

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

‘Making a Difference in East Ayrshire Communities’



ALERT



23 October 2026

Bòrd na Gàidhlig – Taic Freumhan Coimhearsnachd

The fund supports projects lasting up to two years, including longer-term initiatives and projects that take place annually. The estimated total budget for 2027-2029 is £200,000.

Organisations can apply for up to £6,000 for projects lasting up to 12 months, or up to £12,000 for projects lasting up to 24 months. Individuals can apply for up to £6,000 for projects lasting up to 24 months. The fund can cover up to 80% of eligible project costs.

The scheme is open to third sector organisations, schools and individuals based in Scotland.

The fund supports a wide range of projects that bring people together to use Gaelic, with particular interest in:

- Gaelic events in the community and online.
- Projects and opportunities that encourage young people to use Gaelic together outside school.
- Projects that support Gaelic use among families and between generations.
- Adult Gaelic learning in the community.
- Colmcille - building connections between speakers of Gaelic and Irish.

Projects must take place between March 2027 and August 2029.

The deadline for applications is 15 December 2026.

[Bòrd na Gàidhlig – Taic Freumhan Coimhearsnachd](#)

Cash4Clubs

Not-for-profit organisations, including charities, community groups and traditional sports clubs can apply for a grant of £2,000.

The programme is focused on supporting adult participation in sport. Funding is available to groups that support over 18s only.

Priority will be given to applications from groups working in areas of high deprivation and engaging adults from specific under-represented groups. That means those who:

- Are supporting adults living in an area of high deprivation (using the Government Indices of Multiple Deprivation and the Pobal HP Deprivation Index).
- Increase access to sport for one or more under-represented groups, including women, people from racially diverse communities, people with disabilities and people from the LGBTQ+ community.
- Encourage adults who would not usually engage in sport to take part. Examples include activities that support physical and mental wellbeing or tackle issues such as loneliness and rural isolation.
- Address broader social issues for the local community, for example tackling crime and anti-social behaviour or supporting community cohesion.

The funding is unrestricted and can be used for anything that will support the organisation to continue and/or grow their sports activities for adults.

The funding should be spent within a six-month period.

Cash4Clubs is run along with the charity Sported who help assess the bids and distribute the funds.

The deadline for applications is 1 January 2027.

[Cash4Clubs](#)

Health Data Research UK – Take the Lead: Data Champions Community Grants

Health Data Research UK (HDR UK) is offering grants of up to £3,000 for up to 20 community leaders across the UK.

The funding is to design and deliver activities between 8 February and 20 June 2027 that engage communities with the role of data in supporting health and wellbeing and gain skills, knowledge and connections along the way.

Community leaders should be working with one or more of the following priority audiences, based in the UK:

- People from low socio-economic backgrounds

- People from minority ethnic backgrounds
- Older children and young adults aged 11–25 (especially in areas of deprivation)
- People over 65 (especially in areas of deprivation)
- People living in rural areas (defined as settlements of fewer than 10,000 people in England and Wales, fewer than 5,000 in Northern Ireland, and fewer than 3,000 in Scotland)
- People experiencing digital exclusion.

And they need to deliver activities that engage their community with the role of data in exploring at least one of the following priority health and wellbeing issues:

- Brain health (for example, dementia, Alzheimer's, etc.)
- Cancer
- Environment and health (for example, access to nature, air pollution, etc.)
- Heart health
- Sustainable and healthy diets (for example, eating locally sourced foods, reducing food waste, etc.)
- Young people's mental health.

It is not necessary to have any experience of data, science or research to take part. Community leaders need to be at an established UK-based community organisation with an organisational bank account and provide evidence that they could act as a champion for data in their communities,

The deadline for applications is 2 November 2026.

[Health Data Research UK – Take the Lead: Data Champions Community Grants](#)

Museums Galleries Scotland – Creative Minds Fund

Museums Galleries Scotland (MGS) is offering grants of up to £40,000 through the Creative Minds Fund to help accredited and non-accredited museums create inclusive cultural engagement opportunities for people experiencing mental health issues.

