

RURAL FUNDING DIGEST

January 2024

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

VCSE Energy Efficiency Scheme – Groundwork UK

The VCSE Energy Efficiency Scheme will help voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations (VCSEs) across England to deliver more efficient services for people and communities by saving money on their energy bills.

The Scheme is offering independent energy assessments to help identify energy-saving opportunities in your building. From January 2024, the scheme will also be offering capital grants to implement measures recommended in your assessment.

Applicant organisations must be a VCSE based in England and delivering frontline services. They must be able to demonstrate that they are financially sustainable, require support around energy and are not suitable for blended finance or loan support through other schemes.

The scheme is funded as part of a package of over £100 million of support being delivered by the Government to help frontline delivery organisations with the increased cost of living.

Capital Grants of between £2,000 and £150,000 can be used to install capital energy efficiency measures, identified in your Independent Energy Assessment (IEA), to reduce your building's energy costs and support the delivery of your frontline services.

[VCSE Energy Efficiency Scheme - Groundwork](#)

Community and Environmental Grants – Veolia Environmental Trust

The Trust award grants towards projects that make improvements to community facilities and the natural environment.

The Trust's Community Grant Scheme is available to constituted not-for-profit organisations, local authorities and Environmental Bodies (EBs). Grants of between £10,000 and £75,000 are available to create or improve buildings or outside spaces for the benefit of the community.

The Habitat and Biodiversity Grant Scheme offers grants between £10,000 and £75,000 whilst the Environmental Improvement Grant Scheme offers grants over £75,000. Nature Conservation grants are also available.

The next funding round opens on 29 February and closes on 11 April 2024.

[Funding \(veoliatrust.org\)](https://www.veoliatrust.org)

Forest for the Nation Competition – Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

Defra is launching a competition to create a new Forest for the Nation in England.

The competition is inspired by the achievements of the National Forest, which has transformed the landscape across 200 square miles of the Midlands since the 1990s.

There will be one overall winner who will get up to £10 million to fund their project.

The competition will open for applications at the end of January 2024, but you can register your interest now.

[Forest for the Nation competition - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Fuel and food poverty grants – Utilita Giving

Utilita Giving will support individuals, families and households who are experiencing fuel and/or food poverty across England, Scotland and Wales, and who meet the charity's purpose and eligibility criteria.

The charity will also support groups and organisations whose intentions match that of Utilita Giving, helping people in fuel and food poverty.

Examples of projects include:

- A new van or transport for foodbanks charities to collect and redistribute food.
- Additional paid staff to support a fuel poverty advice phoneline.
- Additional money to feed disadvantaged families in a warm and welcome space.

[About — Utilita Giving](#)

The Vision Fund – Vision Foundation

The Foundation's social impact funding supports projects that are designed to improve the experience of being blind or partially sighted, or at risk of sight loss, in the UK.

Their current funding round focuses on projects designed to reduce levels of loneliness and/or isolation experienced by blind and partially sighted people throughout the UK. It is open to organisations across the UK.

They're particularly keen to support organisations who demonstrate a strong commitment to involving experts by experience, i.e. blind and partially sighted people or people at particular risk of sight loss, in their work.

The deadline for applications is 22 January 2024.

[Apply for funding – Vision Foundation](#)

Resilience Grants programme – the National Archives

The Resilience Grants programme provides grants of up to £20,000, and has been designed to support archive services, organisations with archives, and archives networks to be adaptable, resilient and sustainable, creating lasting solutions that enable them to respond to change, and contribute to communities and the economy.

Archives Resilience projects could include (but are not limited to):

- proposals that would lead to increased organisational stability, including long-term organisational, financial and strategic planning
- increased staffing capacity and enhanced skills
- reduced costs
- increased income
- improving capacity to develop, care for and enrich collections, physically and digitally
- ensuring that collections are safely preserved, including digitally
- work on diversity, equity and inclusion
- responses to climate change, such as developing energy-efficiency within an archives service
- strategic development of existing archive networks or establishment of new networks with a clear strategic focus

The deadline for applications is 19 January 2024.

[Resilience Grants - Archives sector \(nationalarchives.gov.uk\)](#)

Green Heat Network Fund – Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

The Green Heat Network Fund (GHNF) is a capital grant fund that will support:

- the commercialisation and construction of new low and zero carbon (LZC) heat networks (including the supply of cooling)
- the retrofitting and expansion of existing heat networks

It aims to develop and grow the heat network market and to address some of the challenges of decarbonising the UK's heat sector.

The GHNF is open to organisations in the public, private and third sectors in England. Individuals, households and sole traders cannot apply.

You can apply for funding that could be drawn down in financial years 2023-2024 through to 2026-2027.

Round 7 of the fund is currently open and the deadline for applications is 23 February 2024.

