

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

'Making a Difference in East Ayrshire Communities'

ALERT



20 March 2026

7stars Foundation – Social Impact Grants

Registered charities and organisations across the UK working with young people can apply for funding to deliver projects and work that supports young people aged 18 years and under across the priority themes of abuse, addiction, child carers, and homelessness.

Two-year grants of up to £5,000 per year for charities working to address key societal issues affecting young people, including both direct solutions and approaches that address the wider societal challenges linked to the Foundation's focus areas. In this funding round, there is an emphasis on LGBTQ+ inclusion and support.

Organisations must have a turnover of under £1.5 million to apply.

The next deadline for applications is 12 April 2026.

[7stars Foundation – Social Impact Grants](#)

Alec Dickson Trust

Grants of up to £500 are available for volunteering or community service projects in the UK that are organised and run by young people aged 30 and younger to help them put their ideas into action and run projects that benefit the lives of others, particularly the most marginalised and disadvantaged.

Alec Dickson Trust provides funding 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 April 2026.

[Alec Dickson Trust](#)

Lintel Trust – Small Grant Programme

Small, registered charities and community groups working in Scotland can apply for grants of either £500 or £1,000.

To be eligible, applicants must have:

- A close connection to a housing association, housing co-operative or local authority.
- An annual turnover under £50,000.
- Equal Opportunities and Protecting Vulnerable People policies in place.

The funding is intended to support projects with a housing focus that will deliver positive outcomes for beneficiaries in Scotland under the following aims:

- Tackling social isolation in housing communities.
- Promoting digital participation in housing communities.
- Enabling older people to remain independent and in their own home.
- Enabling people with disabilities to live independently.
- Assisting people moving from homelessness into a secure tenancy.

Applications are considered quarterly.

The next deadline is 29 April 2026.

[Lintel Trust – Small Grant Programme](#)

National Churches Trust – Large Grants Programme

Grants of between £10,000 and £50,000 for urgent and essential structural repair projects (costed at more than £80,000) to buildings that were originally built as churches, or the installation of kitchen and toilets (costed at more than £30,000). Match funding of at least 50% is required. The average grant is around £15,000.

Applications will be considered from listed and unlisted Christian places of worship, of any denomination, in the UK that are open for at least six services of public worship a year. Although not listed as distinct priorities, the Trust seeks more applications from non-Anglican denominations and a geographic spread.

Priority is given to:

- Work to architecturally and historically significant buildings.
- Urgent/essential structural repair projects (as identified in a recent QIR or building survey as required within two years), with a focus on buildings that are at risk.
- Installation of kitchens and toilets where a strong need can be demonstrated.
- Places of worship that can demonstrate a suitable maintenance system is in place to protect the investment.
- Places of worship with regular opening hours.
- Places of worship that can demonstrate strong community engagement and sound plans for economic viability.

There are usually three funding rounds per year. There is a two-stage application process.

The next deadline for stage 1 applications is 7 July 2026.

[National Churches Trust – Large Grants Programme](#)

Parkinson's UK – Physical Activity Grants Programme

Parkinson's UK supports activity providers, national governing bodies, Parkinson's groups and branches, and sports and healthcare professional who are based and operating within the UK.

Grants of between £500 and £3,000 are available to support physical activity projects for people with Parkinson's within the UK.

The priorities for this year's grants programme are:

- Supporting people with Parkinson's to participate in movement-based activities that build confidence and foster a lasting interest in being physically active.
- Engaging people with Parkinson's who are currently inactive to begin physical activity and maintain ongoing participation.

This year, in recognition that some people face additional barriers to engaging in physical activity, the programme has broadened its scope to include 'Gateway Activities'. These activities help people with Parkinson's build confidence and develop an interest in movement-based activity. Examples include arts-based activities such as theatre, musical and circus skills, singing and movement, playing large instruments that require significant movement (such as samba drumming), and gardening or horticulture projects.

Projects should reach and engage with a wide range of people with Parkinson's especially those who may be from the following groups:

- People who are inactive, or active at low levels.
- Newly diagnosed.
- Young onset.
- Under-represented groups, including socially isolated, not digitally connected or ethnic communities.
- People from marginalised communities/protected characteristics
- People who are not engaged with Parkinson's UK.
- People who are still working.

Projects must run for a minimum of three months and a maximum of 12 months and must start within three months of receiving the grant.

Applications are open and will be accepted until all of the funding has been allocated.

[Parkinson's UK – Physical Activity Grants Programme](#)

Rowntree's – Free the Fund Community Grant Programme

Grants are available through the Rowntree Free the Fund Community Grant to support summer activities for adults aged 21 to 65 in local communities across the UK and Ireland.

Four awards of up to £10,000 each are being offered to organisations delivering projects that improve outdoor spaces or create opportunities for community participation. The funding is intended to enhance local environments and support activities that contribute to wellbeing and social connection.

