

# RURAL FUNDING DIGEST

## June 2020

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

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

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

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

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

More information is available via the website.

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

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

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

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

For more information visit the website below.

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

### **Building Safety Fund for the remediation of unsafe non-ACM cladding systems – Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government**

In the March 2020 budget, the government announced that it will provide £1 billion in 2020 to 2021 to support the remediation of unsafe non-ACM cladding system on residential buildings 18 metres and over in both the private and social housing sectors. The government is now asking potential applicants to register for the fund, in advance of the full application process opening by the end of July 2020.

On 26 May 2020, government published the prospectus for the fund which will be predominately targeted at supporting leaseholders in the private sector facing significant bills. However, the government also state that “for leaseholders living in buildings owned by providers in the social sector, it will provide funding to meet the provider’s costs which would otherwise have been borne by leaseholders. The government expects landlords to cover these costs without increasing rent for their tenants.”

Further details on the prospectus are available on the website.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/remediation-of-non-acm-buildings>

### **Covid-19 Emergency Funding (including Coronavirus Community Support Fund) – The National Lottery Community Fund**

The National Lottery Community Fund has launched a £200m fund aimed primarily at small to medium organisations in England. The fund is part of the Government's £750m financial support package for charities and social enterprises announced by Government on April 8. They will distribute the Government funding alongside National Lottery funding, to support organisations to continue to deliver services to people and communities affected by COVID-19.

The application you need to fill in is the same whether your funding comes from the Government or from the Lottery.

They can fund activities supporting people and communities affected by COVID-19. They can also help organisations overcome any acute financial difficulties they're facing because of the pandemic.

They are looking to award funding between £300 to £10,000 or funding over £10,000 to cover your spending for up to six months after award.

There will be high demand for this funding, and the Lottery say they will have to make some tough choices. They expect the funding to be heavily oversubscribed and anticipate only being able to support a proportion of applications.

You can only apply once for COVID-19 emergency funding in England.

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

### **Heritage Emergency Fund – The National Lottery Heritage Fund**

The National Lottery Heritage Fund has put together a £50million fund to support the heritage sector as an immediate response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. The UK-wide fund - money raised from The National Lottery - will address immediate pressures over the next few months for those organisations most in need. It is now open for applications until 30 June.

The £50m fund is available for grants of between £3,000 and £50,000.

It is available to organisations across the full breadth of heritage, including historic sites, industrial and maritime heritage, museums, libraries and archives, parks and gardens, landscapes and nature.

Organisations which have received funding in the past or are either a current grantee, or still under contract following a previous grant, can apply.

Priority will be given where:

- there is limited or no access to other sources of support
- where heritage is most at risk
- where an organisation is at risk of severe financial crisis due to coronavirus (COVID-19)

<https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/news/heritage-emergency-fund-launches-help-sector-updated>

### **Covid-19 Support – Sport England**

Sport England are making up to £210 million of funding available to help the sport and physical activity sector through the ongoing coronavirus (Covid-19) crisis.

The package, which is a combination of National Lottery and government funding, is made up of the following:

- A Community Emergency Fund. This aims to deliver immediate funding to those most in need and builds on the success of similar previous funds such as the Flood Relief Fund. It's specifically targeted at organisations, including those not currently supported by Sport England, who have a role in supporting the nation to be active but who are experiencing short-term financial hardship

or the ceasing of operations due to the impact of coronavirus. Organisations can apply for grants between £300 and £10,000.

- A £5 million Sector Partner Fund. This fund has been used to support 12 key partners in immediate financial need. It was specifically designed to support membership style organisations that play a crucial role to support other bodies and clubs in sport, with recipients already including Community Leisure UK, Disability Sport Coach and the Association of British Climbing Walls.
- A £55 million Sector Stimulation Fund. Sport England believe financial support will be needed to support and stimulate the sector while restrictions are being lifted, and that organisations will need help getting back to business and back to delivery. Part of this pot, £20m, has formed the Tackling Inequalities Fund, which is designed to minimise the impact of coronavirus on the activity levels of people from under-represented groups, ensuring that the participation gaps don't widen during this period. Details on how they propose to use the remainder of this funding will be set out in the coming weeks.
- A £115 million rollover of current funding into 2021/22 to give long term certainty to over 100 well established partners who play a vital role in the delivery of sport and physical activity in England.

