

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

'Making a Difference in East Ayrshire Communities'



ALERT



28 August 2026

Age Scotland – Encouraging and Supporting Grassroots Activity Fund

Grants of between £3,000 and £15,000 to community-based, not-for-profit organisations in Scotland that support people living with dementia and unpaid carers.

This year's funding is for activities and programmes taking place in Scotland that aim to:

- Strengthen the resilience and sustainability of community-based dementia support.
- Help people living with dementia and unpaid carers stay connected to their communities.
- Improve health, wellbeing and quality of life.
- Support local organisations to respond to the needs of people affected by dementia in their area.

Projects and activities need to make a meaningful difference to people with lived experience of dementia and those who provide unpaid care.

There is particular interest in applications from groups working in:

- Rural and remote communities
- Areas experiencing multiple deprivation
- Ethnic minority communities
- LGBTQ+ communities
- Communities with protected characteristics.

A unique aspect of the fund is that applications are reviewed by a lived experience panel, helping to ensure funding decisions are informed by the voices and experiences of people affected by dementia.

The funding can cover various costs involved in running an activity, such as:

- Staffing and training costs

- Volunteer expenses
- Venue and transport costs
- Catering and activity costs.

Capital costs will also be considered if clearly linked to community benefits within the 12-month funding period and long-term sustainability of the group.

Although there is no income limit priority will be given to community groups and organisations with smaller annual incomes.

The deadline for applications is 11 September 2026.

[Age Scotland – Encouraging and Supporting Grassroots Activity Fund](#)

Electrical Safety First

Electrical Safety First is offering charities, community interest companies (CICs), trusts, and registered not-for-profit organisations across the UK grants to deliver projects and activities that contribute to a reduction in electrical risks in UK homes.

Through the Electrical Safety Fund, grants of up to £10,000 are available for projects that fall in one of the following categories:

- Improve electrical safety education.
- Raise awareness of electrical safety risks and how people can stay safe.
- Remove, repair, or replace unsafe electrical products.
- Address electrical installation safety issues.

For home repair and direct intervention projects, recipients must be owner-occupants of their residential dwelling who are unable to afford the electrical work required, which must be defined as minor, and the householders must meet one of the following criteria:

- Live with a child under five years old.
- Live alone or with others and have reached state pension age.
- Live alone or with others and are disabled or chronically ill.
- Live with others who have reached state pension age or are chronically disabled, or are under 18 years old.

This year, priority will be given to projects that combine approaches, such as PAT testing alongside education or awareness raising, and creative or innovative ideas that go beyond standard delivery.

The deadline for applications is 27 September 2026.

[Electrical Safety First](#)

Friends of the Nations' Libraries

Grants to help eligible UK institutions acquire rare printed books, manuscripts, records and archives. It is particularly keen on supporting purchases of material that might otherwise leave the UK.

Grants can contribute towards acquisitions of historical, literary, artistic, architectural or musical interest, as well as fine bindings. Grants typically range from £200 to £20,000 and will rarely exceed £20,000.

Applications will be accepted from:

- The national libraries and the libraries of national museums
- Record offices and archives services
- University and specialist libraries
- Any museum, gallery or collecting institution to which the public has reasonable access and which, in the opinion of the Trustees, constitutes a proper repository for the proposed acquisition.

FNL can fast track applicants facing a potential purchase going to auction at short notice.

The next deadline for applications is 1 November 2026.

[Friends of the Nations' Libraries](#)

Henry Smith Foundation – Holiday Grants for Children

Grants for recreational trips in the UK, Isle of Man or Channel Islands for children up to and including 13 years old who face financial hardship, systemic inequity or disability.

The Foundation offers this funding to help children who experience inequity and/or are disabled to go on fun trips. Priority is given to fun and new experiences, such as camping, adventure activities, or visits to the seaside.

Youth groups and UK-based, non-profit groups (with an organisational income below £2 million) and schools in the UK are eligible to apply.

Priority will be given to projects that will benefit disadvantaged and disabled children in the most deprived areas in the UK, based on the National Indices of Deprivation. For groups of children with disabilities, more flexibility will be given regarding the level of deprivation.

Grants between £500 and £3,000 are available for either a day trip or holidays up to seven days in length. This could be to a countryside or city location but must be outside the children's immediate locality. Day trips should not involve a disproportionate amount of time spent travelling.

Applications should be received at least six weeks before the date of the trip to allow for administrative processing and decision making.

Applications are currently being accepted for holidays taking place between 1 October and 31 December 2026.

The deadline for applications is 19 November 2026.

[Henry Smith Foundation – Holiday Grants for Children](#)

Local Energy Scotland – Community Energy Growth Fund

This funding supports community-owned projects that generate, store or make better use of renewable electricity.

Projects must include one or more of the following:

- A new renewable electricity generation project with a capacity of 100kW or greater.
- A new energy storage project with a capacity of 100kWh or greater, where the storage provides wider grid or energy system services.
- The addition of energy storage, demand flexibility, or both, to an existing community-owned renewable electricity generation project with an installed capacity of 100 kW or greater.