[Green Heat Network Fund \(GHNF\): guidance on how to apply - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund – Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

The Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) will upgrade a significant amount of the social housing stock currently below Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) band C up to that standard. It will support the installation of energy performance measures in social homes in England, and help:

- deliver warm, energy efficient homes
- reduce carbon emissions
- tackle fuel poverty
- support green jobs
- develop the retrofit sector
- improve the comfort, health and well-being of social housing tenants

The SHDF Wave 2.2 'top up' competition will allocate up to £80 million of grant funding from April 2024, building on the allocations made under the previous Wave 2.1.

The Wave 2.2 competition is now open to applications which must be submitted by 31 January 2024.

Applications are open to:

- local authorities
- combined authorities
- registered providers of social housing (including housing associations and arms-length management organisations (ALMOs) that are registered providers)
- registered charities that own social housing

[Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund: Wave 2.2 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

School funding – Universal Music UK Sound Foundation

The Foundation has helped over 10,000 students, schools and teachers improve their access to music through the purchase or upgrade of musical instruments and/or equipment.

Applications can be made for funding up to £1500 from Schools, teaching the national curriculum, which are based in the UK and Ireland towards the cost of musical resources.

The deadline for applications is 7 February 2024.

[UMUKSF SCHOOL FUNDING – UMUK Sound Foundation](#)

Army Benevolent Fund

The Army Benevolent Fund grants programme supports to charities and organisations that provide lifetime support to soldiers, veterans and their immediate families. They can fund up to 100 charities in a given year which deliver support on behalf of the Army and the Fund.

All registered charities and other organisations which support the Army community, which includes veterans, serving soldiers, their families and immediate dependants, may apply.

The Fund grants committee normally sits three times a year in February, June and November.

The deadline for the February committee is 11 January 2024.

[Grants to Charities - Army Benevolent Fund](#)

The7stars Foundation

The7stars foundation awards grants to charities supporting young people, aged 16 years and under, across the UK.

Their grants are targeted to further the potential and opportunity of children and young people who are surviving abuse, at risk of or experiencing homelessness, caring for a loved one, and challenged by addiction (either personally or through a member of their family).

Charities can apply for up to £2500 project funding or up to £1500 to purchase educational, wellbeing, or recreational items.

The next deadline for applications is 31 January 2024.

[Apply for Funding - the7stars foundation](#)

Equine and Elderly Grants – Elsie Pilkington Charitable Trust

Applications can only be considered from UK registered Charitable Organisations for projects which meet the Trusts funding criteria which should be for capital projects or time limited specific projects. Two types of grant are available:

- Equine Grants. Equine welfare grants are normally only considered from charities that are members of the National Equine Welfare Council (NEWC) or charities that are proactively working towards membership of NEWC. Membership of NEWC ensures equine charities are working to improve equine welfare standards and adopting industry best practice.
- Elderly Grants. Applications are welcomed from charities supporting the elderly frail.

The deadline for applications is 9 February 2024.

[How to apply \(elisepilkingtontrust.org.uk\)](http://elisepilkingtontrust.org.uk)

The Rowing Foundation

The Rowing Foundation purpose is to promote the participation in rowing of young people (those under 18 or still in full time education) and the disabled of all ages.

The Foundation gives grants of £500-£4,000 (up to 50% of the overall cost of the project) to help organisations and clubs involved in on water elements of the sport of Rowing who are individually affiliated to British Rowing (other than via their governing body) and whose requirements may be too small or who may be otherwise ineligible for an approach to the National Lottery or other similar sources of funds.

Funds are limited and statistically the Foundation favours giving grants for equipment that will be used on the water and exclusively for juniors and the disabled of all ages.

The deadline for applications is 22 February 2024.

[The Rowing Foundation](#)

Canoe Foundation grants

The Canoe Foundation is looking for projects across the whole of the UK that will:

- 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. They should be designed to be durable and use sustainable materials when applicable
- Protect and enhance the natural blue spaces we enjoy such as rivers and coastlines
- Are “ready to go.”

The Canoe Foundation welcomes applications from:

- Paddling clubs
- Community groups
- Parish Councils
- Local Authorities

- Anyone in the UK with an active interest in improving access to water and protecting the environment in the UK
- Organisations or partnerships with local paddlesport groups who will continue to support the maintenance and use of the facilities on an ongoing basis

The latest funding window is open until 31 January 2024.

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

Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund

The Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund, run by the Museums Association (MA), supports museums and their community partners to develop together, using collections.

The Fund supports museums to improve their inclusive collections and participatory practice with, and sometimes led by, community partners. They are looking for museums that have established strategic aims for diversity, equity and inclusion; and that are ready to use their collections and this funding to support social and climate justice, in ways that are relevant to local contexts and relationships.

Grants of up to £100k over around two years are available, and they are expecting to award around 12 grants per year in two funding rounds.

The current round is open for expressions of interest until 22 April 2024.

[Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund - Museums Association](#)

Lloyds Bank Foundation Specialist Programme

The Foundation support charities that help people overcome complex issues that don't have simple solutions, issues like homelessness, domestic abuse and addiction. These make life much harder for people; deepening trauma, impacting health and wellbeing, leading to poverty and destitution, and preventing people from being able to fulfil their potential.

The Foundation say: "Small, local, specialist charities play a unique role in helping people rebuild their lives. Their size, connection to their communities and deep understanding of the issues people face makes small charities best placed to reach, engage and support people. That's why we support small charities with an annual income between £25,000 to £500,000 where the main focus of your charity is to provide support for one of the eight themes outlined below."

They want to ensure that the charities supported can thrive beyond the lifetime of their funding. That's why they combine an unrestricted grant of £75,000 with a breadth of tailored support aimed at helping to strengthen charities and build the knowledge, skills and capabilities of staff and trustees.

The deadline for applications is 25 January 2024.

[Apply for funding under our Specialist Programme \(lloydsbankfoundation.org.uk\)](#)

DHSC Community Automated External Defibrillator (AED) fund

Organisations across England are invited to bid for a share of £1 million of government funding to buy life-saving defibrillators for community spaces like town halls, local parks or post offices. The fund will support provision of 2000 AED's. These will be distributed across England during 2023-2024, supporting any organisation based in England that is not eligible for the current Department of Education AED programme. The funding for the scheme is based on a first come first served basis. The funding will be allocated on the following basis:

- 100 applications will be selected by DHSC to receive a fully funded AED - selection is based on areas that are most in need of AED throughout England. Applicants will be advised in mid October and units shipped in mid November.
- 1900 applications will receive partial DHSC funding for an AED - organisations will be required to provide their own match funding of c.£750.

The closing date for applications is 21 September 2024 – or once all the funding has been allocated.

[DHSC Community Automated External Defibrillator \(AED\) Fund - GOV-UK Find a grant \(find-government-grants.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/find-a-grant)

Neighbourhood Planning Grant Funding – Locality

Locality are pleased to announce that the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities have extended the full support programme for a sixth year into 2023/24. The programme offers grants and Technical Support packages. If you're working on a neighbourhood plan or neighbourhood development order, you can apply for grant funding of up to £10,000. Further grant funding up to an additional £8000 is available to groups meeting certain criteria.

Applications for grant and technical support for the 2023/2024 financial year can be submitted until 26th January 2024.

[Home - Locality Neighbourhood Planning](#)

Open Grants Programme – The Clothworkers' Foundation

The 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 they define as:

- Buildings: purchase, construction, renovation or refurbishment.
- Fittings, Fixtures, and Equipment: this includes but is not limited to office equipment/furniture, sports/gym equipment, digital/audio visual equipment, software and websites (more guidance on digital infrastructure can be found here), garden equipment, specialist therapeutic (excluding medical) equipment. It does not include equipment for one-off use, or which will be given to service users for personal use on a permanent basis.
- Vehicles: This includes a minibus, car, caravan, people-carrier, or 4X4. We are unlikely to fund the total cost of a new vehicle and do not provide grants towards vehicle leasing.

They fund both large and small projects.

[What We Fund | The Clothworkers' Foundation \(clothworkersfoundation.org.uk\)](https://clothworkersfoundation.org.uk)

Bernard Sunley Foundation grants

The Foundation offers grants in the categories of Community, Education, Health or Social Welfare.

They offer three levels of grants. These are large grants of £20,000 and above; medium grants of up to £20,000 and small grants of £5,000 and under. Grants can be used for:

- Capital projects which include new buildings, extensions, refurbishments and recreational spaces.
- New minibuses and other vehicles that provide a vital service to those most in need in their local community.
- Churches and other places of worship with a strong, secular community focus.
- Charities or CIOs (Charitable Incorporated Organisations) registered in England and Wales.
- Certain organisations with exempt status such as specialist schools, scout and guide groups, housing associations, cooperatives, and community benefit societies.

Applications are accepted all year round.

[What We Fund - Bernard Sunley Foundation](#)

Thrive Together Fund – Social Investment Business

The Thrive Together Fund provides a funding package of loan (75%) and grant (25%) to eligible charities and social enterprises in England.

The Fund is delivered by a partnership made up of Social Investment Business, Co-operative and Community Finance, Fredericks Foundation, Groundwork, Homeless Link and The Architectural Heritage Fund.

The fund is for small and medium sized charities and social enterprises based in and delivering impact in England, who are looking to grow or diversify their business models.

Between £25,000 and £150,000 is available to apply for (inclusive of loan and grant). The fund is currently open.

[Thrive Together Fund | Funding | Social Investment Business \(sibgroup.org.uk\)](#)

Small Grants Programme – Sport England

The Small Grants Programme seeks to develop opportunities for communities to get more people physically active. New projects from not-for-profit organisations will be supported through providing National Lottery funding of between £300 and £15,000.

