

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

‘Making a Difference in East Ayrshire Communities’



ALERT



3 July 2026

Amazon – Regional Creatives Fund

The funding is aimed at small-to-medium-size single charities, CICs, CIOs and regional consortiums that already run established creative upskilling activity and want to grow, maintain or reimagine existing delivery. Applicants are expected to show measurable impact to date and provide clear plans for how the money will improve or extend work already underway, rather than create a new project.

The following grant tiers are available this year:

- Boost grants range from £1,000 to £5,000
- Sustain grants from £5,001 to £12,000
- Strengthen grants from £12,001 to £20,000
- Scale grants from £20,001 to £30,000.
- Consortium grants of up to £100,000.

Eligible applicants must be UK registered charities, Charitable Incorporated Organisations or Community Interest Companies with a physical operation in the UK. They must have an annual income below £5 million, or in a consortium, below £5 million per organisation.

The Regional Creatives Fund welcomes applications from organisations working across the creative industries, including:

- Music — performance, production, artist development, sound engineering, music business.
- Performing Arts and Live Events — theatre, live performance, events production, stage management, technical production.
- Screen and Audio — film, TV, animation, podcasting, radio, audio production.
- Digital and Interactive — gaming, XR, AI-enabled creative tools, digital design, social media production.
- Publishing and Communications — books, journalism, copywriting, PR, advertising, podcasting.

- Fashion, Craft and Visual Arts — fashion, textiles, fine art, illustration, photography, graphic design.
- Comedy — stand-up, sketch, sitcom, comedy writing, character comedy.
- Cross-disciplinary — projects that genuinely span two or more of the above.
- Other — creative industries where a strong fit is demonstrated.

In addition to financial support, recipients may be offered pro bono upskilling from Amazon professionals, which may include mentoring, work experience, placement opportunities or legal advice.

The deadline for applications is 2 August 2026.

[Amazon – Regional Creatives Fund](#)

Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust

Grants for UK-registered charities working across the UK to help those most in need.

The Trust operates a three-year rotation system, with different fields of interest being funded each year. There are normally four application rounds per year, with applications accepted for one month only, usually in February, April, July, and September. Charities can apply for one round per calendar year.

In 2026, Rounds 3 and 4 will focus on projects supporting unpaid carers. Focus will be given to projects that provide therapeutic support, including healthy eating and outdoor activities. Projects must focus exclusively on unpaid carers, without extending services to other groups.

In this round, grants of £1,000 are available for UK-registered charities with an operating income of between £100,000 and £1 million. Applications will not be accepted from CICs or other not-for-profit organisations that are not a UK-registered charity.

The deadline for Round 3 is 31 July 2026.

[Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust](#)

Barchester's Charitable Foundation

The Foundation offers quarterly grants to small community groups and local charities across England, Scotland, and Wales for projects that help reduce isolation and loneliness, promote group activities, and generally improve mobility and quality of life for older people and adults with physical, learning, or mental disabilities.

Grants of between £100 and £2,600 are available to help small community groups and local charities with the following:

- Activities.

- Equipment and materials for use by members.
- Transport costs to enable members to attend
- Day trips, outings, and group holidays in the UK.

Priority will be given to innovative projects that help older people and those with a disability to get active, meet people, and reduce isolation.

The next deadline for applications is to 31 July 2026.

[Barchester's Charitable Foundation](#)

Corra Foundation – Alcohol and Drugs Fund

The Scottish Government has announced a new Alcohol and Drugs Fund, with £36.9 million available between 2026 and 2029 to support third- and public-sector organisations working with people affected by substance use. Delivered by the Corra Foundation, the fund forms a key part of the national strategy to prevent harm, promote recovery and improve outcomes for individuals, families and communities.