Museums must apply in partnership with an organisation that provides support or services to people experiencing mental health issues. The partner organisation must be a registered charity, Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, public body or local authority. Both new and existing partnerships are eligible.

Projects should involve participants in creative activities connected with a museum and its collection. They should also strengthen partnerships between museums and mental health organisations, while developing the museum sector's confidence and capacity to engage with people experiencing mental health issues.

The Fund will support a range of project costs, including materials for activities, events, exhibitions, training, marketing, communication and design. Support can also cover salaries for new staff, additional staff time, freelance fees, travel and expenses for project teams and participants.

Applicants are encouraged to submit an Expression of Interest between 12 October 2026 and 8 January 2027.

Application forms will be available from early November 2026.

The deadline for applications is 20 January 2027.

[Museums Galleries Scotland – Creative Minds Fund](#)

Paddle Trust

Formerly known as the Canoe Foundation, the Paddle Trust aims to help protect the environment and offers grants for projects across the UK that:

- Increase or enhance existing public access points to water for all forms of paddlesport.
- Create launching and landing sites, to and alongside water, for all sectors of the community and all abilities, that are designed to be durable and use sustainable materials when applicable.
- Protect and enhance natural blue spaces such as rivers or coastline.
- Are "ready to go".

Grants of between £500 and £10,000 are available and will support:

- Public launch and landing platforms, steps, ramps or other physical access points
- Improvements to pathway and/or accessible routes to the water's edge
- Signage or information that promotes positive behaviour (Countryside code, "Check, Clean, Dry", take litter home etc).
- Designated or additional parking for water users
- Works to address erosion and/or create more sustainable access points
- Helping protect the waterway environment
- Multi-user projects that can benefit more than one user group
- Public projects rather than private members-only facilities.

Applications will be accepted from:

- Clubs, community groups, Parish Councils, Local Authorities or anyone in the UK with an active interest in improving access to water for recreational users and protecting the environment.

- Organisations or partnerships with local paddlesport groups who will continue to support the use of the improvements on an ongoing basis.

The deadline for applications is 7 December 2026.

[Paddle Trust](#)

Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust

The Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust (SSPDT) is offering grants of up to £10,000 per year to support piping and drumming tuition, equipment and activities for young people across Scotland. The funding aims to widen access to traditional Scottish music and help schools and communities develop sustainable pipe band programmes.

Grants range from £250 to £10,000 per year and may be awarded for up to three years. Higher amounts may be considered in exceptional circumstances. Awards are made on a matched-funding basis, with applicants generally expected to secure additional support equal to or greater than the SSPDT contribution. The Trust typically covers up to 50% of total project costs and aims for each school pipe band's delivery plan to be supported by at least three income streams.

Eligible applicants include community groups linked to schools, state schools, local authorities, pipe band associations, pipe bands and voluntary or charitable organisations. Independent schools may apply where their activity benefits state school pupils, for example through shared resources, tuition or additional workshop places. Voluntary and charitable organisations must provide relevant governing documents and details of their governing body.

Eligible costs include tuition in chanter, bagpipes, snare, bass and tenor drums for state school pupils in Primary 4 and above. Funding can also cover the loan of bagpipes, approved workshops, contributions towards tutors' travel costs in remote areas, and tuition or band activities held during or after school hours, on or off school premises.

Organisations receiving tuition funding must employ tutors or engage them on a self-employed basis. Applicants must have relevant policies in place to protect the safety and wellbeing of participants. Pipe bands receiving funding are also expected to work towards attending the Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championships.

Applicants should submit their applications at least four months before they wish to receive funding. Applications are considered at quarterly meetings.

The next deadline for applications is 18 November 2026.

[Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust](#)

East Ayrshire Council Community Grant

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

[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](#)