They want to support projects that bring communities together and provide sport and physical activities for people who may be less physically active.

They also particularly want to support projects focusing on environmental sustainability.

They believe that communities that work together and share resources provide a stronger and more sustainable impact. Therefore, Sport England want applications from projects that demonstrate how they connect with their communities, make best use of the existing skills and assets in an area, and will provide the biggest possible impact to those who need it most.

The closing date for applications is 31 March 2024.

[Small Grants Programme | Sport England](#)

Armed Forces Families Fund: Early Years programme – Armed Forces Covenant Fund

Under this programme the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust will award grants of between £5,000 and £80,000 on behalf of the MOD's Armed Forces Families Fund Early Years Programme, towards projects lasting up to two years, which help enhance early childhood education and childcare settings to meet specific needs of young children from Armed Forces families.

The deadline for applications is 12 January 2024.

[Armed Forces Families Fund: Early Years programme 2023-24 : Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust](#)

Project Viability Grants – the Architectural Heritage Fund

The Fund is offering grants of up to £10,000 to support early-stage feasibility work on historic building projects.

You may be thinking about forming an organisation, have been recently constituted, or be a longstanding organisation tackling a new project. You have identified a building - either already in your ownership or one you have a reasonable prospect of acquiring. You may have some ideas about how the building could be restored and used but want to explore the options and test whether these will work.

In 2023/24, we will prioritise projects that meet the following criteria:

- Involve new use of a vacant historic building.
- Help revive high streets.
- Are in the top 30% most deprived areas (according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation).
- Involve and support diverse communities.
- Have a strong focus on environmental sustainability and energy efficiency.

- Contribute to local regeneration schemes.

These grants should help you to establish whether a project is feasible. Work will probably focus on understanding the condition of the building, how it might be used, and whether that intended use is appropriate for the building and likely to be sustainable.

This grant programme is supported by funding from Historic England.

[England | The Architectural Heritage Fund \(ahfund.org.uk\)](https://ahfund.org.uk)

Funding for Places – The Wolfson Foundation

The Trust's main grants programme provides support for places. These grants are for capital initiatives, i.e. buildings (new build or refurbishment) and equipment.

They fund a broad range of organisations working across the fields of education, science & medicine, health & disability, heritage, humanities & the arts.

The Foundation accepts applications from the following types of organisation:

- Charities working with disability.
- Charities working in mental health.
- Charities working with older people.
- Historic buildings and landscapes.
- Hospices and palliative care organisations.
- Places of worship.
- Libraries and archives.
- Museums and galleries.
- Performing arts organisations.
- Public engagement with science organisations.
- Secondary schools and sixth form colleges.
- Special needs schools and colleges.
- Universities and research institutions.

Specific funding criteria apply to each.

Decision dates are in June and December annually. Corresponding application deadlines are 5 January and 1 September each year.

[Funding for places - The Wolfson Foundation](#)

The Steel Charitable Trust

The Trust makes discretionary grants where they believe that their contribution will make a real difference.

Applications must be for charitable purposes that fall into one of the five core categories below:

- Arts and Heritage
- Education
- Environment
- Health
- Social or Economic Disadvantage

The minimum grant size is £10,000. Awards of more than £25,000 are rare.

[Rolling grants programme – The Steel Charitable Trust](#)

Building Improvement Grants – Benefact Trust

Benefact Trust's Building Improvement Grants programme provides essential support to protect and enhance churches and Christian charity buildings, ensuring their continued use, viability, and the safeguarding of their heritage.

The programme is open to applications from churches, cathedrals, denominational bodies and Christian charities.

Under Building Improvement Grants, they are able to support direct capital costs relating to the following types of work:

- Essential, one-off repairs or other capital works to ensure the continued use or viability of a building (capital work must be considered urgent or necessary within 12 months)
- Minor capital works or equipment purchases to meet operational or accessibility requirements (e.g. essential operational equipment, AV equipment, hearing loops, ramps, etc)
- Conservation or restoration of historic features (e.g. stained glass, carvings, interior furnishings, clocks, tower bells, organs etc) which contribute to preservation and appreciation of a building's heritage
- Other aesthetic enhancements (e.g. interior decoration, furnishings or public realm improvements) to improve indoor or outdoor spaces for users
- Energy efficiency/renewable energy measures (e.g. heating/lighting upgrades, solar panels, etc) which improve the sustainability of church buildings/facilities and enable their continued use

All applicants will be expected to have secured funding for at least 30% of their total project costs before making an application.

[New - Building Improvement Grants | Benefact Trust](#)

Small grants programme – Theatres Trust

Theatres Trust's Small Grants Programme, supported by The Linbury Trust, funds small projects that make a big impact to a theatre's resilience, sustainability, accessibility or improving the diversity of audiences.

This scheme provides grants of up to £5,000 for essential works to enable not-for-profit theatres across the UK to be viable and thrive in the future.