Alongside this, given cashflow concerns in the sector, Sport England have also agreed to consider requests to release six months of the coming year's funding (50% of awards) to their partners, meaning additional funding will be available sooner. More details on each of these funding streams can be viewed via the website.

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

### **Crowdfunding support for clubs & organisations – Sport England**

Sport England have committed another £1 million to combating the impact of coronavirus (Covid-19) on sports clubs and community activity groups, in the form of match funding through Crowdfunder.

This 'Active Together' partnership with Crowdfunder follows a successful collaboration from November 2018, which saw them committing to match fund 23 projects up to the value of £15,000 each.

This time they are matching crowd funds of up to £10,000 raised by clubs and organisations hit by the coronavirus crisis – and is in addition to the up to £210 million coronavirus support package already announced.

To be eligible, organisations must be:

- Local sports clubs
- Charity, community, voluntary and social enterprise sector organisations that deliver sport and/or physical activity in their community – including organisations that are not solely or primarily sports organisations – for the benefit of people residing in England.

<https://www.sportengland.org/news/%C2%A31-million-crowdfunding-support-clubs-and-organisation>

### **Community Business Emergency Support – Power to Change**

Power to Change, the independent trust that supports community businesses in England, has launched up to £12 million of emergency support to provide both immediate and medium-term help for community businesses facing a loss of trading income during the coronavirus crisis:

- £7 million in rescue funding for community businesses, offering grants up to £25,000 to contribute towards trading income losses incurred between April and June 2020. This first pot of funding is available to current and previous Power to Change grantees, and to community businesses which are members of Power to Change's strategic partners – Co-operatives UK, Locality and the Plunkett Foundation – all of whom played a key role in designing this response.

- £5 million in recovery funding, to be made available later this year, based on learning from the first pot to help community businesses rebuild and recover strongly from the crisis.

This emergency support was opened for applications week beginning 11 May to support those organisations invested in by Power to Change since it launched in 2015 and around a thousand more community businesses who are members of Co-operatives UK, Locality and Plunkett Foundation.

<https://www.powertochange.org.uk/news/emergency-support-community-businesses/>

### **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 which includes:

- the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme
- deferring VAT and Income Tax payments
- a Self-employment Income Support Scheme
- a Statutory Sick Pay relief package for small and medium sized businesses
- business rate relief
- small business grant funding of £10,000 for all business in receipt of small business rate relief or rural rate relief
- grant funding of £25,000 for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses with property with a rateable value between £15,000 and £51,000
- the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme

Information on all these items can be found via the following link:

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

### **Coronavirus Appeal – National Emergencies Trust**

The National Emergencies Trust (NET) launched a fundraising appeal to help those most affected by the coronavirus emergency. The appeal aims to raise funds for local charities and grassroots organisations that can provide vital support to people in the quickest way possible.

The fundraising appeal administration is run by the British Red Cross, on behalf of the NET. The British Red Cross is working with the NET to make it simple and easy for people to give. The British Red Cross transfer funds to the NET, who will work with UK Community Foundations. Each of the 47 community foundations is described as having “an in-depth understanding of their local area, what the priority needs are and how best to address these issues, so they can ensure the funding goes where it is most needed and can make the most impact.”

Individuals and charities should not apply directly to the NET for funds but should contact their local community foundation. You can read more and find out details of your local Community Foundation via the following link:

<https://nationalemergenciestrust.org.uk/coronavirus/>

### **Food Charities Grant Fund – Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs**

If you run a front-line food aid charity in England, you can apply for a grant of up to £100,000 to help you continue to provide food to the vulnerable. You can apply for funding as a group of charities to meet the criteria for applications.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) will assess applications to the fund in the order they are submitted.

