

# COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

## 'Making a Difference in East Ayrshire Communities'

# ALERT



22 August 2025

## Agnes Hunter Trust

Grants are available to registered charities with an annual income of less than £1 million across Scotland to deliver projects and activities that support disabled people.

Grants typically range between £3,000 and £10,000 and can be used to support service provision that provides opportunities and enables people to lead fulfilling lives, such as:

- Advice, support, and information.
- Life-skills training.
- Employability training.
- Volunteering.

Funding is for projects that support a range of specific groups or people, including (but not restricted to) those living with mental ill health, cancer, physical and sensory impairments, and long-term health conditions, as well as people with learning disabilities, autistic people, and other neurodivergent people.

Funding can be used towards an organisation's core costs or direct project costs, including staff salaries and overheads. The Trust will only award grants that equate to at least 10% of the total project costs.

The Trust typically operates two rounds of funding per year: one in Spring/Summer and one in Autumn/Winter.

**The deadline for applications is 28 August 2025.**

[Agnes Hunter Foundation](#)

## Congregational and General Charitable Trust

Churches of the Protestant tradition in the UK, but particularly those of the United Reformed and Congregational denominations, can apply now for grants of between £1,000 and £25,000 for capital works on church buildings costing less than £1 million. All grants are directly linked to the cost of the project involved.

Funding is normally for church capital projects involving building work, such as repairs, improvements or extensions.

Applications will also be considered from church community projects for funding towards capital costs (but not for ongoing work).

Grants cannot be awarded for the running costs of the church, organ and church bells restoration, manse works, graveyard maintenance, solar panels or other environmental projects which are not part of any other development work.

Applications are considered quarterly. The next meeting is scheduled for early December 2025.

**The next deadline for applications is 24 October 2025.**

[Congregational and Genera Charitable Trust](#)

## Corra Foundation – You're Only Young Once Fund

You're Only Young Once (YOYO) is a new grant programme wholly designed by lived experienced young people as part of the Way Forward for Families Partnership Fund which is administered by the Corra Foundation.

This small grants programme focuses on supporting children, young people and families affected by alcohol and drugs to shape and share experiences, create connections, and to create the conditions where they are empowered to influence participation, policy and practice across Scotland, and can thrive in the future.

There is a total funding pot of £50,000. Grants of up to £10,000 are available and must be spent within 12 months of the project start date. As few as five grants may be made.

The funding can be used for a wide range of activities; however, there is particular interest in projects which:

- Create the conditions in which children, young people and families feel empowered.
- Put the voices of children, young people, families and communities at the heart of decision-making.
- Provide unique opportunities for children and young people, and their families.
- Bring people together and strengthen community connections.
- Support children, young people and families to participate in democratic processes.
- Development of information campaigns or peer research projects that inform planning and service/policy locally or nationally.
- Engage with marginalised communities and groups that are under-represented in decision making structures for example LGBTQI+, care experienced people, Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities.

The funding can be used for project costs such as:

- Staff costs (excluding training)
- Participation costs.
- Venue hire.
- Materials and equipment (excluding fixed equipment).
- Activity costs.
- Catering and food.

- Travel/transport.
- Training/accreditation costs that directly link to the programme of work.

A free webinar will be held on 26 August (10:30 to 11:30 am). [Registration required via eventbrite.](#)

**The deadline for applications is 10 November 2025.**

[Corra Foundation - You're Only Young Once Fund](#)

## East Ayrshire Alcohol & Drugs Partnership – Grassroots Fund

Whether you offer peer support/counselling, fitness classes, gaming meet-ups, children's activity clubs, or alcohol and drug-free social outings, if your group provides a safe, non-judgmental space for individuals and families affected by drugs and alcohol, grants up to £5,000 are available through the Grassroots Fund.

**The deadline for applications is 5 September 2025.**

For further details and an application form, please email [Caroleann.maclellan@east-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:Caroleann.maclellan@east-ayrshire.gov.uk).

## East Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnership – Whole Family Wellbeing Fund

This fund is here to help transform how family support is delivered across East Ayrshire. Our goal is to ensure families receive seamless, holistic support that's tailored to their unique needs before they reach crisis point.

This fund is open to constituted voluntary and community groups or organisations delivering services in East Ayrshire. It is designed to support system-wide changes that focus on early intervention and prevention.

- Up to £1 million of funding is anticipated to be available.
- Funding can be allocated for one or two years, depending on your proposal.
- Minimum grant: £5,000
- No maximum limit

**The deadline for applications is 28 September 2025.**

[East Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnership - Whole Family Wellbeing Fund](#)

## Inspiring Scotland – Changing Places Toilet Fund

A new fund has been launched to support the creation of Changing Places Toilets across Scotland. The Fund is being administered by Inspiring Scotland.

