

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

'Making a Difference in East Ayrshire Communities'

ALERT



20 February 2026

9CC Group – Local Community Fund

Properly constituted voluntary and community groups (including community councils, school parent councils, community-led action plan steering groups, development trusts and formally constituted organisations where the project can demonstrate wider community benefit are eligible to apply.

Additionally, social economy or social enterprise projects (where the project may be a company limited by guarantee and/or have charitable status) may also apply. Any profits made by the project should be reinvested in the project.

The 9CC Group supports the following themes:

- **Active community:** to create outdoor activity attractions that'll benefit both locals and visitors from around Scotland.
- **Entrepreneurial community:** to generate jobs with a focus on green jobs and opportunities for young people, and create centres that celebrate local heritage.
- **Connected community:** to improve transport links, plus phone and internet connectivity.
- **Net zero:** to embed renewable energy in local homes and community assets.
- **Children and young people:** to set up facilities, projects and services for young people that allow them to enjoy recreational activities, develop skills and become entrepreneurs.

Applications from the following areas of Cumnock and Doon Valley are accepted:

Auchinleck; Cumnock; Netherthird; Cronberry, Logan and Lugar; New Cumnock; Dalmellington; Patna; Drongan, Rankinston & Stair; Ochiltree & Skares.

Grants of £1,000 and over are available.

The deadline for applications is 31 March 2026.

[9CC Group](#)

9CC Group – Small Grants Scheme

Constituted registered charities, and community and voluntary groups may apply for funding. All groups must have a bank account in the organisation's name, plus two authorised signatories.

A wide range of project costs are supported, including (but not restricted to):

- Community group equipment: purchase of items, equipment or activities/services to improve participation in leisure activities or for local community improvements (e.g. purchase of football strips, sports or specialist equipment, Christmas lights, hanging baskets or other items relating to community group leisure activities).
- Small-scale, community-led social events and programmes: events organised by local community groups to promote social cohesion and a sense of community (e.g. group outings, firework displays, small scale local events, etc).

Applications from the following areas of Cumnock and Doon Valley are accepted:

Auchinleck; Cumnock; Netherthird; Cronberry, Logan and Lugar; New Cumnock; Dalmellington; Patna; Drongan, Rankinston & Stair; Ochiltree & Skares.

Grants of up to £1,000 are available.

The deadline for applications is 31 March 2026.

[9CC Group](#)

Army Benevolent Fund

The Army Benevolent Fund provides grants to charities and organisations that provide lifetime support to soldiers, veterans and their immediate families when they are in need.

The Fund's Scottish committee meets once a year (in April) to consider requests from charities/organisations based solely in Scotland. All registered charities and other organisations which support the Army community, which includes veterans, serving soldiers, their families and immediate dependants, may apply, though there is a preference for charities and organisations which are members of the Confederation of Service Charities (COBSEO) or Veterans Scotland.

Grants can be used for a wide range of projects and activities from helping soldiers to adapt to life after service, to assisting elderly veterans maintain their independence.

Funding is at the discretion of the Grants Committee. The charity has not set a minimum or maximum amount. However, applicants which have no established relationship with the Army Benevolent Fund are unlikely to receive an award above £15,000.

Typically grants are made for a single year; however, the Trustees may consider making a grant spread over a number of years at their discretion if they feel this would be appropriate.

The Charity tends not to support umbrella organisations, preferring to support those organisations working directly with beneficiaries at a grassroots level.

The deadline for applications is 17 March 2026.

[Army Benevolent Fund](#)

Corra Foundation – Household Hardship Fund

Charities, community groups and social enterprises across Scotland can now apply for funding to provide direct financial support to families and children on low incomes through the Household Hardship Fund.

The £1.5 million fund is provided by the Scottish Government and administered by the Corra Foundation, with the aim of helping families meet urgent and essential needs through cash payments or vouchers.

The programme is designed to reach organisations with strong local connections that are already working closely with children and families experiencing financial hardship. Funding is intended to provide immediate relief for pressing costs such as food, fuel, phone and internet access, warm clothing and other essential items.

Groups with an annual income under £125,000 can apply for grants between £500 and £7,500.

Organisations with an income between £125,000 and £250,000 may apply for grants of up to £15,000. Up to 10% of the grant can be used to cover delivery costs.

Eligible organisations must be based and operating in Scotland, have an annual income below £250,000, and be able to demonstrate a clear plan to distribute funds directly to families and children by 15 June 2026.

Applicants should apply as soon as possible as demand is expected to be high.

The fund will close once all funding has been fully allocated.

[Corra Foundation – Household Hardship Fund](#)

Grow Wild – Youth Grants

Grow Wild is once again offering grants of £500 to young people (aged 16 to 25 years) across the UK to deliver a creative project that celebrates why UK native plants and/or fungi are so special.

The project should be original and exciting and focus on UK native plants and/or fungi. Projects need to engage at least 100 other people (either in person or online). The grant be used to pay for anything to support the project, such as equipment, materials, training, resources, or expert help. Projects can start in May but must be completed by the end of October 2026.

Applications will be accepted from young people aged 16 to 25 years old who live in the UK and who can find a supporting organisation, such as a school, university, youth club or a local community group, to help them deliver the project.

The deadline for applications is 18 March 2026.

[Grow Wild - Youth Grants](#)

McCarthy Stone Foundation – Dementia Grants Programme

The McCarthy Stone Foundation is offering around 20 grants of up to £7,500 each to help with the project costs of running dementia clubs and memory cafes in areas of high deprivation affecting older people in Great Britain. Carer support courses are also supported.