Projects must focus on outdoor activity spaces or initiatives that benefit local people within the specified age group. Eligible uses include transforming community gardens, improving shared outdoor areas or purchasing equipment for arts, theatre, music and sport.

Activities supported may cover arts and crafts, dance, music, gardening, sports and fitness. Example projects include running a summer art festival, supporting a wheelchair basketball club or upgrading facilities for team sports.

Applications are open to registered charities, social enterprises, not-for-profit organisations, hospices, sports clubs and social housing providers. All applicants must be based in the UK or Ireland.

The grants are intended to support projects that deliver clear community benefit and encourage participation through accessible activities.

The deadline for applications is 31 March 2026.

[Rowntree's – Free the Fund Community Grant Programme](#)

Shared Care Scotland – Creative Breaks

Shared Care Scotland will once again offer 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 (caring for children or adults) and the people they care for.

Through the Creative Breaks Programme, a total fund of around £1.6 million for 2026-27 is available to support organisations providing a wide range of different short break activities. This includes breaks away (ie, overnight stays, residential breaks), days out, and/or shorter sessions (ie, 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 2026 and 30 September 2027.

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

Applications are expected to open on 26 March 2026 and close on 16 April 2026 (17:00).

[Shared Care Scotland – Creative Breaks](#)

SUEZ – Communities Fund Scotland

Following the Scottish Government announcement on 13 January 2026 that the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund (SLCF) will close to new contributions from 1 April 2026, the SUEZ Communities Fund Scotland is now running its final application round. Grants of between £3,000 and £40,000 are available. Projects must have an overall cost of no more than £100,000 and fit one of the following themes:

- **Land Reclamation (Object A)** – the reclamation, remediation, restoration or other operation on land to facilitate economic, social or environmental use.
- **Community Recycling (Object B)** – community-based recycling, reuse and waste prevention projects.
- **Public Amenities (Object C)** – providing, maintaining or improving an amenity that is used primarily for leisure and recreation. The amenity must be open to all sections of the community for at least 104 days a year.
- **Biodiversity (Object D)** – the conservation or promotion of biological diversity through the provision, conservation, restoration or enhancement of a natural habitat, or the maintenance or recovery of a species in its natural habitat.
- **Historic Buildings, Structures or Sites (Object E)** – the maintenance, repair or restoration of a building, structure or site of archaeological interest that is a place of religious worship or a site of historic, architectural or archaeological interest and is open to the public.

Public Amenity, Biodiversity or Historic Building projects must be within 10 miles of a SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK landfill site or transfer station.

The final deadline for applications is 13 May 2026.

[SUEZ – Communities Fund Scotland](#)

Trefoil – Organisational Grants

Formally constituted not-for-profit groups with an annual turnover of less than £500,000 can apply for a grant (there is no minimum or maximum amount).

Organisation's aims and objectives must align with those of Trefoil to aid, assist and promote, to their advantage, the interests of children and young people under the age of 25 with additional support needs, including but not limited to physical disability, caring obligations, other disadvantages or learning and psycho-social needs (or a combination thereof) and to foster their independence, confidence, and assertiveness. Preference will be given to:

- Projects promoting education, health, and social welfare.
- Team building activities.
- Projects providing education.
- Therapeutic activities that are not core funded by the statutory authorities.
- New development and start-up project costs.

Applications for this round will be accepted until 7 August 2026.

[Trefoil – Organisational Grants](#)

Scottish Government – Whole Family Support Third Sector Delivery Fund

Grants are now available through the Whole Family Support Third Sector Delivery Fund, which is being provided by the Scottish Government to expand support for families experiencing poverty or at risk of poverty.

The funding is intended for registered charities in Scotland that can deliver services across at least two local authority areas and can demonstrate the ability to operate nationally or have a clear operating model that will allow them to reach large or multiple communities, with a particular focus on reaching significant numbers of children and families living in or at greatest risk of poverty.

Partnership applications will be accepted. All partners within a proposal must meet eligibility requirements and have a partnership agreement or memorandum of understanding.

A total of £20 million is available for 2026/27, with plans for the programme to move to a multi-year basis from 2027/28, subject to confirmation. Up to ten organisations or partnerships will receive grants.

The funding is aimed at enhancing the capacity of third sector organisations to deliver whole family support informed by community and lived experience input.

Funding is for tailored activities that help families access services in their communities, with a particular focus on six priority family types:

- Lone parent families.
- Minority ethnic families.
- Families which include a disabled adult or child.
- Families with a mother aged 25 or under.
- Families with a baby.
- Families with three or more children.

The deadline for applications is 7 May 2026.

[Scottish Government – Whole Family Support Third Sector Delivery Fund](#)

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](#)