Renewable generation projects are normally expected to deliver at least 100kW of installed renewable electricity generation capacity. This can be achieved through:

- A single renewable energy installation.
- Multiple smaller installations across different sites.
- A combination of renewable technologies where the total installed capacity equals or exceeds 100kW.
- Additional capacity added to a project previously supported through the Community Energy Growth Fund.

The following funding is available:

- **Feasibility Stage:** Grants of up to £20,000 to cover 100% of eligible costs.
- **Development Stage:** Grants of up to £200,000 to cover 100% of eligible costs.
- **Construction Stage:** Grants of up to 60% of the first £500,000 of eligible construction costs or up to 25% above £500,000 up to the maximum grant award. Organisations can also apply for CARES Construction loans of up to five years.

Approved projects must complete their funded activities and submit all funding claims by 15 March 2027.

Applications will be accepted from the following non-profit distributing Scottish charities or companies:

- Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations (SCIO).

- Private Companies Limited by Guarantee (CLG).
- Community Benefit Societies (BenCom).
- Community Interest Companies (CIC).
- Unincorporated charities registered with OSCR.
- Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs)

CARES funding cannot be used for technology research and development. Eligible measures must be based on established technologies.

The deadline for full applications is 14 September 2026.

[Local Energy Scotland – Community Energy Growth Fund](#)

Morrisons Foundation – Connecting Communities

Registered charities can apply now for a grant of up to £20,000 for capital projects that can be completed within nine months and do the following:

- Breathe new life into local spaces: Upgrade and revitalise buildings and outdoor areas.
- Bring people together: Reduce social isolation and foster a strong sense of belonging.
- Secure the future: Ensure vital local services remain open and accessible for generations to come.

Projects should improve, enhance or protect spaces in communities in England, Scotland or Wales. This could be, for example, by

- Renovations and upgrades (community kitchens, accessible toilets and changing facilities, refurbishing a communal room, making internal and external repairs).
- Small scale construction (therapeutic and activity sheds, outdoor shelters & seating areas, external secure storage facilities, forest school structures).
- Equipment and installations (mobility & adaptive gym equipment, CCTV, secure doors & windows, boilers, heaters and insulation, workroom & large activity items).
- Transforming environments (landscaping of community gardens, accessible sensory garden features, inclusive outdoor play areas, community outdoor fitness hubs).

Preference is given to applications:

- Supporting a more deprived community.
- Delivered in a community closer to a Morrisons store.
- That will benefit a larger number of people.
- For projects that have a lasting legacy.

- From charities with a smaller annual income.

The funding aims to reduce social isolation, foster a deep sense of belonging, and ensure that the physical spaces at the 'heart' of communities remain resilient, inclusive, and equipped to serve for generations to come.

There are no deadlines. Decisions should be made within eight weeks of applications.

Applications can be made at any time.

[Morrisons Foundation – Connecting Communities](#)

Scottish Government – Childcare Support Fund

The funding is for short-term, flexible childcare through registered childcare providers, to support low-income families living in, or at risk of, poverty at key times when childcare costs create financial pressure or are a barrier to employment, training or learning.

The Scottish Government is accepting applications from third sector organisations based, or delivering services, in Scotland. Groups who were unsuccessful in the first round are welcome to apply again.

Applications are open to third sector organisations, including voluntary and community organisations, social enterprises, mutuals and co-operatives, as well as partnerships of third sector bodies.

Individual grants of between £250,000 and £1 million are to be used for projects which are completed by 31 March 2027.

Support is designed to be short term and targeted at key points in a family's life when the cost or availability of childcare becomes a barrier. Projects are expected to engage with families living in poverty or at risk of poverty, agree timely and flexible support with them and then match families with childcare services that meet identified needs. Work should complement existing provision rather than duplicate it.

Funding can be used to pay Care Inspectorate-registered childcare providers for services delivered to participating families, resulting in a subsidised or fully funded childcare place. It can also cover certain staff costs linked to engaging and supporting families, assessing childcare requirements and co-ordinating provision and payments, alongside other reasonable delivery and equipment costs.

The deadline for applications is 01 September 2026.

Sunrise Medical – Community Fund

Community groups, sports clubs, disability organisations, and individuals across the UK can apply for grants of up to £5,000 to support projects that make community spaces and experiences more accessible, wheelchair-friendly, and inclusive.

The Sunrise Medical Community Fund will support organisations to help wheelchair users and disabled people to enjoy greater independence, inclusion, and opportunity. Funding can be used to deliver projects such as:

- Support for wheelchair basketball, rugby, tennis, and other inclusive sports.
- Helping to create accessible events and activities that bring people together.
- Funding towards specialist equipment that enables greater independence.
- Days out and experiences.
- Local community projects that improve accessibility and inclusion.

Proposed projects should encourage people to get active, connect with others, try something new, or make everyday life easier.

The deadline for applications is 30 September 2026.

[Sunrise Medical – Community Fund](#)

East Ayrshire Council Community Grant

The next deadline for applications is 17 September 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](#)