The programme is structured around four funding streams, each designed to support different types of organisations and interventions across Scotland:

- **Local Support Micro Grants** - This strand offers small-scale funding for grassroots and community-led organisations (with an annual income of under £75,000) delivering frontline support. It is intended to help smaller groups respond quickly to local needs and build capacity within communities. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.
- **Local Support Grants** - Targeted at small to medium-sized voluntary and community organisations (annual income under £750,000), these grants support the delivery and expansion of frontline services. Funding can be used to stabilise services, increase capacity or extend support to people affected by drug and alcohol use. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.
- **Partnership and Delivery Grants** - This stream focuses on larger, collaborative projects involving public sector bodies and third sector partners. It prioritises partnership approaches that improve access to treatment, care pathways and residential rehabilitation services.
- **Children, Young People and Families Grants** - This strand supports projects that work directly with children, young people and families affected by substance use. It emphasises early intervention and a whole-family, rights-based approach to service delivery.

The deadline for applications to the Partnership and Delivery Grants and Children, Young People and Families Grants is 18 August 2026.

[Corra Foundation - Alcohol and Drugs Fund: Partnership and Delivery Grants](#)

[Corra Foundation – Alcohol and Drugs Fund: Children, Young People and Families Grants](#)

Cycling UK – Cycle Access Fund

The Fund aims to remove barriers to cycling for people least likely to have access to a bike, with a focus on supporting adults and others who are struggling financially.

Support is available through five strands: Individual Bike Ownership, Shared Use, Recycle, Repair and Cycle Parking and Storage. There is no limit to the number of strands an organisation can apply for, although Cycling UK notes that availability under the Individual Bike Ownership strand is extremely limited.

A wide range of applicants are eligible, including charities and social enterprises, commercial businesses such as bike shops, local authorities, educational establishments and housing associations. Applicants must be based in local authority areas covered by SPT, ZetTrans or SEStran.

The Individual Bike Ownership and Shared Use funding strands have a two-stage application process. Recycle and Repair have a single-stage application process.

Expressions of Interest and applications are currently being accepted. The fund will close when the funds have been fully allocated or on 31 March 2027, whichever occurs soonest.

[Cycling UK – Cycle Access Fund](#)

James Tudor Foundation – Mental Health Grant

UK registered charities can apply now for grants of up to £25,000 for projects that help children and young people recover from Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), plus support parents affected by ACEs, mental illness or addiction.

Application will be considered from UK-registered healthcare charities with an annual income below £20 million and at least five years audited or independently examined accounts. Charities can be either regionally or nationally based.

Projects should be evidence-based, trauma-informed interventions that will overcome and prevent ACEs. The programme supports children and young people affected by ACEs, plus parents (to help break the cycle of trauma across generations):

- **Children and young people**
 - Only charities that have a specialist, single focus on one or more of the following are supported: childhood sexual abuse; living in a household where there is domestic violence, and/or physical and/or emotional neglect; living with a parent who has a mental illness and/or substance abuse. Charities **must** have a 'children first' approach.

- **Parental support**
 - Specialist charities that solely focus on supporting parents and complex family challenges by delivering help for parents to confront their own ACEs and help to break the intergenerational cycle of trauma and abuse; and help for families where a parent or caregiver has a mental illness or substance addiction (and is at risk of harming their children).

The funding is flexible, designed to contribute towards overall service delivery. However, grants can also be made for a specific project.

There is a two-stage application process. This new round is for projects to be funded in spring 2027.

The deadline for Expressions of Interest is 31 August 2026.

[James Tudor Foundation – Mental Health Grant](#)

James Tudor Foundation – Physical Health Grant

UK charities working in physical health, with a focus on therapeutic interventions, health information and direct healthcare, can apply for grants of up to £25,000 from 1 July.

Through this programme, support is given to:

- **Evidence-based physical therapies for:**
 - People living with neurodegenerative physical conditions and/or neuromuscular conditions
 - People living with physical disabilities
 - People recovering from life-changing injuries
- **Specialist, single-condition charities** – typically these are national charities that provide information about a specific condition via nurse-led helplines and via digital and print materials.
- **Charities whose main focus is delivering direct healthcare services to these inclusion health groups**
 - People experiencing homelessness
 - Street sex workers
 - Vulnerable migrants
- **Air ambulance charities operating in South West England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland**

Applications will be accepted from UK-registered healthcare charities with an annual income below £20 million and at least five years' audited or independently examined accounts. To be eligible, UK registered charities must be delivering services in the UK.

