skills in communicating the science of ecology

The deadline for applications is 19 March 2021.

[Outreach Grants - British Ecological Society](#)

Coronavirus Zoo Animals Fund – Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

The deadline for applications to the UK Government's £100 million Zoo Animals Fund has been extended until the 26 February 2021. The fund provides grants of up to £730,000 to zoos and aquariums which need additional support in caring for their animals and essential maintenance following a drop in income caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Funding will also support rehoming costs in the event that zoos need to downsize or potentially close, and is open to those zoos which have already received support through the £14 million Zoo Support Fund.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Apply for the Zoo Animals Fund - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Green Homes Grant Scheme – Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

The Green Homes Grant Scheme has been extended and now runs to March 2022. The government will provide a voucher worth up to £5,000 or £10,000 to help cover the cost of making energy efficient improvements to your home. Improvements could include insulating your home to reduce your energy use or installing low-carbon heating to lower the amount of carbon dioxide your home produces.

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

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

To apply for the voucher, you must either:

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

<https://greenhomesgrant.campaign.gov.uk/>

Return to Play Fund – Sport England

There are three parts to this new fund. Two have been adapted from pre-coronavirus funds, with one extended, and all three will now focus on supporting a safe return to play.

- Return to Play: Small Grants – makes awards of between £300 and £10,000, from a total pot of £10m, to help sport and activity groups, clubs and organisations respond to the immediate challenges of returning to play in a coronavirus-safe way. Following national restrictions in November, it also offers up to £2,000 awards towards the running costs of organisations supporting the most deprived communities.
- Return to Play: Community Asset Fund – makes awards of between £10,001 to £50,000, from a pot of £5m, to help local sports clubs and organisations adapt and open important places and spaces to help their local community return to play safely.
- Return to Play: Active Together – is a crowdfunding initiative that can match fund, up to £10,000, successful Crowdfunder campaigns from a pot of £1.5m. The partnership with Crowdfunder also includes advice, guidance and training to help create a successful campaign.

<https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/coronavirus/funding-innovation-and-flexibility>

Surplus with Purpose Fund - FareShare

Businesses could be eligible for £50,000 funding to help them reduce their food waste.

The Surplus With Purpose fund is open to companies seeking to unlock new or hard to reach surplus (or 'waste') food, as well as those that haven't previously worked with FareShare.

Businesses could be eligible for up to £50,000 worth of funding (greater sums can be negotiated where appropriate for high volumes of surplus food).

FareShare will safely divert edible surplus food via their UK-wide network of almost 11,000 frontline charities and community groups.

More information for businesses interested is available on the scheme's website.

<https://fareshare.org.uk/giving-food/>

Apprentice incentive payments – HM Government

When you hire new apprentices between 1 August 2020 and 31 March 2021, you can apply for extra funding to give your organisation a boost. If you take on new apprentices between 1 February 2021 and 31 March 2021, you can apply from 1 February 2021 to 30 April 2021

For apprentices aged:

- 16 to 24, you'll receive £2,000
- 25 and over, you'll receive £1,500

The payment is in addition to the existing £1,000 you'll already get for taking on an apprentice who is:

- aged 16 to 18 years old
- under 25 and has an education, health and care plan or has been in the care of their local authority

An incentive payment for hiring a new apprentice is different to the apprenticeship levy, and you can spend it on anything to support your organisation's costs. For example, you could spend it on facilities, uniforms, your apprentice's travel or their salary. You will not need to pay it back.

<https://engage.apprenticeships.gov.uk/incentives.html>

National Lottery Project Grants – Arts Council England

The Arts Council has reopened this fund with a budget of £59.8 million available until April 2021. They have prioritised reopening this programme to help fund independent organisations, creative practitioners and freelancers as quickly as possible.

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

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

Transforming Places through Heritage Grants – Architectural Heritage Fund

This programme supports projects that will contribute to the transformation of high streets and town centres in England helping them become thriving places, strengthening local communities and encouraging local economies to prosper. It is part of a wider initiative to revive heritage high streets in England, alongside Historic England's High Street Heritage Action Zones. This programme is for individual heritage buildings in, or transferring to, community ownership. They will support charities and social enterprises to develop projects with the potential to bring new life to high streets by creating alternative uses for redundant or underused historic buildings in town centres.

A range of grants are available:

- Project Viability Grants: up to £15,000, for early viability and feasibility work, open now for applications.
- Project Development Grants: up to £100,000, for capital project development costs, open now for applications.
- Crowdfunding Challenge Grants: up to £25,000, to match fund crowdfunding campaigns, open now for applications.
- Community Shares Booster Grants: supporting community share offers with development grants and matched investment.

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

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

Gigabit-capable broadband connections offer the fastest and most reliable speeds available, and the Government "is committed to a vision of a digitally connected Britain."

Homes and businesses in rural areas of the UK may be eligible for funding towards the cost of installing gigabit-capable broadband when part of a group scheme.

