

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

‘Making a Difference in East Ayrshire Communities’



ALERT



25 September 2026

9CC Group

Funding for groups operating in the following communities: Auchinleck; Patna; Ochiltree & Skares; New Cumnock; Netherthird; Cronberry, Logan & Lugar; Drongan, Rankinston & Stair; Dalmellington; and Cumnock.

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.

The deadline for applications is 27 November 2026.

[9CC Group](#)

Bagri Foundation

Grants of between £5,000 and £100,000 for not-for-profit arts organisations across the UK to deliver artistic projects that promote the sharing of traditional and contemporary Asian culture.

Funding is for projects that:

- Promote the sharing of traditional or contemporary Asian culture.
- Include established or mid-career level artists from Asia or the diasporas.
- Result in a tangible public outcome.

Funding can be used to support diverse forms of cultural expression, encompassing both traditional and contemporary mediums, such as:

- Artisan crafts.
- Exhibitions and biennials.
- Music.
- Performing arts.
- Literature and public events.
- Prizes and awards.

Grants typically range between 10% and 30% of the total project budget (with occasional exceptions). The average grant size is approximately £20,000.

There is a two-stage application process. Groups must first submit an online expression of interest before being shortlisted to complete a full application.

The next deadline to submit an expression of interest is 5 October 2026.

[Bagri Foundation](#)

Foundation Scotland – Scottish Building Society Foundation

Grants of up to £5,000 to support projects that deliver lasting benefits for vulnerable individuals and communities.

Applications are open to registered charities, constituted voluntary and community groups and community companies with an annual gross income below £250,000. Community interest companies are eligible if they meet the Fund's minimum governance standards.

The Foundation is looking to support projects with wide community reach, bring people together and promote inclusion. Areas of interest include community facilities and services, transport, open spaces, affordable housing, poverty reduction and care of the elderly, as well as youth and education activities, training opportunities and support for vulnerable young people. Funding can also support projects that improve community safety, reduce isolation and promote wellbeing.

Both new and existing projects can be supported. Eligible costs include equipment, staffing, consultations, maintenance or refurbishment of community facilities, and capital costs for purchasing or developing community assets.

The deadline for applications is 12 October 2026.

[Foundation Scotland – Scottish Building Society Foundation](#)

Historic Environment Scotland – Heritage and Place Fund

The grants support heritage-led projects that combine repair and reuse of historic buildings and places with traditional skills training, materials-related work and activities that help communities connect with local heritage. Proposals should reflect local priorities, be developed through partnership and respond to community needs and interests, with a focus on long-term management and maintenance after completion.

The Development Phase supports planning and preparation for a Delivery Phase application. Eligible costs include staff and project management, professional and specialist consultancy, historic asset condition surveys, local skills and materials audits and community engagement and consultation.

Delivery Phase awards typically range from £750,000 to £1.5 million, depending on scheme size and match funding. There is no fixed upper limit, but awards must demonstrate value and clear impact.

Applications are open to local authorities, national park authorities and suitably experienced not-for-profit organisations based in Scotland. Not-for-profit lead applicants must show experience managing similar projects and budgets and must work in partnership with the relevant local authority or national park authority under a Joint Delivery Agreement.

The deadline for applications is 29 January 2027.

[Historic Environment Scotland – Heritage and Place Fund](#)

LGBT+ Fund – Get Active Fund

A total of £400,000 is available. In 2026, grants range from £5,000 to £25,000 per year for projects running for one or two years. Applicants can seek £5,000 to £25,000 for a one-year project, or £10,000 to £50,000 in total for two-year work.

Support is intended to increase resources for groups that are under-recognised by funding initiatives and to improve access to physical activity for LGBT+ communities. Physical activity is defined as activity that intentionally and explicitly supports increased movement and wellbeing, with examples including hiking, skateboarding, football, ballroom and vogue, gardening, frisbee, dance and circus skills.

Applicants must be UK-based, LGBT+ led non-profit groups or organisations led by and for LGBT+ people. They must regularly deliver sports or physical activities, with delivery in the past three years considered recent, and they must have been running for at least six months.

Priority will be given to grassroots organisations supporting underserved intersectional LGBT+ communities, including D/deaf, disabled and/or neurodivergent LGBT+ people, LGBT+ women, LGBT+ people of faith, LGBT+ people of the global majority, older LGBT+ people and trans, non-binary and/or intersex people. Additional priority includes those operating in historically underfunded areas, in rural or remote locations, or where LGBT+ provision is limited.

Eligible costs include project delivery, training for participants, accessibility measures, core costs, collaborative work and coaching qualifications.

The deadline for applications is 4 November 2026.

[LGBT+ Fund – Get Active Fund](#)

Linnean Society – Our Local Nature Grants

Grants for community organisations linked with young people to deliver projects and activities that engage young people with local nature and natural spaces and improve their understanding of local biodiversity.

Community groups and other organisations working directly with children and young people aged 16 and under can apply for funding for a variety of activities, such as:

- Running a school festival about nature.
- Painting community murals showcasing biodiversity in the area.
- Building or restoring a community garden.
- Creating a nature walk.
- Hiring a speaker to come and talk about local foraging.

Groups in London can also apply for funding to deliver blue infrastructure projects.

The maximum award amount is £1,000. However, groups are encouraged to apply for significantly lower amounts. Grants can be used for materials, room hire, publicity, speakers, trainers, freelancers, project-specific staff costs, audio-visual equipment hire, reasonable volunteer expenses, transportation, or other costs associated with activities or events.

Proposed projects are expected to commence in January 2027 and be completed by the end of July 2027.

The deadline for applications is 25 October 2026.