You're eligible to apply if you:

- are unable to meet an increased demand for food from vulnerable individuals or supporting charities

- have the capacity to distribute all of the food purchased under this grant by 9 August 2020
  - are receiving food from the FareShare charity
- You can apply for the grant to provide for people:
- unable to afford food
  - who have moved into temporary accommodation as a result of COVID-19, for example those who have left home due to domestic abuse, newly released prisoners, the newly homeless.

The grant scheme will close on 6 July 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-apply-for-the-food-charities-grant-fund>

### **Covid-19 Response Programmes – BBC Children in Need**

The COVID-19 Response Programmes are as follows:

- The COVID-19 2020 Booster Grants programme opened to *current* BBC Children in Need grant-holders from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020 and will enable organisations to apply for funding up to £5,000 over a 6 month period.
- The COVID-19 Large Grants programme will open to applications from 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020 and will enable organisations to apply for funding up to £80,000 over an 18-month period.

More details on both of these funds will be made available on the website.

<https://www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/grants/apply/>

### **Aviva Community Fund**

Small charities and constituted community groups with innovative ideas that benefit their community can apply for funding of up to £50,000 for projects that build more connected, more resilient communities and give people the tools to become more financially independent.

The Fund state: “The COVID-19 outbreak is a challenging time for many. We know that now, more than ever, small charities need our support. That is why we have broadened the criteria of the Aviva Community Fund to include applications for projects that enable causes to adapt or continue their vital services by covering core running costs, so they can help their beneficiaries and communities during this time of need.”

Applications are open until 28 July 2020.

<https://www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/start-crowdfunding#criteria>

### **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>

### **Urban Tree Challenge Fund – Forestry Commission**

The Urban Tree Challenge Fund (UTCf) has been developed in response to HM Treasury releasing £10 million in the 2018 Autumn Budget announcement for planting at least 20,000 large trees and 110,000 small trees in urban areas in England.

The application window for Round 2 is open until 30 June 2020.

The Urban Tree Challenge Fund provides 50% funding of standard costs for planting small trees and their establishment costs for 3 years following planting. The funding supports the cost of buying a tree, planting in grass, soil or leaf litter, the cost of basic protection and the labour required to plant it. Establishment payments support the cost of weeding, watering and checking trees during multiple visits over a 3 year period.

In Round 1, the fund was open for block bids only and due to its success, the large tree allocation has now been fully committed. In Round 2, the fund is open for individual applications only and for small tree planting only. In Round 1, block bids allowed organisations to apply for funding for multiple projects under one application, which could be geographically dispersed across England or focused in a local area. Individual applications are aimed at smaller organisations or community groups who are looking to deliver much smaller scale projects.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/urban-tree-challenge-fund>

### **Zoos Support Fund – Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs**

If you run a licensed zoo or aquarium in England and are experiencing severe financial difficulties because of lost revenue, you can apply for a grant of up to £100,000.

How much you get will be based on your animals' needs. You can use the grant to cover animal-care costs that you cannot lower such as:

- keepers' wages
- animal feed and bedding
- veterinary care and medicines
- electricity and heating
- waste removal

If Defra approves your application, you'll get payments over a maximum of 3 months.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-zoos-and-aquariums>

### **Covid-19 homeless support fund – Morrisons Foundation**

The Morrisons Foundation recognises that homeless people are particularly vulnerable to Covid-19 because they are more likely to have underlying health conditions and are less able to access basic sanitation.

Homelessness charities are raising concerns that if someone is sleeping rough or in a crowded night shelter, it's impossible to self-isolate and maintain social distance so help is needed more than ever before.

In response to this, the Morrisons Foundation Trustees have pledged £500,000 towards the Homeless Support Fund. The fund is designed to support charities caring for the homeless during the coronavirus outbreak and ensure help gets to those who need it most.

