

# COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

## 'Making a Difference in East Ayrshire Communities'

# ALERT



16 September 2025

## Cash4Clubs

The 2025/26 programme is focused on supporting adult participation in sport. Funding is available to groups that support over 18s only.

Not-for-profit organisations, including charities, community groups and traditional sports clubs from across the UK and Ireland are eligible to apply. The fund will provide 250 unrestricted grants of £2,000 each.

Since Cash4Clubs aims to get vital funds to clubs that need it most, priority will be given to applications from groups working in areas of high deprivation and engaging adults from specific under-represented groups. That means those who:

- Are supporting adults living in an area of high deprivation. (Using Government Indices of Multiple Deprivation and the Pobal HP Deprivation Index).
- Increase access to sport for one or more under-represented groups, including women, people from racially diverse communities, people with disabilities and people from the LGBTQ+ community.
- Encourage adults who would not usually engage in sport to take part. Examples include activities that support physical and mental wellbeing or tackle issues such as loneliness and rural isolation.
- Address broader social issues for the local community, for example tackling crime and anti-social behaviour or supporting community cohesion.

The funding is unrestricted and can be used for anything that will support the organisation to continue and/or grow their sports activities for adults.

Groups can expect to have a decision on their application by the end of January 2026. The funding should be spent within a six-month period.

**The deadline for applications is 8 December 2025.**

[Cash4Clubs](#)

## Help the Homeless

This small grant maker provides grants of up to £5,000 for capital projects that help homeless people return to the community and rebuild their lives.

Funding is targeted at projects to find practical ways to help disadvantaged individuals return to the community through training or residential facility provision, rather than merely providing short term shelter.

The reasons for being homeless vary enormously, but may include ill-health, those who are discharged offenders, addictions, family breakdown or other adverse circumstances. Homelessness is not just about the people that the public sees and thinks about – principally “rough sleepers” living on the streets – but a whole range of people who lack a stable home.

The scheme will only fund capital costs. It will not fund core and running costs, computers or IT equipment.

UK registered charities with an annual turnover of under £500,000 can apply.

Applications are considered four times a year.

**The next deadline for applications is 15 December 2025.**

[Help the Homeless](#)

## Hugo Burge Foundation

Applications are being accepted for grant funding to support creative projects, organisations and individuals across the UK.

The funding is structured around three strands. Creative Education supports projects that provide people aged 0 to 29 with opportunities to engage in creative activities. Creative Communities focuses on organisations, festivals and community groups delivering cultural and arts-based events locally. Creative Individuals is for artists, writers and craftspeople pursuing independent work.

Grants of up to £15,000 are available for projects under the Creative Education and Creative Communities strands. Under the Creative Individuals strand, grants of up to £5,000 are available.

Applicants may include individuals, schools, arts organisations, community groups and festivals. In the first round of funding under the Creative Individuals strand, applications will only be accepted from artists based in Scotland. Eligible expenditure includes field trips, community cultural events, materials for student engagement and the development of new creative work.

**The deadline for applications is 30 September 2025.**

[Hugo Burge Foundation](#)

## John Lewis Foundation – Building Happier Futures

Grants of between £5,000 and £20,000 are available to make a difference / to improve the lives of people who have grown up in care and will support projects that address the following:

- Focus on care experienced people. The Foundation works to improve the lives and harness the talents of individuals who have experienced care.
- Education, connection, experience and fun. The focus is on making a demonstrable difference to care-experienced people. This could be through employability in the broadest sense, including training, skills, experience, education and social skills. Activities will also support advocacy and fundraising for care-experienced people.

The funding is for UK based charities and initiatives of any size, as long as there is clear measurable impact and the charity is self-sustainable. The majority of funding will be smaller grants to smaller charities.

Registered charities, Community Interest Companies (CICs), or organisations that can demonstrate that their project is a charitable activity and not for profit may apply. Social Enterprises and Community Interest Companies (CICs) will be considered as long as they have a charitable purpose and are not for profit.

**The deadline for application is 25 September 2025.**

[John Lewis Partnership Foundation - Building Happier Futures](#)

## Leeds Building Society Foundation

The Leeds Building Society Foundation offers grants to UK registered charities for projects which address one or more of the following themes:

- Financial stress - projects that help with bills or debt stress.
- Security and refuge - projects that support emergency accommodation.
- Quality and suitability of housing.
- Health and wellbeing support for those experiencing homelessness if it is part of wraparound support and the application also meets at least one of the other themes.

Applications are welcome from those who take a Housing First and/or relationship-based approach. Applications should show evidence of:

- Strength-based practice
- Trauma-informed care
- Psychologically informed environments.