Eligible projects include small capital works, the installation of key plant and machinery and works which make theatre buildings digital-ready.

This scheme will prioritise improvements to buildings that protect theatre use and remove barriers to participation and attendance.

The deadline for applications is 12 January 2024. The second round of applications in 2024 will close on 7 June 2024.

[Small Grants Programme supported by The Linbury Trust \(theatrestrust.org.uk\)](#)

Urban Tree Challenge Fund – Forestry Commission

The Urban Tree Challenge Fund (UTCf) is open for new applications, there is no application deadline, but it takes three to five months from submitting a valid and complete application to an agreement being offered.

The fund provides 80% of published standard costs for the planting and establishment of trees in urban and peri-urban areas. In 2023 payments for trial pits have been introduced to check for the presence of services. The remaining costs of planting and establishing trees supported under the UTCf must be met through match funding, either in the form of money or labour. Applications received from 1 July 2023 onward can only schedule tree planting to take place in 2024/25, the last year of the fund. There is a minimum application value of £10,000.

Applications are assessed year-round, if you want to plant trees in 2024/25 your application needs to be submitted no later than 30 June 2024.

[Urban Tree Challenge Fund - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Big Energy Saving Loans – Big Issue Invest

Big Issue Invest is offering loan finance between £20,000 to £200,000 to social enterprises and charities in England, for energy efficiency and renewable energy installation.

This lending programme is aimed at enabling social enterprises and charities to access loan funding to help save money on energy during the unprecedented cost of living crisis. Investment can be used for a variety of projects, including:

- Insulation
- Buying and installing renewable energy equipment
- Heat exchangers and heat pumps
- LED light installations
- Replacing old gas fired boiler systems with new efficient ones
- Property improvements, such as extra single glazing on existing windows, double glazing improvements, systematic draught improvements
- Energy efficiency survey and technical assistance costs

The loans can be structured to your individual needs. They can be unsecured which means they will not require you to put any personal guarantees in place, or interfere with other financing arrangements that require security.

[Big Energy Saving Loans - The Big Issue](#)

UnLtd

UnLtd have funding available to get your social business started, or progress to the next stage of your journey.

Up to £18,000 is available to fund organisational costs of businesses less than four years old, including a dedicated support manager, expert mentors, workshops and learning opportunities.

The next deadline for applications is 31 March 2024.

[UnLtd - Awards | Funding and support to grow your impact |](#)

Project Cost and Core Cost grants – BBC Children in Need

Children in Need often have several funding programmes open at any one time.

These include:

- Project Costs grants – support the aims and delivery of a specific piece of work. This work will usually be time-limited and based on a defined set of activities.
- Core Costs grants – can be spent on an organisation's central running and operational costs.

Charities and not-for-profit organisations can apply for these grants for up to three years. They aim to give quicker decisions for grants of £15,000 or less per year.

There is no application deadline.

[Apply For A Grant - BBC Children in Need](#)

Defibrillator grants – London Hearts

Grants are available to fund Public Access Defibrillators in communities all over the country.

London Hearts is a charity aiming to help and support communities with the provision of heart defibrillators and teaching CPR/defibrillator skills. They can provide a grant of £300 towards the cost of a defibrillator and storage as well as a free online training video.

When someone has a cardiac arrest, timely intervention is the key to survival. By making more defibrillators available, and by training more people to use them, the better the chance of survival for a cardiac arrest victim.

[London Hearts](#)

Climate Action Fund – The National Lottery Community Fund

This funding aims to help communities across the UK to address climate change.

They want to fund projects that:

- encourage communities to use energy in an environmentally friendly way
- bring communities together so that they can explore ways to promote energy efficiency

- enable communities to understand and engage with opportunities for clean energy generation, which do not use fossil fuels.

Projects can apply for up to £1.5 million over 2 to 5 years, with most projects over £500,000. Minimum grant £500,000. They aim to fund around 8-12 projects. They expect the programme to remain open until early 2024 but it will depend on when and how many others apply for our funding.

[Climate Action Fund - Energy and Climate | The National Lottery Community Fund \(tnlcommunityfund.org.uk\)](https://tnlcommunityfund.org.uk)

Biffa Award – Main Grant Scheme

Biffa Award's Main Grants Scheme is aimed at community and cultural groups and organisations, situated in the vicinity of landfill sites, that are in need of funding to improve the quality of life in their community or to conserve wildlife.

There are four themes - Community Buildings, Recreation, Cultural Facilities and Rebuilding Biodiversity. Under these themes we provide funding to create or improve community amenities. For example, upgrading kitchens, meeting rooms and toilets in village halls and community facilities; creating new playparks; installing new seating, lighting and exhibitions within theatres and museums; or establishing, protecting and enhancing habitats for biodiversity.

Between £10,000 and £75,000 can be awarded to projects that have a total cost of less than £200,000 including VAT.