[Linnean Society – Our Local Nature Grants](#)

McCarthy Stone Foundation – Festive Connections Programme

The McCarthy Stone Foundation is inviting applications from organisations in Britain for grants supporting activities for people aged 65 and over.

The activities must take place between 1 December 2026 and 2 January 2027. They should create opportunities for older people to meet, socialise and take part in festive activities.

The support is intended to help people feel connected, included and remembered. It is not intended simply to provide gifts or food parcels. Priority will be given to applications showing clear

need among the people and communities served. Where other factors are equal, organisations working in areas with higher deprivation affecting older people will be prioritised.

A total of £38,000 is available, with more than 50 grants expected to be awarded. Individual awards can be up to £750.

Eligible applicants include registered charities, exempt charities, constituted community groups and Community Interest Companies limited by guarantee. Organisations must have an annual income below £250,000 and operate in England, Scotland or Wales.

Applicants must be independent and hold a bank account in their organisation's name. They must also have less than 12 months of running costs held in unrestricted reserves, unless there is a legitimate reason for retaining higher reserves.

The grants can contribute towards festive meals, community activities, transport, venue hire and befriending. They may also cover other costs directly related to bringing people together.

Decisions are expected by 30 October 2026.

The deadline for applications is 15 October 2026.

[McCarthy Stone Foundation – Festive Connections Programme](#)

Mickel Fund

The Trust provides donations primarily to Scottish charities for activity that aligns with one of the following areas:

- The advancement of education.
- The prevention or relief of poverty.
- The advancement of health and saving of lives.
- The advancement of the arts, heritage, culture and science.
- The advancement of public participation in sports.

The Fund distributes between £100,000 and £120,000 in grants each year, with individual awards ranging from £500 to £10,000.

Registered charities may apply, including those working in areas such as age concern, animal welfare, cancer care, cancer research, children and youth support, education and outreach, hospices, housing and homelessness, injuries, medical assistance, music and culture, medical research, veterans and worldwide appeal-based projects.

The Trust can support both new ideas and ongoing work where the applicant can demonstrate how the activity will make a difference. Awards may be used as core funding, including salaries and general running costs, as well as for project costs or capital items such as buildings or equipment.

Applications can be submitted at any time.

[Mickel Fund](#)

Music for All

Grants are available for schools, community groups, educational establishments, and other not-for-profit organisations across the UK to support initiatives that are seeking to bring music to their communities.

The programme is for groups that need assistance to fulfil their potential in developing truly sustainable music programmes. Applicants should be based in deprived or marginalised areas and be developing music education for those living in the area, including, but not limited to, social infrastructure.

In the current round, support will be available in the following distinct areas:

- Up to 5 electro acoustic guitars or 5 electro classical guitars.
- Up to 12 acoustic guitars
- Up to 30 ukeleles.
- Up to 30 Pbuzz instruments.
- A software programme - up to 3 Arturia Analog Lab V controllers.

In addition to the instruments being offered, Round 4 is providing grants up to £1,500 for groups working with early years aged children (0-4). Both formal and informal music-making settings may apply for the grant.

Priority will be given to applicants who are most in need of help.

The deadline for applications is 30 November 2026.

[Music for All](#)

National Deaf Children's Society – Community Grants

Grants of between £1,000 and £10,000 for charities and other not-for-profit organisations across the UK to deliver projects and activities that build community for families of deaf children.

In this funding cycle, the Community Grants Programme will focus on projects that support deaf children in the early years (aged 0 to 5) both directly and indirectly. This can include play schemes, programmes of days out for families, skills development and peer-to-peer support for parents or carers, and schemes to train deaf young people as role models for younger children.

In addition, proposed projects should also achieve at least one of the following objectives:

- Deaf children and their families can access relevant support to meet their needs within their communities.
- Families have access to peer support and guidance from others who are currently in, or have previously experienced, a similar situation.

- Families are supported to build confidence and skills to aid their deaf child's development, including providing knowledge and support specific to the child's needs.
- Families have access to deaf mentors/role models and a wider visibility of deaf adults. This can include empowering young deaf people to develop skills and confidence to become deaf role models and volunteers.
- Deaf children and young people have opportunities to make friends with one another, explore their deaf identity, and feel part of a community.
- Deaf children develop their communication skills through regular and consistent language exposure, interaction, and practice.
- Professionals working with deaf children, including in education and care, have the information they need to support deaf children and have high aspirations for them.

Each grant is for 12 months and can be used to cover the running costs of a project, such as venue hire, transport, promotional costs, wages for sessional workers, and equipment.

This is a rolling programme, and applications can be submitted at any time throughout the year.

[National Deaf Children's Society – Community Grants](#)

Robertson Trust – Large Grants

Large Grants are available to registered charities working in Scotland with an annual income of over £200,000 and up to £2 million that support people who are experiencing, or at high risk of experiencing, poverty and associated complex trauma.

Grants provide revenue funding of between £20,000 and £50,000 per year, typically for three years, for projects aligned with one of four themes:

- Financial Security - tackling the financial and material effects of poverty on people and communities.
- Education Pathways - equipping people for the future by supporting learning and skills.
- Work Pathways - ensuring that paid work is a more reliable route out of poverty.
- Nurturing Relationships - addressing the cycle of persistent poverty and intergenerational trauma, enabling people to recover and thrive.

The Trust is particularly interested in funding those who work with groups who are more likely to experience poverty or trauma, including lone parent families, disabled people, and communities experiencing racial inequity.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

[Robertson Trust – Large Grants](#)

People's Postcode Trust

Grants of 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 or 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.

The deadline for applications is 1 October 2026.

[People's Postcode 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](#)