UK registered charities with a turnover of less than £1 million based anywhere in the UK can apply for small grants of between £250 and £1,000. The funding is to be used for projects that support those in need of a safe and secure home. Grants are only for capital expenditure (that is, to purchase items used to directly help those in need).

**The deadline for applications is 3 November 2025.**

[Leeds Building Society Foundation](#)

## Local Energy Scotland – CARES Development Fund

Community groups in Scotland can apply for grants to support the early stages of community-owned energy or shared ownership projects.

The fund is intended to help organisations take the first steps in developing local energy projects. This may include raising awareness of project ideas, completing an options appraisal, carrying out a feasibility study or funding staff time to progress plans.

Grants of up to £30,000 are available, covering up to 100% of eligible costs. Funding must be used to achieve a specific project milestone by the end of February 2026, although applicants may reapply to CARES for further support as their projects develop.

Applications are open to Scottish constituted non-profit distributing organisations such as Community Benefit Societies, Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations, Community Interest Companies, Companies Limited by Guarantee and wholly owned subsidiaries of these structures. Eligible groups must have at least three unrelated board members from the local community and a clearly defined geographic area of benefit in Scotland.

Funding can cover costs such as community consultations, energy plans, option appraisals, legal advice and part-time staff to support project development.

**Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until the end of February 2026, or whenever funding is fully allocated, whichever is sooner.**

[Local Energy Scotland - CARES Development Fund](#)

## National Archives – Seed Corn Grants

Community groups, Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums and other heritage organisations working with communities in the UK can apply now for grants of between £500 and £5,000

The funding is intended to support early-stage, exploratory projects that aim to spark new ideas and innovative approaches to community engagement with heritage. The grants are particularly designed to help organisations test concepts, build partnerships, or pilot activities, with a strong emphasis on experimentation and learning. Applications are particularly encouraged from smaller and grassroots groups.

The grants can support a wide range of costs, including but not limited to:

- Staff time or freelance fees for project delivery
- Materials and supplies for workshops, exhibitions, or events
- Venue hires or equipment rental
- General organisational overheads or core running costs
- Travel and subsistence for project participants
- Community consultation or co-design activities
- Digital tools or platforms to support engagement
- Evaluation and documentation of pilot activities

**Round one is open for applications with a deadline of 28 November 2025.**

[National Archives - Seed Corn Grant](#)

## Royal Society of Edinburgh – Healthy Planet, Healthy People: Catalyst Award

Community groups and organisations in Scotland can apply for grants to deliver research projects that promote health through environmental improvements, access to nutritious food and community wellbeing. The Healthy Planet, Healthy People: Catalyst Award is provided by the Williamson Trust and the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE).

Funding is aimed at pilot-scale demonstrator projects that support community-led research and practical solutions. Projects should encourage inclusive participation, particularly from underserved groups, and generate approaches that can be scaled to address local challenges.

Grants of up to £5,000 are available for projects lasting up to 12 months. Funding may be used for research, data collection, community engagement, practical interventions and dissemination activities. Eligible projects should focus on themes of climate, nature or food and may involve elevating community voices, analysing local issues or trialling place-based solutions.

Applications are open to individuals, incorporated and unincorporated organisations, including charities, community interest companies, social enterprises, educational institutions, co-operatives, cultural institutions and local authorities. Unincorporated groups may apply with a sponsor organisation. Academics may participate only where projects are community-led. Lead applicants must be based in Scotland.

**The deadline for applications is 4 December 2025.**

[Royal Society of Edinburgh - Healthy Planet, Healthy People: Catalyst Award](#)

## 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 on a quarterly basis with up to three grants available in each funding round.

**The next deadline for applications is 28 November 2025.**

[SafeDeposits Scotland - Community Fund](#)

## Scops Arts Trust

Scops Art Trust is offering grants of up to £30,000 to registered charities, and other constituted, not-for-profit organisations across the UK, to deliver projects and activities that help people to understand, participate in, and enjoy the arts, particularly the performing arts (music, drama, opera, and dance).

In 2025, the Trust will continue to focus on one area of performing arts in each grant round.

The final funding round of 2025 will focus on supporting children and young people's instrumental music education (excluding choirs). Music education and engagement projects for children will be considered at every grant round.

Priority will be given to small- to medium-sized organisations. Most grants will be awarded for specific projects, but the Trust will also contribute towards the core costs of smaller organisations where a grant could make an impact. Both one-off and multi-year grants will be considered.

There is a two-stage application process. Groups must first complete an eligibility check before being invited to submit a Stage 1 application.

**The deadline for stage 1 applications is 9 December 2025.**

[Scops Arts Trust](#)

## East Ayrshire Council Community Grant

The next deadline date for applications is 19 September 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](#)