

# COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

## 'Making a Difference in East Ayrshire Communities'

# ALERT



11 April 2025

## Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust

The Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust is offering grants for UK-registered charities working with communities across the UK to help those most in need.

The Trust operates a three-year rotation system, with different fields of interest being funded each year. There are normally four application rounds per year with applications accepted for one month only, usually in February, April, July, and September. Charities can apply for one round per calendar year.

In 2025, Rounds 1 and 2 will accept applications for projects that focus on improving access to the Arts, specifically projects that will improve audience access and participation. Applications will not be considered from non-performing arts projects or projects focussing on performers.

In this round, grants of £5,000 are available for UK-registered charities or organisations that are exempted from registration with a minimum operating income of £1 million. Applications will not be accepted from CICs or other not-for-profit organisations that are not a UK-registered charity.

**The deadline for Round 2 is 30 April 2025.**

[Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust](#)

## Barchester Healthcare Foundation

Barchester Healthcare Foundation is offering grants of up to £2,500 for small community groups and local charities across England, Scotland, and Wales for projects that help reduce isolation and loneliness, promote group activities, and generally improve mobility and quality of life for older people and adults with physical, learning, or mental disabilities.

Funding is intended to help small community groups and local charities with the following:

- Activities.
- Equipment and materials for use by members.
- Member transport.
- Day trips, outings, and group holidays in the UK.

Priority will be given to innovative projects that help older people and those with a disability to get active, meet people, and reduce isolation.

Funding is for small and local groups, and groups with financial reserves of over £150,000 are unlikely to receive support.

**Applications can be submitted at any time.**

[Barchester Healthcare Foundation](#)

## Benefact Trust – Community Impact Grants

Grants for Christian organisations across the UK and Ireland to deliver a range of projects and activities that will make a positive and transformative impact in lives and communities.

Through the Community Impact Grants Programme, funding is available for projects that fall under the following programme areas:

- Growing congregations and Christian communities.
- Addressing social challenges facing communities.
- Enabling wider community use of church buildings.
- Empowering Christian Education.

Funding can be used to cover direct capital and revenue costs that are directly related to the proposed project. Funding can be used for new projects or to expand preexisting work.

Multi-year grants covering up to three years are available.

**Applications can be submitted at any time.**

[Benefact Trust - Community Impact Grants](#)

## Greenspace Scotland – Parks4Life Community Fund

Grants of between £500 and £1,500 are now available to constituted community and friends' groups that are working to enhance parks and greenspaces in Scotland.

The funding is provided through the second round of the annual Parks4Life Community Fund, established through donations and support to Scotland's only crowdfunding site specifically for parks and greenspaces, MyParkScotland, and is managed by Greenspace Scotland.

The Fund is intended to support community groups to deliver on their aim of bringing their parks to life and making the best of parks in Scotland for the public to enjoy now and in the future.

Funding can be used for a range of costs, including events, skills training for volunteers, or small planting schemes.

Priority will be given to the following:

- Projects that aim to 'activate' the park through events eg, a gala day or focussed park clean that will bring people to the park or greenspace.
- Promoting the work of the community and friends' group and the role of the park or greenspace.

- Purchase of tools and materials that will help the group.
- Groups where their park or greenspace is in an area that scores highly on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD), particularly those in the 20% of most deprived areas.

It is anticipated that projects will be delivered within six months of a grant offer being accepted.

**The deadline for applications is 25 April 2025.**

[Greenspace Scotland - Parks4Life Community Fund](#)

## Gosling Foundation

Gosling Foundation is offering grants starting from £5,000 for charities, charitable incorporated organisations (CIOs), and community interest companies (CICs) across the UK with an annual income of less than £30 million to support a variety of projects and activities that align with the Foundation's objectives.

The Foundation will support projects that align with the following aims:

- Royal Navy and Royal Marines - to improve their quality of life.
- Youth - provide opportunities and support for disadvantaged young people.
- Education - opportunities and support for people.

Grants can be used for:

- Project costs (for projects that directly impact beneficiaries).
- Capital projects eg new buildings, extensions, refurbishment, and recreational spaces.
- IT projects, moving services online, setting up helplines, etc.
- Equipment and furniture.
- Salaries (for positions that directly impact beneficiaries).
- Events that directly impact beneficiaries.

The trustees tend to only part-fund projects. Applicants are encouraged to raise funds from a variety of sources. Single and multi-year grants are available.

