

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

‘Making a Difference in East Ayrshire Communities’



ALERT



17 July 2026

Access Foundation – Digital Divide Grants

The Access Foundation is offering restricted awards to charities and not-for-profit organisations seeking to address digital exclusion.

The grant aims to mitigate the digital divide by making computing facilities, support and learning available to disadvantaged and vulnerable people. Within the UK, it also seeks to support people and communities as well as the natural environment.

Awards range from £20,000 to £50,000 for projects lasting up to one year. In exceptional cases, the Foundation may consider supporting a longer running multi-year project.

Applications are limited to 'bona fide' charities and not-for-profit organisations. Applicants that are not registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales, the Scottish Charity Register or the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland must provide their country of tax residency, their registration number with the relevant tax authority and any other regulator, and details of any tax exemptions linked to charitable or not-for-profit status.

Support is provided on a restricted basis and must be used for specific services, activities, initiatives or projects with clearly identified and measurable outcomes.

There are no application deadlines. The Foundation aims to notify applicants of a decision within 16 weeks of receiving an application.

Applications are currently open.

[Access Foundation – Digital Divide Grants](#)

Aldi – Scottish Sport Fund

This fund is open in areas across Scotland where there is currently an Aldi store.

Groups that are successfully selected by the Aldi Scottish Sport Fund judging panel will be entered into their regional prize draw (one prize draw per region) and the winners will be chosen by random draw.

There three levels of funding:

- One grant of £3,000
- Two grants of £1,250
- One grant of £750

The deadline for applications for clubs and groups based in the West of Scotland is 2 August 2026.

[Aldi – Scottish Sport Fund](#)

ALLIANCE – Gambling Harm and Mental Health Fund

The fund has three stated aims: raising awareness of gambling harm and the support available, researching how specified inequalities are experienced within disadvantaged, marginalised and minoritised communities and building capacity in community-based services to embed help relating to gambling harm, mental health and suicidality.

Two grant levels are available for projects lasting up to six months. New applicants can seek up to £20,000. Returning applicants can apply for up to £30,000 where the work explicitly builds on learning from their previous Gambling Harms project

Eligible applicants include constituted not-for-profit organisations such as charities, Community Interest Companies and community groups.

Work must target one of the following groups:

- Socioeconomically disadvantaged communities (or SIMD)
- Rural and island communities
- LGBTQ+ communities
- Racially minoritised communities
- Gypsy/Traveller communities
- Neurodivergent people
- Refugee/Asylum seekers
- People with disabilities

Projects must start by 1 October 2026 and finish by 31 March 2027.

The deadline for applications is 14 August 2026.

[ALLIANCE – Gambling Harm and Mental Health Fund](#)

Arnold Clark – Gear Up For Sport

Arnold Clark's Gear Up For Sport campaign helps youth teams across Scotland, England and Wales look and feel the part.

They will provide free training equipment to teams with up to 30 members, aged 4-15. This includes training balls, a ball bag, space markers, water bottles, mesh bibs and more depending on your type of sport.

Only one entry per club will be accepted. A full list of eligible sports is available on the Arnold Clark website.

The deadline for applications is 31 July 2026.

[Arnold Clark – Gear Up For Sport](#)

Audible

Awards of between £15,000 and £30,000 are available for small- to mid-sized registered charities delivering direct, structured, and recurring activities to between 150 and 300 underrepresented young people aged 12 to 18 outside formal school settings.

For this programme, underrepresented youth includes young people who self-identify as part of one or more of the following communities:

- Racially and ethnically minoritised communities.
- LGBTQIA+.
- Woman-identifying.
- Youth with disabilities and/or neurodivergence.
- Youth who do not identify as part of the majority community in their place of residence.

Successful applicants are expected to incorporate Audible into existing provision, creating structured moments of discovery through workshops, listening sessions, and guided activities. Support can cover project delivery costs, with overheads permitted up to approximately 10% of the total request.

The deadline for applications is 31 July 2026.

[Audible](#)

Delamere Dairy Foundation

Grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 for charities and community groups to deliver projects in communities across England, Scotland, and Wales that align with the Foundation's objectives.

Funding is available for the following:

- The advancement of agriculture and environmental protection.
- The advancement in life of young people by developing their capabilities so that they may mature as contributory members of society.
- The relief of financial hardship.
- The advancement of education.
- The relief of sickness.

There are typically two funding rounds per year, in Spring and Autumn. Groups can apply once per calendar year.

The next deadline for applications is 31 July 2026.

[Delamere Dairy Foundation](#)

Henry Smith Foundation – Career Ready Fund

The Henry Smith Foundation is offering up to eight grants of £200,000 (£50,000 per year) over a four-year period for charitable organisations working with young people with learning disabilities within the UK. It supports the delivery of high-quality, job coach-led careers education in mainstream and SEND school settings. The fund focuses on early, structured support that helps young people build real-world experience and move towards paid employment.