Project sites must be within 5 miles of a significant Biffa Operation or active Biffa Landfill Site (15 miles for Rebuilding Biodiversity projects) and within 10 miles of any licenced landfill site in England and Northern Ireland.

This is a rolling programme and as such there are no deadlines to submit an Expression of Interest in the Main Grants Scheme.

[Home Page - Biffa Award \(biffa-award.org\)](https://biffa-award.org)

Community Transport Grants – Motability

Through this new grant programme Motability aim to help charities and organisations to make an immediate impact for disabled people, by awarding funding to develop, expand and improve community transport options. The programme is focussed on:

- Funding support for staff or volunteer training and costs.
- Funding to increase the number of vehicles available in the community to help organisations support disabled people.
- Funding local, regional, or national initiatives to increase awareness of community transport and influence its inclusion in transport strategy and policy.
- Funding to schemes, programmes and initiatives that already exist, and who provide best practice solutions, but need further support to remain operational or scale up the service they can provide to help more disabled people.

Charities and organisations working in the community transport sector can apply for grants from £100,000 to £4 million at any point over the next three years until March 2025.

[Charitable Grants | Community Transport Grant | Motability](#)

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

The government offers grants to support the installation of electric vehicle chargepoints via the Office of Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV). This includes:

- Electric vehicle chargepoint grant for renters and flat owners. You can get 75% off the cost to buy and install a socket, up to a maximum of £350.
- Electric vehicle infrastructure grant for staff and fleets. You can get up to £350 per chargepoint socket installed and up to £500 per parking space enabled with supporting infrastructure.

- Electric vehicle chargepoint and infrastructure grants for landlords. You can get 75% off the cost to buy and install a socket, up to a maximum of £350 per socket.
- Workplace charging scheme. The grant covers up to 75% of the total costs of the purchase and installation of EV chargepoints, capped at a maximum of £350 per socket and 40 sockets across all sites per applicant.

The closing date for all grants is 31 March 2025. For more information visit the website below.

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

Listed Places of Worship grant scheme – Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

The Listed Places of Worship (LPW) Grant Scheme gives grants that cover the VAT incurred in making repairs to listed buildings in use as places of worship. The scheme covers repairs to the fabric of the building, along with associated professional fees, plus repairs to turret clocks, pews, bells and pipe organs.

The Scheme has been run by DCMS with a focus on preserving heritage in the fabric of UK listed places of worship. Since its establishment in 2001, the Scheme has adapted to changes while continuing to support places of worship by delivering the fairest possible system of making grants and ensuring that all faiths and areas of the UK are equally able to make use of scheme.

The scheme only accepts applications where the minimum value of eligible work carried out on any one claim to the scheme is £1,000 (excluding VAT).

The Government has confirmed funding is available for the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme until 31 March 2025.

[Listed Places of Worship - Home page \(lpwscheme.org.uk\)](http://lpwscheme.org.uk)

Masonic Charitable Foundation

The Foundation now has rolling grant programmes with no deadlines as follows:

- Children and young people: This programme is open to national and local charities helping disadvantaged children and young people to overcome the challenges they face. Small grants are for charities whose annual income does not exceed £500,000. These grants are unrestricted. Small grants range from £1,000-£5,000 per year, for up to three years.

Large grants are for larger charities whose annual income exceeds £500,000. They must be restricted to a project. Large grants usually range from £10,000 to £60,000. They can be awarded over one to three years.

- Later life: This programme is open to local and national charities that are working to reduce loneliness and isolation in later life. Small grants are for smaller charities whose annual income does not exceed £500,000. They are to fund overhead costs. Small grants range from £1,000-£5,000 per year, for up to three years.

Large grants are for larger charities whose annual income exceeds £500,000. They must be restricted to a project. Large grants usually range from £10,000 to £60,000. They can be awarded over one to three years.

[Grants to charities - The Masonic Charitable Foundation \(mcf.org.uk\)](http://mcf.org.uk)

Community Shares Booster – Power to Change

Delivered by the Community Shares Unit and funded by Power to Change, Community Shares Booster supports community businesses in the process of setting up and launching a community share offer that can demonstrate high levels of community impact, innovation and engagement. The programme provides:

- Development grants averaging £5,000 to prepare a community share offer; financial planning, governance support, marketing costs and being awarded the Community Shares Standard Mark
- Match equity investment – typically matching pound for pound up to £25,000 providing that the minimum share offer target is achieved
- Ongoing support and advice as an active investor in community businesses

[Community Shares Booster - Power to Change](#)

Forestry England Woodland Partnership

The Forestry England Woodland Partnership offers long-term leases with guaranteed income for public and private landowners to create new woodlands. The partnership scheme supports government plans for woodland creation, nature recovery and progress towards net zero targets.