**Applications can be submitted at any time.**

[Gosling Foundation](#)

## Historic Environment Scotland – Partnership Fund

Historic Environment Scotland is offering grants to support third-sector organisations delivering projects and activities that have a national impact on Scotland's historic environment and align with the HES grant priorities to:

- Increase understanding of and engagement with Scotland's historic environment.
- Enhance communities' use of the historic environment in place-making.

- Strengthen the resilience of Scotland’s historic environment.
- Use the historic environment as a catalyst for climate action.
- Increase the quality and availability of historic environment skills.
- Increase economic benefits from the historic environment sustainably and inclusively.

Funding is at the discretion of HES and will support a variety of activities, including but not limited to:

- Professional or volunteer training programmes addressing recognised historic environment skills gaps at a national level.
- Developmental, advocacy or capacity-building activities that enable the sector to achieve strategic outcomes in line with national priorities.
- Outreach activities or learning programmes that deliver high-impact outcomes for audiences across Scotland.

The funding can be used to support the costs of delivering up to three different areas of activity (Activity Streams) for up to three financial years. Eligible costs include both direct project costs, such as staff time, materials, and equipment, and appropriate levels of indirect costs, such as overheads, where these are related to any proposed activities.

**The deadline to submit an Expression of Interest is 15 August 2025.**

[Historic Environment Scotland - Partnership Fund](#)

## Inspiring Scotland – Autistic Adult Support Fund

The Scottish Government has announced a new round of the Autistic Adult Support Fund, managed by Inspiring Scotland.

Grants of between £100,000 and £500,000 are available to incorporated third sector organisations in Scotland for projects running from October 2025 to March 2028.

Funding is for projects achieving the following outcomes:

- Adults who have received an autism diagnosis or who self-identify as autistic access support to help with their understanding of autism and their next steps.
- Autistic adults who access this support feel that it helps their well-being.
- Scottish Government obtains additional insight into what works for autistic people and how to address gaps in support.
- Teams in local Health and Social Care Partnerships (HSCPs) know about and refer autistic adults to the projects.

There is a two-stage application process. Groups must first submit an online expression of interest form before being invited to submit a full application.

The deadline for applications is 21 May 2025.

[Inspiring Scotland- Autistic Adult Support Fund](#)

## LandAid – StreetSmart Youth Homelessness Support Fund

Not-for-profit youth organisations can apply for grant funding to support projects which can demonstrate tangible impact in either or both of the following areas:

- Housing - projects support young people (aged 16-25) into accommodation (ie, emergency, supported or move-on accommodation)
- Employability - projects support young people (aged 16-25) out of homelessness into education, employment, and training with a view to enabling their transition to sustainable, independent living.

Projects need to be delivered within 12 months of receipt of funding. The project funding can be used for revenue, capital or a mixture of the two.

Projects can be match funded or fully funded. Grants of up to £10,000 are available.

**The deadline for stage one applications is 17 April 2025.**

[LandAid - StreetSmart Youth Homelessness Support Fund](#)

## Leche Trust – Heritage Conservation Grants

UK registered charities or public authorities can apply now for grants of up to £5,000 for small heritage conservation projects within the UK (outside of London and the South East England).

The funding is for historic objects, works of art and architectural decorations and fittings of artistic merit, which date prior to 1837.

These might include individual paintings, sculpture and monuments, wall paintings and non-structural architectural fittings such as decorative plaster work and panelling. Consideration will also be given to archaeological finds, items within archives and libraries and other decorative art objects.

Items must be in public or charitable ownership and accessible to the public.

The grants can be used to fund costs related to the completion of a full conservation survey and assessment, in cases where a more detailed understanding of conservation priorities and potential works is required.

Priority will be given to smaller projects or specific elements of projects, where funding can have the greatest impact.

**The deadline for applications is 2 May 2025.**

[Leche Trust - Heritage Conservation Grants](#)

## SafeDeposits Scotland – Community Fund

Grants of up to £5,000 are available to groups and organisations across Scotland to deliver a variety of projects and activities that benefit local communities.

Through the SafeDeposits Scotland Community Fund, groups can apply for funding for projects that positively impact local communities by addressing the following priorities:

- Sustainability and the environment.
- Employability and career skills.
- Social inclusion.
- Technology and digital inclusion.
- Improving the local community.

Applications are considered quarterly, with up to three grants available in each funding round.

**The next deadline for applications is 30 May 2025.**

[SafeDeposits Scotland - Community Fund](#)

## Scottish Forestry – Community Fund

The Scottish Forestry Community Fund supports community groups and organisations that encourage people to use woods more. The Fund directly supports the delivery of Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029 Objectives and Priorities for action.

Constituted community groups, voluntary groups, development trusts, social enterprises, charities and local authorities can apply for grants of up to £1,000 or over £1,000.