Applications will be considered up to a maximum of £10,000, but the emphasis is on smaller amounts to enable as many charities as possible can be supported from the fund.

<https://www.morrisonfoundation.com/latest-news/covid-19/>

### **Development Grants & Impact Grants – Youth Futures Foundation**

The Youth Futures Foundation is committed to transforming employment for young people. They recognise that achieving this systemic change will be a team effort involving a broad range of employers, government, funders and organisations working with young people. Their activities and grant giving are designed to reflect this. In

response to Covid-19 they have acted swiftly to develop an emergency funding response:

1. They have significantly increased funding available for development and impact grants to rapidly increase youth employment provision
2. They are launching an emergency levelling up youth fund to support young people from the hardest hit communities

Their rolling grants programme is designed to find, fund, support and evaluate promising practice. Funding will go to organisations working with young people aged 14-24 to help overcome barriers to finding meaningful work. They are looking for approaches that can be tested, evaluated and, where proven to be effective, expanded to more young people.

The Foundation want to partner with organisations that share their values and are committed to learning, investing in good practice and sharing what works to transform the youth employment landscape.

Two types of grant are available:

- Development Grants of between £30,000 and £100,000 per annum over 1-2 years.
- Impact Grants of between £100,000 and £800,000 per annum over 1-5 years.

<https://youthfuturesfoundation.org/grants/>

### **Enterprise Relief Fund – Prince’s Trust & Nat West**

The £5million Enterprise Relief Fund will offer grants to 18 to 30-year olds across the UK who are self-employed and/or running their own business. In conjunction with cash grants, the initiative will offer one-to-one support and guidance to anyone who needs it and who may be worried about their future.

Grants can be used to maintain core business operations during the crisis, as well as meet any existing financial commitments, such as paying for essential equipment or settling invoices from suppliers. Additionally, grants will also support young people to diversify their business to respond to opportunities created by the crises. In conjunction with grants, the initiative will offer one-to-one support and guidance to any applicants who need it.

To be eligible to apply, you must be a business owner aged 18 to 30, who set up their business in the last four years and don't have any other source of income during the crisis.

[https://www.princes-trust.org.uk/about-the-trust/coronavirus-response/enterprise-relief-fund?mc\\_cid=91ef797a9c&mc\\_eid=384bc8dfbb](https://www.princes-trust.org.uk/about-the-trust/coronavirus-response/enterprise-relief-fund?mc_cid=91ef797a9c&mc_eid=384bc8dfbb)

### **Coronavirus response fund – Big Society Capital**

A £100 million programme of loans and investment has been announced by Big Society Capital to help get much-needed emergency funding to social enterprises, charities and small businesses in disadvantaged areas affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The new measures include:

- A new Resilience and Recovery Loan Fund, managed by Social Investment Business (SIB), to enable social lenders to provide emergency loans to affected social enterprises and charities without requiring personal guarantees and charging no fees or interest for 12 months.
- Smaller, emergency loans will also be made available on the same no fee, no interest for 12 months basis to small businesses and social enterprises in more deprived areas.
- Up to a further £50 million which Big Society Capital will reprioritise and repurpose over coming months to address emerging funding needs among social enterprises and charities, either through the Resilience and Recovery Loan Fund or alternative funding vehicles as appropriate.

<https://bigsocietycapital.com/latest/100-million-response-announced-to-help-social-sector-organisations-through-the-coronavirus-crisis/>

### **UK Theatres Small Grants scheme**

The UK Theatres Small Grants Scheme is a capital fund that awards up to £5,000 to theatres across the UK run by charities and not-for-profit groups that can clearly demonstrate the value capital improvements to their theatres would make to their work in local communities.

Priorities include projects that address urgent building repairs, improve operational viability, introduce environmental improvements, and enhance physical accessibility. Please note that applications for technical equipment and refurbishment of soft furnishings are a low priority for the scheme.

