

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

'Making a Difference in East Ayrshire Communities'



ALERT



19 June 2026

Alec Dickson Trust

Alec Dickson Trust supports volunteering or community service projects in the UK that are organised and run by young people aged 30 and younger.

Grants of up to £500 are available to individuals or small groups of young people in the UK to help them put their ideas into action and run projects that benefit the lives of others, particularly the most marginalised and disadvantaged.

The funding is for UK-based projects that:

- Encourage youth volunteering - particularly those that involve lots of volunteers- and encourage people to continue volunteering in the long term.
- Have a positive impact on disadvantaged communities and individuals, particularly projects that address a specific need and have a long-lasting and meaningful effect on those they reach.
- Are innovative and try to do things differently, such as using social media creatively or using existing resources in new ways.

Applicants will need to provide a referee who knows them in a professional capacity, but who is not part of the volunteer project.

The deadline for applications is 1 July 2026.

[Alec Dickson Trust](#)

Art Fund – Jerwood Art Fund Commissions

Funding applications are invited from public-facing museums and cultural venues seeking support to deliver artist commissions.

Provided through a partnership between Art Fund and Jerwood Foundation, the programme aims to enable museums and galleries to fully resource commissions for early to mid-career artists, supporting the creation of innovative, high-quality work while adding contemporary pieces to public collections.

Two awards will be made, with each commission ranging from £70,000 to £100,000. The money is intended to cover the full costs of delivering and presenting each commission with the partner museum.

Applications are accepted from public museums, galleries, historic houses, libraries and archives based in the UK or the Channel Islands. To be eligible, applicants must be open for at least half the week for at least six months of the year and be at least provisionally accredited through the Arts Council Accreditation Scheme or other national equivalents. The call also encourages partnerships between museums and other partners or institutions that wish to commission work intended to have a permanent legacy for artists, cultural organisations and audiences.

The commissions seek to support early to mid-career artists based in or connected to the UK, across all artistic media, where a commission of this scale would represent significant professional development and where resulting works may enter permanent public collections or the public realm.

The deadline for applications is 2 October 2026.

[Art Fund – Jerwood Art Fund Commissions](#)

cardfactory Foundation – Community Fund

Applications will be accepted from UK registered charities with an income of less than £3 million per annum (particularly smaller, local charities where a £10,000 grant will deliver real impact), who have been actively operating for at least 18 months and who are working within one or more of the Foundation's priority areas:

- **Families experiencing financial disadvantage** - support families facing long-term, sustained economic hardship, rather than short-term or one-off events, which restricts their ability to meet essential needs like food, housing, or heating. The focus is on addressing immediate pressures while also supporting longer-term stability and resilience.
- **Hardship and Crisis Support (Acute)** - provide time-bound support to individuals and families experiencing a recent triggering event or escalation in risk (e.g. fleeing domestic abuse, imminent homelessness, or sudden bereavement). There is particular interest in how organisations deliver sustained improvement and longer-term stability beyond the initial crisis response.

- **Vulnerable children and young people (0–25)** - support young people facing circumstances that threaten their safety, wellbeing, or development. The goal is to protect these individuals, build their resilience, and help them achieve stability. This includes support for those with care experience, at risk of exploitation, young carers, or those with complex needs (SEND).

The criteria and sample application form are available now on the Foundation's website.

The fund will open on 22 June 2026 and close on 3 July 2026.

[cardfactory Foundation – Community Fund](#)

Co-op – Local Community Fund

The Local Community Fund is seeking applications for a new round of funding, which starts in October 2026.

The funding is for projects that help people to thrive in one of the following ways:

- Enable people to access food.
- Create opportunities for young people.
- Improve people's mental wellbeing.
- Promote community cohesion.
- Build sustainable futures.

The funder is also keen to support projects that promote and celebrate diversity and inclusion.

Successful groups will receive a minimum of £500 to support their projects.

Projects must take place or still be running after November 2027.

To apply, groups must:

- Be registered or based in the UK or Isle of Man
- Have their own bank account.
- Deliver activity in their local community.
- Be not-for-profit.
- Provide a Co-op membership number for one of the people making the application (non-members can join online or via the Co-op App).

Successful groups will be part of the Local Community Fund for 12 months from 18 October 2026. Their local cause will receive an initial payment in Spring 2027, with remaining funds being paid in November 2027.

The deadline for applications is 24 June 2026.

[Co-op – Local Community Fund](#)

Corra Foundation – You're Only Young Once (YOYO) Fund

The You're Only Young Once Fund (YOYO Fund) has opened for applications from not-for-profit organisations in Scotland working with children, young people and families affected by alcohol and drugs.

YOYO is a small grants programme designed by young people with lived experience and is administered by the Corra Foundation.

A total pot of £50,000 is available. Grants of up to £10,000 are available.