Priority is given to:

- Charities that address unmet needs, demonstrate sector expertise, and have a clear, well-defined strategy.
- Charities providing condition-specific information.
- Organisations whose services are delivered by qualified specialist professionals.

In addition, priority may be given to charities that:

- Support individuals with life-limiting and / or degenerative conditions.
- Are PIF Tick certified and / or Helplines Partnership members.
- Provide their services free of charge or at a highly subsidised rate.
- Are primarily reliant on charitable trusts and foundations.

The funding is flexible, designed to contribute towards overall service delivery. However, grants can also be made for a specific project.

There is a two-stage application process. This new round is for projects to be funded in spring 2027.

The deadline for Expressions of Interest is 31 August 2026.

[James Tudor Foundation – Physical Health Grant](#)

Scottish Government – Childcare Support Fund

The Scottish Government has opened the Childcare Support Fund, offering grants to third sector organisations to widen access to flexible and affordable childcare for families on low incomes.

A total of £15 million is available through the fund. Individual grants will range from £250,000 to £1 million. Successful applicants must spend the money by 31 March 2027.

The fund is intended to contribute to the Scottish Government priority of eradicating child poverty. It aligns with the principles set out in Bringing Hope, Building Futures, including Whole Family Support. It focuses on drivers of child poverty, particularly increasing earned incomes, while recognising that access to childcare can reduce living costs and support improved outcomes for children and families.

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.

Eligible applicants must be based in Scotland or delivering services in Scotland.

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.

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 9 July 2026.

[Scottish Government – Childcare Support Fund](#)

Tesco – Fruit and Veg Grants

Tesco has launched a new Fruit and Veg Grants programme to support organisations working with children and young people to improve access to healthy food across the UK.

The funding is intended to help deliver activities that increase the availability of fruit and vegetables and support physical and mental wellbeing.

Grants are awarded through a customer voting process in Tesco stores. Three local projects are shortlisted at a time, with awards of up to £1,500 for the project receiving the most votes, up to £1,000 for second place and up to £500 for third place. Shortlisting takes place every four months.

The initiative is open to schools, registered charities and not-for-profit organisations, including voluntary and community groups, social enterprises, parish and town councils, local authorities and housing organisations. Community Interest Companies must be limited by guarantee and have been operating for at least two years.

Funding can be used for a range of activities focused on healthy eating. This includes breakfast and after-school clubs providing fruit and vegetables, holiday clubs offering healthy meals and snacks, growing projects, cooking sessions, youth clubs, sports clubs and initiatives addressing holiday hunger. Support may also be provided for foodbanks assisting families.

There are no deadlines. This is a rolling programme, and applications can be made at any time during the year.

[Tesco – Fruit and Veg Grants](#)

The Fore

The Fore offers unrestricted funding to small charities and social enterprises with a turnover under £500,000 that are making a big impact and want to significantly grow, strengthen, or become more efficient or resilient.

The unrestricted grants can be spread over one to three years and can be used for any purpose, including core costs and capital funding if the grants will help strengthen the organisation internally and help it to take the next step forward in its growth or sustainability. The grant could help, for example, an organisation grow, increase internal capacity, serve new beneficiary groups, become more sustainable or more efficient, etc.

To apply for funding, organisations must first register some basic contact details at the start of the funding round. Once their place on the funding round has been confirmed by email, they have three to four weeks to submit an application. Only organisations that have registered with the Fore and are allocated a place may submit an application for the specific funding round.

Registration for the Autumn 2026 round will open on 8 July and close on 15 July 2026.

[The Fore](#)

East Ayrshire Council Community Grant

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