

# RURAL FUNDING DIGEST

## July 2021

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

### **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.

There are four types of payments available under EWCO:

- support for the capital items and activities to establish new woodland, at 100% of standard costs
- 10 years of annual Maintenance Payments to help establish the young trees once the capital works are complete
- contribution towards the actual cost of installing infrastructure to either enable the current and future management of the woodland, or to provide recreational access
- optional Additional Contributions where the location of the woodland and its design will deliver public benefits. You can apply for multiple Additional Contributions on the same land where it touches the right spatial layer and the design is compatible

EWCO is a criteria-based, competitive scheme, with funding offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

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

### **Local Connection Fund – The National Lottery Community Fund**

The National Lottery Community Fund is investing £2 million into this second round of the Local Connection Fund. This will be used to fund hundreds of ‘microgrants’ between £300 and £2,500, so small, local organisations (with an annual income of £50,000 or less) can bring people and communities together.

The funding is aimed at bringing people together in safe and secure ways, making people aware of what services are available to reduce loneliness and to build lasting connections.

The closing date for applications is 6 August 2021.

[Local Connections Fund - Round 2 | The National Lottery Community Fund \(tnlcommunityfund.org.uk\)](https://tnlcommunityfund.org.uk)

### **Places called Home – The National Lottery Community Fund**

IKEA Limited and The National Lottery Community Fund have come together to support thriving, resilient and sustainable communities across the UK.

Places Called Home explores the idea that communities can become as important to us as our homes. It aims to inspire and help people get more involved in their local community as a positive, homely place to be and meet other people.

This Fund can fund equipment or materials to improve your community’s shared spaces and run activities that focus on sustainable living. Grants between £1000 and £5000 are available. The deadline for applications is 14 July or once 1500 applications have been received, whichever is sooner.

[Places Called Home | The National Lottery Community Fund  
\(tnlcommunityfund.org.uk\)](https://tnlcommunityfund.org.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 12 of the Energy Redress Scheme is now open for applications and will close on Thursday 29 July. There will be up to £4.8 million available to fund new projects in the following funding streams:

- 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>

### **Cultural Development Fund – The Arts Council and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport**

The aim of this fund is to level up through investment in culture. The fund will unlock local growth and productivity, promote economic and social recovery from the impact of Covid-19, and regenerate communities through capital investment in transformative place-based creative and cultural initiatives.

This is the second round of the fund and it will build on the success of the [pilot](#), which was originally launched as part of the Creative Industries Sector deal in 2018. It aims to capitalise on the untapped potential for investment in creativity and culture whilst addressing the regional undersupply and demand for capital funding in creative and cultural infrastructure.

Local partnerships can apply led by a local authority, Local Enterprise Partnership, or other appropriate body. Grants will range from £2 million to £5 million.

The deadline for submitting an expression of interest is 23 July 2021.

[Cultural Development Fund: Round Two | Arts Council England](#)

### **Culture Recovery Fund**

Government has announced that the final £300 million of the £2 billion Culture Recovery Fund (CRF) will support organisations in need of urgent funding.

Applications are due to open for some parts of this funding shortly and it is hoped that thousands of arts, heritage, cultural and creative organisations will be supported to secure their future, building on the success of the fund so far.

The third and final round of funding will now provide further support as the cultural, heritage and creative sectors move towards reopening at full capacity.

[Third round of Culture Recovery Fund to secure future of thousands of organisations - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/third-round-of-culture-recovery-fund-to-secure-future-of-thousands-of-organisations)

### **Garfield Weston Foundation**

The Foundation supports UK registered charities working within the UK in the areas of Welfare, Youth, Community, Arts, Faith, Environment, Education, Health and Museums & Heritage.

The Foundation awards grants for Capital, Project and Revenue costs. Where they already have a funding history with you, the Trustees may consider a multi-year request for up to three years, provided you can demonstrate that a longer term commitment will add value to your organisation's objectives.

There are no deadlines for applications under £100,000. Grants above this level are reviewed at one of 8 board meetings a year.

[Grant Programmes - 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 current round of applications closes on 1 September 2021.

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

### **Sustainable Warmth Competition – Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy**

The Sustainable Warmth Competition will award funding to Local Authorities to help them upgrade energy inefficient homes of low income households in England.

The competition encompasses two existing schemes:

- Local Authority Delivery Phase 3 (LAD3): a third phase of the Local Authority Delivery scheme with £200 million available. LAD3 has a refined scope to support low-income households heated by mains gas
- Home Upgrade Grant Phase 1 (HUG1): £150 million for low-income households with homes off-gas grid through the HUG scheme.

The focus will be retained on upgrading the worst insulated owner occupier and private rented homes with energy efficiency installations and low carbon heating. Projects that upgrade homes with an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of E, F or G will be prioritised. Upgrades to properties with an EPC rating of D will be allowed but will be limited.