Forestry England are looking for sites of at least 50 hectares suitable for woodland creation for leases of between 60 and 120 years, and landowners will receive a guaranteed annual rent throughout the lease period. Forestry England will design, plant and manage every woodland created, ensuring each is resilient to a changing climate, supports wildlife, and provides wider ecosystem services.

All woodlands created through the partnership scheme will be open to the public, providing valuable health and wellbeing opportunities for communities.

Part of the Nature for Climate Fund to support the government's tree planting commitment, the Forestry England Woodland Partnership aims to create at least 2,000 hectares of predominantly broadleaf woodland over the next five years.

Applications are open all year round. Full details and brochures for public and private landowners are available on the Forestry England website.

<https://www.forestryengland.uk/woodland-creation>

Grants for Heritage – National Lottery Heritage Fund

The National Lottery Heritage Fund provide different levels of funding to heritage of all shapes and sizes. Their grants range from £3,000 up to millions of pounds.

Current programmes include:

- National Lottery Grants for Heritage - £3,000 to £10,000; The impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic means the Fund will prioritise heritage projects that:
 - promote inclusion and involve a wider range of people (a mandatory outcome)
 - 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

Grant programmes for projects £10,000 to £250,000, and £250,000 to £10 million will re-open in January 2024 with new Heritage 2033 guidance and forms.

Full information on all National Lottery Heritage Fund programmes is available on their website.

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

Small, Medium and Large Grants – National Churches Trust

The National Churches Trust is making changes to its grants programme.

They will continue to offer three types of grant. These will be:

- Small grants - these were formerly called Foundation grants for maintenance. This programme offers 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 be up to £20,000 incl. VAT and awards will never exceed 50% of the costs. The next deadline for applications is 29 February 2024.

- Medium grants - these were formerly called Gateway grants. This programme offers grants up to £10,000 towards urgent and essential maintenance and repair projects costing between £20,000 and £80,000. Also 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 net project costs (for this phase). The next deadline for applications is 16 April 2024.
- Large grants – these were formerly called Cornerstone grants. This programme offers grants up to £50,000 towards the cost of major urgent structural repair projects costed at more than £80,000 including VAT. Grants of £40,000 to £50,000 are extremely limited and reserved for cases which demonstrate a very high case for investment. They 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 5 March 2024.

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

Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme – Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

The Farming in Protected Landscapes programme is a part of Defra's Agricultural Transition Plan.

It will offer funding to farmers and land managers in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), National Parks and the Broads. It is not an agri-environment scheme.

The programme will fund projects that:

- support nature recovery
- mitigate the impacts of climate change
- provide opportunities for people to discover, enjoy and understand the landscape and its cultural heritage
- support nature-friendly, sustainable farm businesses

The Farming in Protected Landscapes programme has been developed by Defra with the support of Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and National Park staff from across England.

The programme runs until March 2025.

[Get funding for farming in protected landscapes - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

England Woodland Creation Offer – Forestry Commission

Landowners, land managers and public bodies can apply to the England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO) for support to create new woodland, including through natural colonisation, on areas as small as 1 hectare. EWCO opened for applications on 9 June 2021 and replaces the Woodland Carbon Fund, which closed for applications in March 2021.

The grant is administered by the Forestry Commission and is funded through the Nature for Climate Fund. EWCO is one of a suite of Forestry Commission initiatives to support woodland creation and tree planting across England.

EWCO is open to owner occupiers, tenants, landlords and licensors who have full management control of the land in the application (if you don't have full management control you will need consent from those who do). Joint applications, multiple land managers and applications on common land and areas of shared grazing are eligible.

[England Woodland Creation Offer - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

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.

Round 13 of the Energy Redress Scheme is expected to open shortly. The previous round included the following elements:

- The Main Fund aimed at projects seeking grants between £50,000 and £750,000 that will support energy consumers in vulnerable situations.
- The Small Project Fund aimed at projects seeking grants of between £20,000 and £49,999 that will support energy consumers in vulnerable situations.
- Innovation Fund aimed at projects that will develop innovative products or services to benefit energy consumers. Applicants can apply for grants between £50,000 and £500,000.
- Carbon Emissions Reduction Fund is targeted at projects that can help domestic energy consumers participate in the just transition to Net Zero CO2 emissions. The fund awards grants between £50,000 and £500,000.

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

Garfield Weston Foundation

The Foundation support a wide range of charities that make a positive difference, working in different sectors in the UK. These include welfare, youth, community, environment, education, health, arts, heritage and faith.

They fund small local organisations and large national institutions. Grants range from £1,000 to several million pounds, depending on each charity's size and scope of work.

The grants can be for your organisation's running costs, for a specific activity or for capital projects. The Foundation are flexible and fund what charities need the most.

Normally, capital grants are no more than 10% of a total project cost. However, for local community projects (e.g. village halls, community centres, places of worship, etc.), grants are unlikely to be over £30,000 regardless of the project size. If your organisation wants to apply for £100,000 or over, they expect your annual income or project to be over £1 million.

