

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

'Making a Difference in East Ayrshire Communities'

ALERT



27 June 2025

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 2 July 2025.

[Alec Dickson Trust](#)

Heart Research UK – Healthy Hearts Grants

Grants of up to £15,000 are available for new community projects aimed at supporting adults to reduce their risk of coronary heart disease, helping them to lead healthier, happier and longer lives.

Applications are currently being accepted from small registered charities and community interest companies (CICs) with an annual income of less than £1 million.

Groups are expected to have an in-depth knowledge of the specific needs and demographics of the communities they intend to work with and their project activities need to specifically address the problems within that community.

Funding is for new projects that work with communities to prevent heart disease, particularly for vulnerable and isolated groups of individuals who are at an increased risk of developing heart problems in

the future. Projects that are likely to have a big impact and have considered novel ways to encourage people to look after their hearts and promote positive lifestyle changes are also sought.

Activities must have a primary focus on one or more of the following four risk factors for heart disease:

- Nutrition and Healthy Eating.
- Physical Activity.
- Smoking.
- Alcohol consumption.

Projects should run for a minimum of three months and no longer than 12 months.

The funding can support salaries, overhead expenses/on costs and equipment that is necessary for the successful delivery of the project.

There is one funding round each year for Scotland.

The deadline for applications is 9 July 2025.

[Heart Research UK - Healthy Hearts Grants](#)

NatureScot – Scottish Government Nature Restoration Fund

NatureScot is again offering grants for projects for groups across Scotland that restore wildlife and habitats on land and sea and address the twin crises of biodiversity loss and climate change across the following themes:

- Habitat and species restoration: management for enhancement and connectivity.
- Freshwater restoration, including restoring natural flows in rural catchments.
- Coastal and marine initiatives which promote restoration, recovery, enhancement, or resilience.
- Control of invasive non-native species impacting on nature (INNS).
- Urban: Enhancing and connecting nature across and between towns and cities.

Grants are available across the following funding strands:

- Helping Nature grants of between £25,000 and £250,000.
- Transforming Nature grants of over £250,000. Through this funding strand, a development option is also available for applicants seeking to fund development phase activities such as feasibility studies, land or site investigation, or the development of project plans.

Applications will be accepted from registered charities and trusts, constituted community groups, private individuals, and companies and partnerships and organisations working collaboratively with others. Public bodies cannot be the principal beneficiary of a grant from the Fund but can be a coordinator of, or funding contributor to, a wider partnership bid.

Funding can be used for contractor costs, capital equipment and material, staff costs, travel and subsistence, irrecoverable VAT relating to project costs, training and skills development, full cost recovery (where there are staff costs, organisational and overhead costs), and costs associated with partnership or collaborative applications. All projects must be completed by 31 March 2028.

There is a two-stage application process wherein groups must first submit an Expression of Interest before being invited to complete a full application. There will be two full application deadlines in 2025, in August and November.

The next deadline to submit an Expression of Interest is 14 July 2025.

[NatureScot - Scottish Government Nature Restoration Fund](#)

People's Postcode Trust

Round two is providing unrestricted grants to support not-for-profit organisations in Scotland.

The funding is for projects in Scotland that have a clear alignment with one of the Trust's 2025 themes:

- Enabling participation in physical activity
- Enabling participation in the arts
- Improving biodiversity and responding to the climate emergency
- Improving green spaces and increasing access to the outdoors
- Preventing or reducing the impact of poverty
- Providing support to improve mental health
- Supporting marginalised groups and tackling inequality.

Depending on their not-for-profit legal structure, organisations can apply either for a grant of between £500 and £2,500 or between £500 and £25,000.

The funding offered is unrestricted and therefore flexible. It can be used however it is most needed.

This is the second of three funding rounds in 2025.

The deadline for applications is 1 July 2025.

[People's Postcode Trust](#)

Randal Charitable Foundation

Randal Charitable Foundation is offering grants of between £5,000 and £30,000 for UK-based charities with a global operation to deliver innovative projects and initiatives that drive positive, life-saving, and life-transforming change and address poverty, health inequality, and access to clean water.

The Foundation's current call for funding is for projects that fall under the following categories:

- Alleviating poverty, specifically directly and sustainably alleviating extreme poverty.
- Healthcare and nutrition for the most vulnerable, making lasting change, and bringing immediate benefit.
- Clean water and sanitation for the most vulnerable, for long-term impact, including supporting improvements at a community level.

Funding is for projects shown to deliver proven, effective impact, as well as innovative, novel, or disruptive projects that can make a real difference.

Proposed projects should be completed within 12 months of the receipt of funding.

Applications can be submitted at any time until a sufficient number of applications have been received.

[Randal Charitable Foundation](#)

Sofronie Foundation

Sofronie Foundation is offering funding for registered charities and not-for-profit organisations across the UK to deliver projects that provide young people with skills for jobs and increase access to higher education.

Funding is for interventions that:

- Increase access to higher education, such as educational programmes for young people that raise aspirations, build confidence, and develop skills in preparation for university.
- Increase access to vocational training, such as initiatives that provide young people with practical skills or offer opportunities of work experience in preparation for future employment.

Funding can be used for all costs associated with project delivery, including staffing costs.

Applications can be submitted at any time.

[Sofronie Foundation](#)

Steel Charitable Trust – UK Under 26 Fund

Grants starting from £10,000 are available for groups to deliver projects and activities that improve outcomes for children and young people in the UK (regardless of their nationality, culture or ethnic origin) who are wholly or mainly under 26 years of age.

Emphasis will be given to creating education and/or access opportunities for young people in circumstances, groups, or locations that face economic challenges or social marginalisation that may lead to significant disadvantages in later life.

Most one-off grants will fall in the range of between £10,000 and £50,000.

The trustees meet quarterly to discuss applications.

The next deadline for applications is 15 July 2025.

[Steel Charitable Trust - UK Under 26 Fund](#)

East Ayrshire Council Community Grant

The next deadline date for applications is 18 July 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](#)