The funding can be used for the following activities:

- School care clubs and play schemes.
- Schemes that promote physical activity e.g. walking schemes, safe routes to school, natural play and adventure play.
- Facilitation of volunteering for skills training, health improvement and community development.
- Establishment of volunteer groups and the induction of volunteers.
- Projects promoting Gaelic.
- Providing resources to involve communities in the decision making process of managing their local woodland.
- Developing materials that promote the health and wellbeing benefits of using woodlands.

Funding can support activities on Scotland's national forests and land. It is not suitable for formal education, including forest schools and forest kindergarten.

**Applications can be submitted at any time.**

[Scottish Forestry - Community Fund](#)

## Shared Care Scotland – Creative Breaks

Grants of up to £35,000 (up to £10,000 for unincorporated organisations) to develop and deliver short breaks projects and services for carers of adults (aged 21 and over), young carers and the people they care for.

Funding is available to support organisations providing a wide range of different short break activities. This includes breaks away (i.e., overnight stays, residential breaks), days out, and/or shorter sessions (i.e. regular activities).

Activities must be designed to enable carers to have a life outside or alongside their caring role and to support their health and well-being. Short breaks should also benefit the cared-for person and others (eg, family members) and help sustain the caring relationship.

Funding can be used for costs directly related to projects taking place between 1 October 2025 and 30 September 2026.

Applications are welcome for existing projects and activities that are tried and tested, and for new projects and activities

Shared Care Scotland will be hosting the following online support workshops and phone-in sessions:

- Online support workshops:
  - 9 April 2025 (10:00-11:00).
  - 8 May 2025 (14:00-15:00).
- Phone-in sessions:
  - 14 April 2025 (10:00-12:00)
  - 1 May 2025 (14:00-16:00).
  - 14 May 2025 (10:30-12:30).

Applicants can register for the online support sessions through the Shared Care Scotland website and must contact Shared Care Scotland to register for the phone-in sessions.

**The deadline for applications is 22 May 2025.**

[Shared Care Scotland - Creative Breaks](#)

## True Colours Trust – UK Small Grants

Grants of up to £10,000 are available for registered charitable organisations with an annual income of less than £350,000 across the United Kingdom to deliver projects that work to improve the lives of disabled children and young people up to the age of 25, children and young people with life-limiting conditions, and their families.

The True Colours Trust Small Grants Programme will support projects such as:

- Activities for disabled children, children with life-limiting conditions and their families.
- Activities which support siblings of disabled children or siblings of children with life-limiting conditions.

- Bereavement support for children and young people and families bereaved of a child.
- Family and parent-led peer support for parents of disabled children.
- Respite which supports the whole family.

Priority will be given to organisations that operate in areas of high deprivation.

Eligible costs include renovation work, upgrading, and additional equipment for hydrotherapy pools and multi-sensory rooms, minibuses, and specialised play equipment or access to play for disabled children, children with life-limiting conditions and their families.

**Applications can be submitted at any time.**

[True Colours Trust - UK Small Grants](#)

## Warburtons – Community Grants

Through its Community Grants programme, the family run bakery business Warburtons provides a limited number of grants of up to £400 four times a year. Applications are currently being accepted for projects starting this summer.

Not-for-profit organisations with charitable purposes that are based and working in England, Scotland or Wales can apply as long as their projects are addressing one of Warburtons' priority areas:

- Health - supporting families to care for each other and lead healthier lives:
  - Improving physical health
  - Improving wellbeing
- Place - supporting families to flourish in communities that are safer, greener and more inclusive:
  - Making spaces safe and inclusive
  - Connecting communities with the environment
- Skills - supporting families to gain useful skills for life and work:
  - Developing useful life skills
  - Developing useful skills for employment.

Grants can be used to cover specific costs that will benefit the cause (eg, purchasing equipment to support an employability project).

Applications are considered quarterly.

**The next deadline for applications is 5 May 2025.**

[Warburtons - Community Grants](#)

## East Ayrshire Council Community Grant

The next deadline date for applications is 18 July 2025.

[East Ayrshire Council Community Grant](#)

## Renewable Energy Fund

To check the next deadline date for applications please contact Democratic Services at Council HQ on 01563 554400 for further information.

[Renewable Energy Fund](#)

## Tincornhill Quarry Fund

For further information on application criteria and deadline dates please go to:

[Tincornhill Quarry Fund](#)

## East Ayrshire 4 Community

If you are looking for external funding for a particular project then please remember to register **FREE** at East Ayrshire 4 Community by going to the following link:

[East Ayrshire 4 Community](#)