The funding supports activity that helps children, young people and families shape and share experiences, create connections and build the conditions for them to influence participation, policy and practice across Scotland.

Priority areas include work that places the voices of children, young people, families and communities at the centre of decision-making, strengthens community connections and supports participation in democratic processes. The fund is also interested in information campaigns or peer research that informs local or national planning and in activity engaging marginalised groups under-represented in decision-making structures, including LGBTQI+ communities, care experienced people and Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities.

Eligible applicants must be incorporated not-for-profit organisations, including registered charities, community interest companies and trusts. Organisations must have a track record of delivering services for children, young people and families affected by substance use in Scotland, with more than two years of direct delivery experience and relevant skills, including participation, safeguarding and whole-family approaches.

Grants can support staff costs excluding training, participation costs, venue hire, materials and equipment excluding fixed equipment, activity costs, catering and food, travel or transport and training or accreditation directly linked to the work.

The deadline for applications is 1 September 2026.

[Corra Foundation – You're Only Young Once \(YOYO\) Fund](#)

Heart Research UK – Healthy Heart Grants

One grant of up to £15,000 is available for new community projects aimed at supporting adults to reduce their risk of coronary heart disease, helping them to lead healthier, happier and longer lives.

Applications will be accepted from small, registered charities and community interest companies (CICs) with an annual income of less than £1 million.

Groups are expected to have an in-depth knowledge of the specific needs and demographics of the communities they intend to work with, and their project activities need to specifically address the problems within that community.

Funding is for new projects that work with communities to prevent heart disease, particularly for vulnerable and isolated groups of individuals who are at an increased risk of developing heart problems in the future. Projects that are likely to have a big impact and have considered novel ways to encourage people to look after their hearts and promote positive lifestyle changes are also sought.

Activities must have a primary focus on one or more of the following four risk factors for heart disease:

- Nutrition and Healthy Eating.
- Physical Activity.
- Smoking.
- Alcohol consumption.

Projects should run for a minimum of three months and no longer than 12 months.

The funding can support salaries, overhead expenses/on costs and equipment that is necessary for the successful delivery of the project.

There is one funding round each year for Scotland.

The deadline for applications is 8 July 2026.

[Heart Research UK – Healthy Heart Grants](#)

HMRC – Voluntary and Community Sector Grant Funding

Grants of between £40,000 and £1 million per year, with a maximum threshold set at 50% of the organisation's turnover (last audited accounts) are available. The funding programme is to commence 1 April 2027.

The funding aims to help customers return to mainstream HMRC channels by building capability and confidence, and by resolving issues that act as barriers to engagement, including HMRC debts and outstanding tax obligations. The support is for customers HMRC finds hardest to reach, including people with reduced mobility, sensory disabilities, low digital capability or confidence, mental health conditions, neurodiversity, language barriers and those affected by life events such as bereavement or relationship breakdown, as well as prisoners and people on probation.

Eligible applicants include public sector and non-profit bodies that are registered charities, voluntary and community sector organisations, social enterprises, mutuals or co-operatives. Applicants must have three years' financial history, a turnover of at least £80,000 per year and financial systems to track spending and evidence that it is used for the activity set out in their bid.

Services must be accessible in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, either through UK-wide coverage or community outreach in deprived or remote areas.

Proposals must address two of the following three activities:

- Supporting customers with 'simple' tax and tax related enquiries.

- Supporting customers with 'complex' tax and tax related enquiries.
- Supporting customers to use HMRC's digital services.

Support can take various forms, such as 1-2-1 advisor help that is face-to-face, by telephone, Teams or web chat, or f2f or virtual webinars, outreach or workshops.

The deadline for applications is 3 July 2026.

[HMRC – Voluntary and Community Sector Grant Funding](#)

People's Postcode Trust

Organisations in Scotland will soon be able to apply for up to £50,000 across a three-year period.

Applications will be accepted from the following organisation types who have an income of between £10,000 and £1 million in the most recent financial year:

- Registered Charity
- Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations (SCIOs)
- Community Interest Company (CIC) with an asset lock (Schedule 1 and 2 only)
- Community Benefit Society

The organisation's main activities and objectives must be focused on one of this year's funding themes:

- Preventing or reducing the impact of poverty.
- Enabling participation in the arts.
- Supporting marginalised groups and/or tackling inequality.
- Improving mental health with a focus on organisations that are actively supporting specific mental health issues as a core purpose, rather than general mental wellbeing activities.

As funding rounds tend to be oversubscribed, priority may be given to organisations that meet one or more of the following:

- Have an income of £250,000 and below.
- Work in communities located in the top 15% of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation.
- Organisations whose main activities are focused on supporting marginalised groups. This could include, but is not limited to, disabled people, communities experiencing racial inequity, and LGBT+ people.
- Are in areas that have not recently received funding.

The unrestricted multi-year funding is designed to offer flexibility and long-term support to strengthen the organisation and deepen their impact.