Changing Places Toilets are larger accessible toilets for severely disabled people to meet the needs of disabled people who require carer support and specialist equipment to use the facilities.

The Fund aims to increase the number of Changing Places Toilets in Scotland to meet the human rights of disabled people who cannot use a standard accessible toilet.

Incorporated not-for-profit organisations and small and micro businesses with up to 49 employees can apply, provided they can demonstrate community benefit.

The Fund is expected to support the provision of up to 150 specialist toilets. The cost of installation will vary. It is estimated to be between £45,000 and £90,000. Development grants of up to £10,000 are available. It is expected that up to 150 new facilities will be funded.

Projects must be completed by 31 March 2027.

**The deadline for applications is 20 October 2025.**

[Inspiring Scotland - Changing Places Toilets Fund](#)

## Inspiring Scotland – Creative Communities Scotland

Inspiring Scotland has launched a new round of the Creative Communities Programme.

The programme is funded by the Scottish Government's Culture Directorate and aims to extend opportunities for people to engage with culture throughout their lives. Since its launch in 2020, the fund has supported 46 community and arts organisations with £2 million in funding and capacity-building support to deliver creative projects to nearly 16,000 adults and children across Scotland.

A total of £320,000 is available. Grants of up to £35,000 are available.

The funding is to be used for new community-led initiatives which involve culture and the arts and take place in Scottish communities where social or geographical circumstances have made engaging with cultural activities challenging.

Funding is for projects that will:

- Provide the opportunity for people to engage in creative arts that they would not have otherwise, have fun and feel joy and pride.
- Bring people together, building connections and reducing loneliness.
- Help participants develop a wide range of improved skills for life, learning and work.

Incorporated third sector organisations operating in Scotland with an annual income of under £500,000 can apply. The following legal structures are eligible:

- Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation.
- Company Limited by Guarantee.
- Community Benefit Society.
- Co-operative Society.
- Community Interest Company.

Funding is for the revenue expenditure associated with projects that will be delivered between January 2026 and December 2026

**The deadline for applications is 18 September 2025.**

[Inspiring Scotland - Creative Communities Scotland](#)

## Inspiring Scotland – Outdoor Community Play Incubator Programme

Inspiring Scotland has announced the launch of the Outdoor Community Play Incubator Programme 2026–28. The programme is funded by the Scottish Government.

Through the fund, grants of up to £5,000 are available to community groups and charities in rural and remote areas of Scotland to deliver free child-led outdoor play that improves children's health and wellbeing.

Eligible costs include:

- Staffing of play sessions.
- Equipment, including outdoor clothing and shelters.
- Materials and resources that help facilitate free, child-led play.
- Food/snack during sessions.

Projects must be delivered between 1 April 2026 and 31 March 2028.

There is a two-stage application process. Expressions of Interest are currently being accepted.

**Applications will open on 1 September 2025 and close on 22 September 2025.**

[Inspiring Scotland - Outdoor Community Play Incubator Programme](#)

## The Different Foundation – AI for All

'AI for All' is the Foundation's 'flagship programme' which offers one-off grants of up to £2,500 and four hours of specialised mentorship with respected leaders in AI. This mentorship provides practical guidance to enhance impact, improve programme delivery, and strengthen organisational capabilities.

The funding is intended to promote access and opportunity for members of underrepresented and diverse communities in AI innovation. It supports organisations committed to diversity in technology.

The current focus is addressing digital bias, elevating diverse voices, and developing AI that works for everyone.

Applications will be accepted from UK registered charities, based and working within the UK, with a turnover of between £150,000 and £1.15 million and one to ten employees.

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

[The Different Foundation - AI for All](#)

## Warburtons – Community Grants

Through its Community Grants programme, the family run bakery business Warburtons provides a limited number of grants of up to £400 four times a year. Applications are currently being accepted for projects starting in Winter 2026.

Not-for-profit organisations with charitable purposes that are based and working in England, Scotland or Wales can apply as long as their projects are addressing one of Warburtons' priority areas:

- Health - supporting families to care for each other and lead healthier lives:
  - Improving physical health
  - Improving wellbeing
- Place - supporting families to flourish in communities that are safer, greener and more inclusive:
  - Making spaces safe and inclusive
  - Connecting communities with the environment
- Skills - supporting families to gain useful skills for life and work:
  - Developing useful life skills
  - Developing useful skills for employment.

Grants can be used to cover specific costs that will benefit the cause (eg, purchasing equipment to support an employability project).

Applications are currently being accepted for decisions by 19 December 2025.

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

[Warburtons - Community Grants](#)

## 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.

Due to high demand, the Trust introduced the following changes to its funding programme for 2025:

- Applications are now considered quarterly.
- The Trust's annual budget increased from £200,000 to £400,000.
- The annual income threshold increased from £125,000 to £150,000.

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 31 October 2025.**

[Weir Charitable 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](#)