[What we fund - Garfield Weston Foundation](#)

FCC Community Action Fund

The FCC Community Action Fund provides grants of between £2,000 and £100,000 to not-for-profit organisations for amenity projects eligible under Object D of the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF).

The following types of organisation can apply:

- Registered Charity which operates a community facility
- A Church or Parochial Church Council

- A Parish or Town Council or a Management Committee or User Association acting on behalf of a Parish or Town Council
- A Local Authority
- A CASC Registered Sports Club

Only applications for projects sited within 10 miles of an eligible FCC Environment waste facility can be accepted, you can check if you are located near an eligible site on their website.

The closing date for the next round of applications is 28 February 2024.

[FCC Community Action Fund / FCC \(fcccommunitiesfoundation.org.uk\)](https://www.fccommunitiesfoundation.org.uk)

Morrisons Foundation

The Morrisons Foundation awards grant funding for charity projects which make a positive difference in local communities. Applications should deliver on (at least) one of three objectives to be considered for support, these are: Tackling the cost of living; Enhancing community spaces, facilities and services; Improving health and wellbeing.

[Morrison Foundation Making a difference to people's lives \(morrisonsfoundation.com\)](https://www.morrisonsfoundation.com)

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

The Government is providing up to £210m worth of voucher funding as immediate help for people suffering from slow broadband speeds in rural areas.

Vouchers worth up to £4,500 for homes and businesses help to cover the costs of installing gigabit broadband to people's doorsteps.

You can check whether your premises is eligible for a voucher, find a list of registered suppliers, and see those who are active in your area on the website below.

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

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

Awards for All:

TNLCF offer funding from £300 to £20,000 and can support your project for up to two years. You can apply for funding to deliver a new or existing activity or to support your organisation to change and adapt to new and future challenges.

They can fund projects that'll do at least one of these things:

- bring people together 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
- support people, communities and organisations facing more demands and challenges because of the cost-of-living crisis.

Reaching Communities England:

TNLCF fund projects and organisations that work to make positive changes in their community. By community they mean people living in the same area, or people with similar interests or life experiences. They offer funding that starts at £20,001.

TNLCF can fund projects or organisations that'll do at least one of these things:

- bring people together 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.

Partnerships:

This funding is for organisations working together in partnership to help their community. This funding also starts at £20,001 and can fund projects that do at least one of the things also specified under the Reaching Communities programme.

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

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 £2000 and £10,000.

[Small Grants Scheme - \(foylefoundation.org.uk\)](https://foylefoundation.org.uk)

Active Together – Sport England

This 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.

[Active Together | Sport England](https://www.active-together.org.uk)

National Lottery Project Grants – Arts Council England

National Lottery Project Grants is an open access programme for arts, libraries and museums projects. The fund supports thousands of individual artists, community and cultural organisations.

Individual artists and practitioners, community and cultural organisations, museums and libraries can all apply. National Lottery Project Grants is open all the time, there are no deadlines.

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

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

Veterans' Foundation grants

If you represent a charity or an organisation that provide assistance to serving and former members of the British Armed Forces who are in need, you can apply for a grant from the Veterans' Foundation. Grants are also available to operationally qualified seafarers and their dependants.

The closing date for the next round of applications is 30 January 2024.

[Apply for a grant | Veterans' Foundation \(veteransfoundation.org.uk\)](https://www.veteransfoundation.org.uk)

HS2 Community and Business Funds – Groundwork UK

Groundwork is working with High Speed Two (HS2) to deliver HS2 Community and Business Funds to help with the disruption that will be caused by the construction. In October 2014 the government announced two funding programmes to help offset the disruption of Phase One on local communities and businesses – the Community and Environment Fund (CEF) and the Business and Local Economy Fund (BLEF).

In January 2018, the then HS2 Minister announced an additional £5 million is to be added to the CEF and BLEF funding pot for those disrupted during construction of the Phase 2a scheme from Birmingham to Crewe. This brings the overall total of CEF and BLEF combined for Phase One and Phase 2a to £45m.

£40 million is for communities experiencing disruption from the construction of Phase One and £5 million is for communities experiencing disruption from the construction of Phase 2a. The Funds will be available during the construction period and for the first year of operational HS2 services. The Funds will support good quality bids that meet CEF and BLEF criteria, and funding will be available throughout this time period.

Both funds (CEF and BLEF) will award money from the same funding pot and so the amounts allocated for each Fund will depend on the number and quality of applications.

[HS2 Funds - Groundwork](#)

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 projects that the Foundation support.

<http://bluesparkfoundation.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 normally awarded at 50% of eligible costs depending on the priority level of your project 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 £20,000. The minimum award is normally £125 but there is some discretion on minimum and maximum grant levels.

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.

[Looking for funding | Football Foundation](#)

Prepared by Andy Dean, 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