There are three rounds in 2026, each open for eight days. Decisions are given within four to five weeks of the application deadline.

Applications open on 24 June and close on 1 July 2026.

[People's Postcode Trust](#)

The Wildlife Trusts – Green Community Grants Programme

The scheme offers one-year flexible grants of up to £25,000 to organisations whose main aims and objectives fit with one of the following themes:

- Contributing to nature recovery and responding to the climate emergency.
- Improving nature-rich spaces and access to them.

The grants can be used for a wider range of sustainable activities, including recycling, litter picking, beach cleans or sustainable transport.

Not-for-profit groups based in England, Scotland and Wales can apply as long as they:

- Have an annual income between £10,000 and £1 million in the most recent financial year.
- Have been operating for a minimum of 12 months and have signed annual accounts at the time of submitting their application.
- Have a UK bank account in the organisation's name with two unrelated signatories.

As funding is expected to be oversubscribed, priority will be given to organisations:

- With an income of £250,000 or below.
- That work in communities located in the top 15% of the Index of Multiple Deprivation
- Whose main activities are focused on supporting marginalised groups. This could include, but is not limited to, disabled people, communities experiencing racial inequity, and LGBT+ people.

Groups can apply for no more than 25% of their annual income listed on their most recent set of signed accounts.

This funding is designed to offer flexibility and support so groups can strengthen their organisation and deepen their impact.

There are three funding rounds in 2026.

Applications open on 24 June and close on 15 July 2026.

[The Wildlife Trusts – Green Community Grants Programme](#)

Walk Wheel Cycle Trust – ArtRoots Fund

The grant is intended to help communities in Scotland develop small projects that make routes more attractive and encourage more people to travel actively by walking or cycling. The fund also aims to support local involvement in shaping the environment around National Cycle Network paths.

Grants of £2,500 are available. Awards of up to £6,000 may be considered where applicants can show the higher amount would significantly improve outcomes and lead to a greater increase in new active travel journeys. An Access Fund is also available for applicants with additional support needs, allowing a request of up to 10% of the original grant applied for.

Constituted community groups based in Scotland can apply. Applications from individuals and other community-based groups or organisations, including non-constituted groups, may also be considered at the discretion of Walk Wheel Cycle Trust. Only one application is permitted per group, per financial year.

Support is for projects or items that improve the aesthetics of eligible routes and demonstrate community engagement. Eligible costs can include sculptures, murals and mosaics, benches and seating, decorative signage, planters, interpretation boards, lighting, repairs to existing artworks, designer and artist fees, contractors and machinery hire, insurance and planning or event permission. Project management fees are eligible but must not exceed 10% of the total requested.

All projects must be delivered and claimed by 15 March 2027.

There is a two-stage application process.

The deadline to submit an Expression of Interest is 14 July 2026.

[Walk Wheel Cycle Trust – ArtRoots Fund](#)

Walking Scotland – SPT Community Path Fund

The Community Path Fund is delivered by Walking Scotland, formerly Paths for All, and financed by Strathclyde Partnership for Transport. It is intended to help not-for-profit organisations develop routes that improve connectivity and make existing paths more accessible and easier to use.

Grants of up to £15,000 are available. Support can be used to build new paths that strengthen links within local path networks, or to upgrade existing routes. Eligible costs also include producing technical designs for path projects to help applicants through tendering and construction stages.

The fund can support practical access improvements such as installing seating with back and arm rests, removing barriers that restrict people using adaptive equipment, cargo bikes or wheelchairs and adding directional signage. It also covers lighting and wildlife-friendly planting of shrubs and trees next to paths.

Applications are open to constituted not-for-profit organisations that are based and working in the SPT area and have a bank account. Eligible applicant types include constituted groups, clubs and

community organisations, registered charities, educational establishments, community councils and community or development trusts and National Park Authorities.

Projects supported through the fund must be completed by 22 February 2027.

The deadline for applications is 12 August 2026.

[Walking Scotland – SPT Community Path Fund](#)

Youthlink Scotland – Youth Arts Open Fund

The fund forms part of Creative Scotland's wider support for children and young people and aims to build capacity among smaller organisations, with priority given to applications from these groups.

Support is available to freelance artists and to organisations to deliver high-quality, accessible arts activity. Funding must be used for free, community-based activity that is open and accessible to all children and young people.

Freelance artists can apply for up to £10,000. Organisations can apply for up to £20,000. Awards are intended to support delivery for up to 12 months.

Creative Scotland Multi-Year Funded organisations are eligible to apply. Any proposed work must be separate and distinct from their existing Creative Scotland-funded activity.

The deadline for applications is 21 July 2026.

[Youthlink Scotland – Youth Arts Open Fund](#)

East Ayrshire Council Community Grant

The next deadline for applications is 17 July 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](#)