Low-income households who own their home can get upgrades fully funded within the relevant cost caps and do not have to contribute. Where a household is low-

income and renting their home, the landlord must contribute at least a third of the total cost of upgrading the property within the relevant cost caps. All local authorities and Local Energy Hubs in England can apply for funding and the closing date is 4 August 2021.

[Apply for the Sustainable Warmth competition - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

### **Morrisons Foundation**

The Morrisons Foundation awards grant funding for charity projects which make a positive difference in local communities. From support groups to children's hospitals and homeless shelters to hospices, the grants aim to provide vital funding for good causes across England, Scotland and Wales.

In the main grants are available to fully fund projects up to £25,000.

[Morrison Foundation Making a difference to people's lives \(morrisonfoundation.com\)](#)

### **Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust**

The objectives of the Trust are to donate to UK registered charities whose purposes encompass one or more of the following:

- to benefit or protect animals
- to relieve animals from suffering
- to conserve wild life
- to encourage the understanding of animals

The Trust favours applications from smaller animal welfare charities:

- Which have independently examined up to date annual accounts.
- Which demonstrate an active re-homing and rehabilitation policy for animals taken into their care.
- Involved with conservation of wildlife, when the rescue, rehabilitation and (where possible) the release of animals is their main aim.

The maximum pledge available is up to £35,000. The next deadline for applications is 1 September 2021.

[Home - Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust](#)

### **NFU Mutual Charitable Trust**

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

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

The Trustees meet twice a year to consider applications received. These meetings are currently held in June and November.

Applications for the November meeting must be submitted by 29th October 2021.

[NFU Mutual Charitable Trust: What do we do | NFU Mutual](#)

### **Sporting Capital loan fund**

The £3m Sporting Capital Fund provides loan funding up to £150,000 to eligible projects. The Fund is England's first social investment fund focused on the sports sector to support the development of community sports organisations and organisations that deliver impact through sport. Their goal is to help these organisations to become sustainable; using our investment to support the development of new, or retain and expand existing, revenue streams.

Examples of how loans can be used include:

- Supporting the development of new or refurbishment of existing facilities
- Buying kit and equipment to help deliver activities
- Recruitment, training and deployment of staff and volunteers

- Equipment to support business functions, including finance, project management and governance
- Other operating costs, including working capital

In the region of 30 projects are expected to receive loans.

[Sporting Capital Home Page | Sporting Capital](#)

### **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 £1,500 for homes and £3,500 for businesses help to cover the costs of installing gigabit broadband to people's doorsteps.

The new UK Gigabit Voucher launched in April 2021 and is only available through a supplier who is registered with the scheme.

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/>

### **Apprentice incentive payments – HM Government**

The government has increased the incentive payment for hiring a new apprentice. The incentive payment is in addition to the £1,000 employers already receive for hiring an apprentice:

Employers will receive £3,000 for new employees of any age who start their apprenticeship from 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021. You can apply for incentive payments for these apprentices from 1 June 2021.

Full details are available on the government's website.

[Incentive payments for hiring a new apprentice - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

### **Force for Change programme – The Armed Forces Covenant Fund**

This programme will award grants of up to £10,000 for community projects that reduce isolation and promote integration; supporting post-Covid recovery in local Armed Forces communities affected by isolation.

One-year grants are available of up to £10,000 to support ideas that need small amounts of funding to deliver nimble and focused local projects to Armed Forces communities. Or they'll make small grants to support services, projects and activities that are used by Armed Forces communities, but which are struggling as a result of the impact of the Covid pandemic.

The deadline for applications to round two of the programme is 2 August 2021.

[Armed Forces Covenant Fund: Force for Change programme : The Armed Forces Covenant Trust](#)

### **Sustaining Support for Armed Forces Communities – The Armed Forces Covenant Fund**

This programme will award grants of up to £100,000 for existing charitable projects to help charities to sustain activities and services that people from Armed Forces communities use and value.

There are two funding tracks available, and organisations can only pick one track and receive one grant award from this programme.

1. Project Funding Track – for existing projects only that are well used by people from Armed Forces communities. Up to 2 Full Time Equivalent staff can be funded to deliver your project or activity for a year plus other reasonable cost.
2. Core Funding Track – For Armed Forces Charities only. Up to two Full Time Equivalent core staff can be funded where that enables your organisation to keep delivering services.

Round two of this programme will close on 9 September 2021.

[Sustaining Support for Armed Forces Communities programme : The Armed Forces Covenant Trust \(covenantfund.org.uk\)](#)

### **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. One element of this support package remains open to applications as follows:

- *Community Business ReBoost Fund*. This provides grant funding to support the development of a community share offer and achieve the standard mark, as well as match equity investment. The investments will be up to £25,000 of match funding, providing that the minimum share target is achieved. ReBoost Fund is designed to support community businesses to launch their first community share offer and is run by Power to Change in partnership with Cooperatives UK.

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

### **Theatre Improvement Scheme – Theatres Trust**

Theatres Trust's Theatre Improvement Scheme, in association with the Wolfson Foundation, offers capital funding for theatres.