Round 16 of the scheme is currently open. The deadline for applications is 5 October 2020.

<http://www.theatrust.org.uk/uk-theatres-small-grants-scheme>

### **Farming Recovery Fund – Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs**

Government state that the Farming Recovery Fund will be opened to farmers who are located in parts of:

- Herefordshire
- Shropshire
- Staffordshire
- East and North Yorkshire

and further extension in Nottinghamshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire.

They “expect the window for applications covering February 2020 flooding to open by the end of May 2020. We will publish the handbook covering this flooding as soon as possible.”

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/farming-recovery-fund-extension-2020>

### **Restoring Your Railway Fund – Department for Transport**

The Department for Transport has invited MPs, local authorities and community groups across England and Wales to propose how they could use funding to reinstate axed local rail services and restore closed stations.

Funding is available for 3 purposes.

- Ideas Fund – offers support to proposals to reinstate axed local services, which should be sponsored by MPs working with local authorities and community groups. The next deadline for applications is 19 June 2020.
- Accelerating existing proposals – the £500 million fund will also help accelerate the development of closed lines and stations which are already in the process of being considered for restoration.
- Proposals for new and restored stations – a new round of the New Stations Fund, supporting both the development of new stations and restoration of old station sites. The next deadline for applications is 5 June 2020.

You can read more via the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/re-opening-beeching-era-lines-and-stations>

### **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>

### **Places to Ride – British Cycling**

British Cycling is working closely with Sport England to develop a national network of new cycling facilities which meets local demand, making use of a £15 million investment programme called Places to Ride.

The funding is available to any organisation that is developing cycling activity in their community and can be used for anything from equipment packages to activate your local space, through to a brand-new cycling facility. The programme is open until January 2021.

Large scale grants (£50,000 - £500,000) are available, typically for new facilities or significant improvements to existing venues, small scale grants (£1000 to £50,000) for equipment, cycle storage, small-scale facilities or venue improvements. Equipment packages are also available to activate your local space.

<https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/placestoride>

### **Cornerstone, Gateway & Foundation Grants – National Churches Trust**

The National Churches Trust has three grant programmes currently open:

- Cornerstone grants. The Cornerstone Grant Programme offers grants of between £10,000 and £50,000 towards the cost of urgent structural repair projects costed at more than £100,000 including VAT. The Trust will also consider projects that introduce kitchens and accessible toilets to enable increased community use, costed at more than £30,000 including VAT. Grants will never exceed 50% of the project cost. The next deadline for applications is 6 July 2020.
- 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 10 September 2020.
- 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 will be considered on a rolling basis from the end of January 2020. The final opportunity to submit an application will be 30 October 2020.
- 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>

### **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.
- Transformational Project Grants: up to £350,000, for transformational capital projects. The deadline for applications was 7 April 2020.
- Community Shares Booster Grants: further info to be announced.

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

### **Energy Redress Scheme – Energy Saving Trust**

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

Energy Saving Trust has developed an open application process for charities seeking funding from the Energy Redress Scheme. Successful projects will be selected with input from an independent panel of experts and could cover a range of locations across England, Scotland and Wales.

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

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

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

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

### **Comic Relief Community Fund (England) – Groundwork UK**

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

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

- *Children Survive & Thrive*: projects that support children under the age of 5 to reach their potential and have the best start in life.

- *Fighting for Gender Justice:* projects that improve equality for women, girls and the LBTQI+ community and initiatives that help people affected by domestic violence, abuse or exploitation due to their gender.
- *A Safe Place to Be:* projects that support people who are rebuilding their lives because of homelessness or forced migration.
- *Mental Health Matters:* projects that support good mental health in communities, improve access to support and tackle stigma and discrimination.

Funding is available to help you develop your organisation through a Capacity Building Grant (up to £500) or to deliver projects through a Project Delivery Grant (up to £4000). Administration of the local funding is being managed by community charity, Groundwork, which specialises in transforming communities and the local environment for the better.