Applications are accepted from England, Scotland and Wales, but priority will be given to those groups working in more deprived areas. Please see the specified areas in the guidance notes on the Foundation's website. The target beneficiaries are older people over 65 years old living with dementia, plus their carers.

Community organisations, registered charities, exempt charities and CICs limited by guarantee may apply. Groups must have with an annual income below £250,000, a governing document and a bank account in the group's name.

The deadline for applications is 13 March 2026.

[McCarthy Stone Foundation - Dementia Grants Programme](#)

NFU Mutual Charitable Trust

NFU Mutual Charitable Trust is offering grants for organisations working in agriculture, rural development, and insurance across the UK to deliver projects and activities across one or more of the Trust's main objectives:

- To advance the education of the public using research and the dissemination of information concerning agriculture.
- To advance the education of young people within rural areas.
- To relieve poverty within rural areas.
- To promote the benefit and social welfare of inhabitants of rural communities by associating with the inhabitants and local authorities, voluntary and other organisations, to advance education and leisure.
- To promote research into agricultural-associated activities.
- To advance the education of the public using research and the dissemination of information concerning insurance.

Priority will be given to larger initiatives that would have a significant impact on rural communities, as well as initiatives in the areas of education of young people in rural areas, relief of poverty within rural areas, and support for the next generation of farmers.

Funding is at the discretion of the Trust. However, most grants fall within the range of £1,000 to £50,000.

The next deadline for applications is 24 April 2026.

[NFU Mutual Charitable Trust](#)

Scottish Government – Climate Engagement Fund

The Scottish Government is offering grants of between £25,000 and £80,000 for charities, community groups, community planning partnerships, and other 'trusted messenger' organisations, to deliver projects and activities that help to build an understanding of the climate emergency across communities in Scotland, in line with the strategic objectives of the Scottish Government's Net Zero Nation: Public Engagement Strategy for Climate Change (PES).

A total of £275,000 is available through the Climate Engagement Fund (CEF) for groups to achieve the following in 2026/27:

- Increase the number of individuals and communities who are climate literate.
- Increase the number of individuals and communities who understand the need to act and are empowered to do so.

- Widen participation by engaging new communities and individuals.

Engagement activities that can be considered for funding include public events or lectures, climate festivals, learning and development activities, skills workshops, exhibitions and art installations, or youth development programmes. Projects must be completed by 31 March 2027.

The Fund will support both local and national climate change engagement projects, as well as provide support for both new and continuing activities.

The deadline for applications is 1 March 2026.

[Scottish Government – Climate Engagement Fund](#)

Screwfix Foundation

Local registered charities and not-for-profit organisations can apply for grants of up to £5,000 for projects which improve a physical building (or land attached to it) that is used by people in need.

The funding is to be used for the following types of projects:

- Improved energy efficient lighting and heating.
- Installation of new kitchen, bathroom etc.
- Installation of a sensory room.
- General painting and decorating.
- Improving safety and security of a building.

Registered charities, Community Benefit Societies, Cooperative Societies and Community Interest Companies can apply as long as they have suitable governance to manage the fund and are supporting people in need whether by reason of financial hardship, sickness, disability or other disadvantage or distress.

The next deadline for applications is 10 May 2026.

[Screwfix Foundation](#)

WCIT Charity

Grants of up to £15,000 are available for educational establishments and constituted not-for-profit organisations across the UK to support IT projects and activities.

The WCIT Charity will support activities within the themes of education, inclusion, tech for charities, and public understanding of technology, including the development and delivery of new services, solutions, training, apps, analytics, AI, robotics, or accessibility features/hardware.

Projects that are more likely to be funded include:

- Projects where WCIT is a material or sole funder.
- Projects where WCIT is the sole funder of the IT component of a larger project.
- Organisations that could benefit from pro bono support.

Proposals should demonstrate an innovative use of IT, be scalable for wider replication, and be sustainable over time. Applications are typically considered at four committee meetings per year.

The next deadline for applications is 20 May 2026.

[WCIT Charity](#)

Weir Charitable Trust

The Weir Charitable Trust offers grants of up to £25,000 to small charities and community groups across Scotland with an annual income of less than £150,000 to deliver projects and activities that improve the quality of life for local communities.

The Trust will support projects and activities that fall within the following categories:

- Sport - Projects to encourage and increase public participation in sport (eligible activities should involve physical skill and exertion).
- Recreational facilities - Providing or organising recreational facilities (buildings, pitches or similar) to improve the conditions of life for the people for whom the facilities are primarily intended. This is only in relation to facilities which are primarily intended for people who need them due to age, ill health, disability, financial hardship, or another disadvantage.
- Animal welfare - The advancement of animal welfare.
- Health - The advancement of health, including prevention or relief of sickness, disease, or human suffering.
- Culture - Supporting the heritage - tangible or otherwise - of Scotland, through projects that encourage participation in and preservation of Scotland's distinctive culture.

Examples of eligible activities and costs are as follows:

- Capital projects (such as equipment, fixtures, fittings, and refurbishments).
- One-off projects.
- Running costs.
- Core costs.
- Salaries.

Priority will be given to groups and charities that may have faced challenges in accessing funds from other sources.

The next deadline for applications is 1 May 2026.

[Weir Charitable Trust](#)

East Ayrshire Council Community Grant

The next deadline for applications is 27 March 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](#)