The theme for the fund for the next three years is Improving Environmental Sustainability as this is an urgent priority for the sector.

Theatre operators can apply for grants of up to £20,000 towards their building or equipment as part of the scheme.

It is hoped that these grants will support a range of projects that consider different ways theatre buildings can reduce their environmental impact. From sedum roofs to new windows, building management systems to more efficient water heaters, funding will be given to projects that demonstrate how a small intervention can have a big impact. The deadline for applications is 6 September 2021.

[Wolfson/Theatres Trust Theatre Improvement Scheme | How We Help | Theatres Trust](#)

### **The Eco Fund – DPD**

The Eco Fund is funded by DPD's circular economy initiative to protect the environment. The plastic shrink wrap used in their operation is broken down, and then recycled to create new plastic shrink wrap. DPD also re-use and recycle the wooden pallets used in their depots and the money generated from both these initiatives goes straight into the Eco Fund.

Anyone can apply for funding from the DPD Eco Fund, although they particularly encourage schools and educational facilities across the UK working on green projects with their students and start-up companies working on developing environmentally friendly products to apply.

Grants up to £2000 are available.

[DPD UK | The UK's Most Sustainable Delivery Company](#)

### **Grants for Heritage – National Lottery Heritage Fund**

Applications are open for National Lottery Grants for Heritage from £3,000 up to £5million. They will prioritise projects that contribute to recovery from the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis.

Between April 2021 to March 2022, when making funding decisions, they will prioritise heritage projects that:

- 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

Their inclusion outcome – a wider range of people will be involved in heritage – remains mandatory for all projects funded.

In addition, all projects must demonstrate they are environmentally responsible and are integrating environmental measures into their projects.

You can read more on the Fund's website:

[National Lottery Grants for Heritage 2021-22 | The National Lottery Heritage Fund](#)

### **Lloyds Bank Foundation**

The Foundation fund small and local charities, investing in their work helping people overcome complex social issues across England and Wales. They support charities with an annual income of £25,000 to £1 million with a proven track record of helping people on a journey of positive change through in-depth, holistic and person-centred support. The Foundation offer unrestricted funding, including around core costs, and tailored development support to help your charity be more effective.

The priority complex social issues are:

- Addiction and dependency
- Asylum seekers and refugees
- Care leavers
- Domestic abuse
- Homeless and vulnerably housed
- Learning disabilities
- Mental health
- Offending, prison or community service
- Sexual abuse and exploitation
- Trafficking and modern slavery
- Young parents

[We Fund \(lloydsbankfoundation.org.uk\)](http://lloydsbankfoundation.org.uk)

### **Charity & community project grants – People's Postcode Lottery**

The aim of the organisations listed below is to support smaller charities and good causes in different parts of the country to make a difference to their community for the benefit of people and planet.

Players of People's Postcode Lottery have funded good causes in every postcode area in Britain.

The different organisations are:

- [People's Postcode Trust](#)
- [Postcode Community Trust](#)
- [Postcode Local Trust](#)
- [Postcode Neighbourhood Trust](#)
- [Postcode Places Trust](#)
- [Postcode Society Trust](#)
- [Postcode Dream Fund](#)

Funding rounds are held throughout the year. Click on each of the above links to see which might be applicable to your organisation.

### **Fund A – Youth Music Network**

Grants of £2,000 to £30,000 are available from the Youth Music Network to support music-making and music-making related activities for children and young people (aged 0-25) facing barriers.

Projects criteria include:

- Offer a music-related programme for children or young people facing barriers in England.

- Meet one or more of Youth Music's priority areas (Early Years, Disabled young people, Young adults, Youth justice system, Young people facing barriers and Organisations and the workforce).
- Be co-designed by children/young people.

The next deadline for applications is 30 July 2021.

[Fund A | Youth Music Network](#)

### **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>

### **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.

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://tnlcommunityfund.org.uk)

### **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 - \(foylefoundation.org.uk\)](https://foylefoundation.org.uk)

### **Return to Play Fund – Sport England**

There are two parts to this new fund which remain open.

- 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. The Fund will remain open until the end of 2021.
- 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/>

### **National Lottery Project Grants – Arts Council England**

The Arts Council have reopened this fund with additional supplementary guidance which applies until 31 August 2021 to help fund independent organisations, creative practitioners and freelancers as quickly as possible. They also have a ring-fenced budget of £1.5 million until 31 March 2022 available within National Lottery Project Grants specifically to support the grassroots music sector.

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

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

### **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 will be in November.
- Gateway grants. The Gateway Grant Programme offers grants of between £3,000 and £10,000 towards project development and investigative work up to RIBA planning stage 1, to support churches preparing for a major project, and in developing their project to the point at which they can approach a major grant funder. Grants will never exceed 50% of the project costs for this phase. The next deadline for applications is 9 September 2021.
- 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.
- 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>

### **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 August 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 five 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.familyfundsolutions.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/>

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