Organisations need to address the key aims of the fund which are to:

- Embed trained job coaches in school settings so young people receive consistent, person-centred employment support.
- Provide early, structured vocational profiling and careers preparation, helping young people identify strengths, interests and aspirations.
- Create meaningful, well-matched work experiences that give young people exposure to workplaces, rather than generic or tokenistic placements.
- Strengthen partnerships between schools, support networks, employers and specialist providers, ensuring support for young people through a joined-up ecosystem.
- Build clear pathways into supported internships, employment and paid work.

Applications will be accepted from charitable organisations registered in and working in the UK including:

- Registered charities and Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs)
- Community Interest Companies (CICs) that are not-for-profit with an asset lock
- Other not for profit charitable organisations delivering work aligned with the Foundation's objects

To be eligible, applicants must be based and delivering services in the UK, have an annual income of £3 million or less, and at least one year of audited or independently examined accounts.

A live webinar will be held on 21 July 2026 (11 am to 12 noon). [Registration is required](#). A recording and transcript will be available for those who cannot attend.

Expressions of interest will be accepted from 22 July until 2 September 2026.

[Henry Smith Foundation – Career Ready Fund](#)

Hinrichsen Foundation

Grants of between £500 and £3,000 are available for charities and organisations across the UK to deliver music projects that focus on the performance, commissioning, or recording of contemporary music.

The Hinrichsen Foundation will support projects and activities that:

- Align with The Hinrichsen Foundation's values and objectives for contemporary and experimental music.
- Express a clear programme of activity and project timeline, parameters, and outputs
- Deliver high-quality projects for diverse audiences, prioritising the cultivation of less familiar and experimental music appreciation.
- Embrace artistic risks and diversity.
- Encourage thoughtful collaboration among composers, musicians, and project leads.
- Ensure fair payment for composers and musicians, particularly in larger organisations.
- Demonstrate the financial need and feasibility of the proposed project.

Applications that take artistic risks, promote diversity, consider sustainability, or are artist-led are encouraged.

The Foundation rarely supports projects where it is the sole funder. Applicants are expected to indicate another source of income, either secured or projected.

The deadline for applications is 1 September 2026.

[Hinrichsen Foundation](#)

Radcliffe Trust

The Radcliffe Trust supports projects and activities in the areas of music, heritage, and crafts. Heritage and Crafts. Grants are generally in the region of £2,500 to £7,500. Music Grants are generally in the region of £2,500 to £5,000.

For music projects, the Trust will consider projects in the following categories:

- Composition and contemporary music - in the case of commission applications, the lead composer must be named.
- Bursaries for courses and summer schools (limited to UK-based students).
- Music therapy and special needs.
- Academic research.
- Youth orchestras.
- Performance projects.
- Educational projects - excluding applications from individual mainstream primary and secondary schools.
- Miscellaneous.

For heritage and crafts projects, the Trust will support the development of the skills, knowledge, and experience that underpin the UK's traditional cultural heritage and crafts sectors. This includes support for:

- Emerging craftspeople.
- Craft and conservation projects and training.
- Projects demonstrating creative outcomes by designer-makers.
- Projects with potential for capacity building within the sector.
- Special needs projects focusing on the therapeutic benefits of skills development.

The Trustees will consider making occasional grants in other areas of cultural creativity related to their concerns for heritage and crafts, such as theatre, performance, and literature, especially where projects can be shown to contribute to the promotion and development of high-level skills among early career practitioners and disadvantaged groups.

The deadline for applications is 31 July 2026.

[Radcliffe Trust](#)

Schroder Charity Trust

UK registered charities based and working within the UK with an income of between £150,000 and £1 million may apply for grants of up to £5,000 to support both core costs and project (restricted) costs for up to one year.

Applications will only be considered from UK registered charities whose primary activity/activities address the Trust's current funding objectives and priority areas of interest which are:

- Enabling children and young adults from disadvantaged backgrounds to thrive and achieve their potential in education and employment.
 - Enhancing early years school readiness for children in vulnerable families
 - Developing reading and literacy skills
 - Enhancing financial literacy
 - Helping young people pursue vocational careers and apprenticeships
 - Enhancing employment outcomes for young offenders (aged 18-25)
 - Providing tutoring to develop attainment at primary and secondary school.
- Strengthening communities through services and opportunities which enhance the wellbeing and life outcomes of vulnerable and disadvantaged people.
 - Providing services and advice to help people out of financial hardship and material poverty
 - Enhancing life outcomes for children in the care system
 - Reducing social isolation and maximising independence for older people
 - Building confidence, resilience, life skills and wellbeing through youthwork
 - Supporting the homeless and those at risk of homelessness into sustainable housing.
 - Providing support to young carers.

Applications will only be accepted from organisations who are bringing about measurable outcomes in their field, and also those operating in areas in the top 20% of indices of multiple deprivation (IMD) in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The deadline for applications is 28 August 2026.

[Schroder Charity Trust](#)

East Ayrshire Council Community Grant

The next deadline for applications is 17 July 2026, followed by 17 September 2026.

[East Ayrshire Council Community Grant](#)

Renewable Energy Fund

To check the next deadline for applications please contact Democratic Services at Council HQ on 01563 554400 or eacrenewableenergyfund@east-ayrshire.gov.uk .

[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](#)