Rural premises with broadband speeds of less than 100Mbps can use vouchers worth £1,500 per home and up to £3,500 for each small to medium-sized business (SME) to support the cost of installing new fast and reliable connections.

More information is available via the website.

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

Financial support for businesses during coronavirus – Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy and Public Health England

You can find out more details about the government's support for businesses through this website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/financial-support-for-businesses-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Neighbourhood Planning Grant Funding – Locality

You can apply for three types of grant funding if you are preparing a Neighbourhood Plan:

- Basic Grant Funding: All groups undertaking a neighbourhood plan are eligible to apply for up to £10,000 in basic grant. As well as applying for a basic grant, you can also apply for technical support (provided you meet the eligibility criteria) to help you with your neighbourhood plan.
- Additional Grant Funding: Groups meeting the eligibility criteria are able to apply for additional grant of up to £8,000 (in addition to the basic grant). This will take the total amount of grant available to you to £18,000.
- Affordable Housing for Sale Grant Funding: This is a new element to the programme, and it is running as a pilot scheme. The pilot began in 2019-20 and will continue in 2020-21. If you are wishing to bring forward affordable housing for sale you may be eligible for further grant funding of up to £10,000 to help develop these ideas.

All grants are now open.

<https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/about/grant-funding/#affordablehousing>

Rural Community Energy Fund – Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

The Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF) is a £10 million programme which supports rural communities in England to develop renewable energy projects, which provide economic and social benefits to the community.

RCEF provides support to rural communities in 2 stages:

- stage 1: grants of up to £40,000 for a feasibility study for a renewable energy project
- stage 2: grants of up to £100,000 for business development and planning of feasible schemes

RCEF is being run by 5 regional Local Energy Hubs. If you would like to register your interest for the scheme, or would like further information, please contact the relevant hub for your area.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rural-community-energy-fund>

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 March 2021.

- 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. Visit the website for the updated closing date.
- Foundation grants. The Foundation Grant Programme will offer grants of between £500 and £5,000 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. Applications can be submitted and decisions will take place on a rolling basis from January 2021.
- Preventative maintenance micro grants. If the cost of booking maintenance services is a problem, the National Churches Trust, with its partner the Pilgrim Trust, can offer grants towards the cost of a building's maintenance services. You could receive up to 50% of the cost of works (excl. VAT) up to a maximum grant of £500. The cost of your service must not exceed £1,000 (excl VAT).

<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>

Comic Relief Community Fund (England) – Groundwork UK

The Comic Relief Community Fund (England) is offering grants to grassroots community organisations with an income of less than £250,000.

There are two types of grants available to organisations whose work delivers on one of Comic Relief's four strategic themes:

- *Children Survive & Thrive*: projects that support children under the age of 11 to reach their potential and have the best start in life.
- *Fighting for Gender Justice*: projects that improve equality for women, girls and the LBTQI+ community and initiatives that help people affected by domestic violence, abuse or exploitation due to their gender.
- *A Safe Place to Be*: projects that support people who are rebuilding their lives because of homelessness or forced migration.

- *Mental Health Matters*: projects that support good mental health in communities, improve access to support and tackle stigma and discrimination. Funding is available to help you develop your organisation through a Capacity Building Grant (up to £1000).

Administration of the local funding is being managed by community charity, Groundwork, which specialises in transforming communities and the local environment for the better.

<https://www.groundwork.org.uk/national-grants/comic-relief-community-grants/>

Veterans' Foundation grants

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

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

They will support projects that:

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

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

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

Church Conservation Grants – Morris Fund

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

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

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

The decorative feature, monument, etc must date from no later than 1896 (the year of William Morris's death). The next deadline for applications is 31 March 2021.

<https://www.sal.org.uk/grants/morris-fund-conservation-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>

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>

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.familyfunds services.co.uk/emergency-essentials/>

HS2 Community and Business Funds – 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>

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 and none are more than £5,000.

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/>

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/>

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 to support repair and conservation of war memorials – War Memorials Trust

War Memorials Trust grants support repair and conservation works undertaken following best conservation practice. Almost all war memorials are eligible for support and custodians/owners can find information about eligibility and processes on the website.

Grants are available between 25% and 75% of eligible costs and are likely to be considered up to a maximum grant of £5,000 for non-freestanding war memorials while

freestanding, non-beneficiary war memorials may be considered up to a maximum grant of £30,000. There is no minimum award.

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. Details on current eligibility and deadline dates as well as how to apply can be found at the web address below.

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

Football Foundation grants

The Football Foundation provides grants for building or refurbishing grassroots facilities, such as changing rooms, 3G pitches, fencing, portable floodlights, pitch improvements and clubhouse refurbishment. 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/>

Prepared by Andy Dean, Assistant Director at the Rural Services Network

Email: andy.dean@sparse.gov.uk

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