This is a rolling programme and applications can be made at any time.

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

### **Veterans' Foundation grants**

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

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

They will support projects that:

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

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

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

### **Church Conservation Grants – William and Jane 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 2020.

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

### **Heritage Impact Fund – Architectural Heritage Fund**

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

Loans from £25,000 to £500,000 are available for up to three years with tailored terms and both flexible and incentivised interest rates for impactful projects. These could include both capital and interest repayment holidays. HIF supports applicants across the UK who are undertaking a capital project or are looking to build upon or scale-up an existing enterprise.

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

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

### **First Steps Enterprise Fund – Asda Foundation**

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

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

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

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

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

### **Cultural Impact Development Fund**

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

The aims of the fund are to:

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

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

The investment window is open until August 2021.

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

### **Emergency Essentials Programme – BBC Children in Need**

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

The programme can deliver or fund critical items such as:

- Gas or electric cookers
- Essential household items
- Furniture and kitchen equipment

- Children's beds and bedding
- Washing machines
- Fridges and freezers
- Baby equipment
- Clothing in exceptional or emergency situations.

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

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

### Reaching Communities England – National Lottery Community Fund

The Reaching Communities programme aims to make positive change in communities.

Big Lottery particularly want to hear about ideas that support:

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

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

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

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

**NB:** *This programme now focuses on funding projects and organisations helping communities through the COVID-19 pandemic. “We ask organisations who are not looking for COVID-19 related funding in England to not to submit an application at this time. All our resources need to be focused on helping communities through the pandemic. We are reviewing the situation on an on-going basis and will share any updates or developments on our website.”*

### Awards for All England – National Lottery Community Fund

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

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

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

- bringing people together and building strong relationships in and across communities
- improving the places and spaces that matter to communities
- enabling more people to fulfil their potential by working to address issues at the earliest possible stage.

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

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

**NB:** This programme now focuses on funding projects and organisations helping communities through the COVID-19 pandemic. “We ask organisations who are not looking for COVID-19 related funding in England to not to submit an application at this time. All our resources need to be focused on helping communities through the pandemic. We are reviewing the situation on an on-going basis and will share any updates or developments on our website.”

### **Partnerships – National Lottery Community Fund**

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

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

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

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

**NB:** This programme now focuses on funding projects and organisations helping communities through the COVID-19 pandemic. “We ask organisations who are not looking for COVID-19 related funding in England to not to submit an application at this time. All our resources need to be focused on helping communities through the pandemic. We are reviewing the situation on an on-going basis and will share any updates or developments on our website.”

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

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

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

### **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/>

### **Tesco Community Grants – Tesco and Groundwork**

Bags of Help is Tesco's local community grant scheme where the money raised by the carrier bag charge in Tesco stores is being used to fund thousands of community projects. The projects must meet the criteria of bringing benefits to the community. Grants of up to £2,000 are available.

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

Three community projects in each local area will be voted on by customers in Tesco stores throughout the UK, with projects changing every other month. Following the vote, the project that received the most votes in its area will receive a grant of up to £2,000, second place receiving up to £1,000 and third place up to £500.

<https://tescobagsofhelp.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 administers a number of grants schemes supporting war memorials in the UK. Programme funders include Historic England, Historic Environment Scotland as well as voluntary donations towards the charity's work from

individuals and organisations. Grants are currently available up to 75% of eligible costs with a normal maximum grant of £30,000.

War Memorials Trust seeks to help all war memorial custodians, whatever the nature and size of their war memorial by facilitating repair and conservation projects. Details on current eligibility and deadline dates as well as how to apply can be found at the web address below.

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

### **Football Foundation grants**

The Football Foundation provides grants for building or refurbishing grassroots facilities, such as changing rooms, 3G pitches, fencing, portable floodlights, pitch improvements and clubhouse refurbishment. The Fund is available to football clubs, schools, councils and local sports associations and gives grants for projects that:

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

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

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

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

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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)