

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

'Making a Difference in East Ayrshire Communities'

ALERT



3 October 2025

CVO East Ayrshire – Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund

The Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for Adults aims to support grassroots community-based initiatives that promote and develop good mental health and wellbeing and/or mitigate and protect against the impact of distress and mental ill health within the adult population (aged 16 or over).

Specifically, the Fund aims to:

- Tackle mental health inequalities through supporting a range of 'at risk' groups.
- Address priority issues of social isolation and loneliness, suicide prevention and poverty and inequality with a particular emphasis on responding to the cost-of-living crisis and support to those facing socio-economic disadvantage.
- Support small 'grass roots' community groups and organisations to deliver such activities.
- Provide opportunities for people to connect with each other, build trusted relationships and revitalise communities.

This fund has a strong emphasis on collaboration, partnerships, capacity building and the development of creative projects that can work at a very grassroots level, together with local people.

The fund will be split across three grant streams:

- Micro grants up to £2,000
- Small grants up to £5,000
- Large grants up to £15,000

CVOEA will welcome applications to the Micro Grants Programme for single year projects. The Small and Large Grants Programme offers the option to apply for single or two years funding.

The deadlines for applications are as follows:

- **Micro Grants: Monday 24th November 2025**
- **Small Grants: Monday 26th January 2026**
- **Large Grants: Monday 26th January 2026**

[CVO East Ayrshire - Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund](#)

Bòrd na Gàidhlig - Seachdain na Gàidhlig Small Grants Fund

Funding is available for activities taking place during Seachdain na Gàidhlig (World Gaelic Week), which will run from 23 February 2026 to 1 March 2026. The theme for 2026 is 'Use it or Lose It'.

The Seachdain na Gàidhlig Small Grants Fund is provided by Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

Grants of up to £500 are available to individuals (over 18), voluntary and community groups, schools, educational institutions and professional organisations.

Applicants must:

- Demonstrate a positive track record in and commitment to Gaelic.
- Have a UK bank account.

Organisations do not have to be based in Scotland to apply. Projects throughout the UK will be considered.

Projects must align with the following objectives:

- Promote interest and participation in Gaelic.
- Increase opportunities to experience Gaelic.
- Strengthen and broaden the network of people engaging with Gaelic.
- Raise the profile of Gaelic locally, nationally, and worldwide.
- Ensure activities are inclusive and accessible to as many people as possible.

The following are examples of eligible costs:

- Venue hire.
- Staff costs.
- Marketing materials.
- Refreshments.

The deadline for applications is 31 October 2025.

[Bòrd na Gàidhlig - Seachdain na Gàidhlig Small Grants Fund](#)

Corra Foundation – Racial Equity Fund

Not-for-profit organisations in Scotland that are led by, and working with, people from Black and racially minoritised backgrounds can apply for unrestricted multi-year grants.

The funding is offered through the new Racial Equity Fund, administered by the Corra Foundation.

The fund is designed to support groups that have historically been under-resourced. Grants of up to £50,000 are available across five years, with no more than £10,000 awarded in any single year. Around £450,000 will be distributed in total. Funding is unrestricted, allowing organisations to use grants to deliver any aspect of their work.

At least 75% of board members and 50% of senior staff, where applicable, must be from Black or racially minoritised backgrounds.

Eligible applicants must:

- Have been operating for at least 12 months.
- Have an annual income of no more than £250,000.
- Be based and registered in Scotland, either as:
 - o Charities listed with the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR), or
 - o Community interest companies or social enterprises registered with Companies House.

The deadline for applications is 29 October 2025.

[Corra Foundation - Racial Equity Fund](#)

COSARAF – Hardship Fund

COSARAF is offering grants of up to £2,000 to organisations that support families and individuals from across the UK who are in financial need and struggling with everyday costs such as basic expenses, utilities, or rent arrears.

The Hardship Grants Programme supports recognised third-party social organisations, such as charities, housing associations, schools, and social services, which are acting on behalf of a family or individual in need, with priority being given to:

- The most financially excluded people.
- Families over individuals.
- Those with caring responsibilities.
- Items that will make the most difference to the individual/family's long-term future.

Funding can be used to support vulnerable individuals with costs such as:

- Household items, such as white goods, and occasionally furniture, including sofas or wardrobes.
- Basic living expenses, such as utilities and food.
- Work or education-related expenses.
- Rent or Council tax arrears where there is a clear risk of homelessness.
- Immigration-related costs, where a person's current immigration status is causing financial hardship.

Applications are assessed every six weeks, and groups can expect to receive a response within eight weeks of their application.

Applications can be submitted at any time.

[COSARAF - Hardship Fund](#)

EventScotland – National Events Programme

EventScotland is inviting applications for Round 55 of the National Events Programme, offering financial support to cultural and sporting events taking place outside of Glasgow and Edinburgh. The programme aims to assist events that align with the national events strategy, *Scotland the Perfect Stage*, and that support domestic tourism within Scotland.

Funding awards of between £5,000 and £25,000 are available. Events must have a delivery budget exceeding £20,000 and attract more than 1,000 in-person attendees. Eligible activities include innovation to grow the event, marketing and PR, hired equipment to enhance the visitor experience, and initiatives focused on accessibility, inclusion and environmental sustainability.

Applicants must be legally constituted organisations running live public-facing events. Support is available for both new and established events occurring in eligible regions across Scotland.

Financial support is limited to a maximum of 25% of the total event budget. Events should also receive backing from relevant local authorities or public agencies. Core staging costs, significant capital purchases and hospitality are not eligible for funding.

Round 55 will operate two deadlines. Applicants must apply to the deadline relevant to the date their event will take place:

- **22 October 2025 (14:00) for events taking place between April and September 2026.**
- **14 January 2026 (14:00) for events taking place between September and December 2026.**

[EventScotland - National Events Programme](#)

Home Instead – Charities

Funding to support local community events that enhance and enrich the lives of people over the age of 55 to combat loneliness and sometimes isolation ensuring they stay fit, active, healthy and connected and contributing to their local communities.

There are two levels of funding:

- Grants of up to £500 for small grass roots organisations.
- Grants of up to £1,500 for small local registered charities. Larger grants can be considered for exceptional projects.

The funder will only fully fund a grant request where the applicant holds no more than three months operating costs in reserve. For organisations that have more than this, up to 50% of the project costs will be funded.

The grants can be used for:

- Regular weekly or monthly events and activities such as weekly cinema club, weekly knit and natter or Thursday lunch club.
- One off activities such as a day trip or a Christmas lunch.
- Activities such as yoga or a guest speaker for the group such as a local historian.

There are four application windows per year (January, April, July and October). Applications received outside of these window will not be processed.

The deadline for applications is 31 October 2025.

[Home Instead - Charities](#)

Parkinson's UK – Grants for Physical Activity Providers

The funding is for projects that can demonstrate the following desired impact:

- People with Parkinson's become and stay active, and/or significantly increase their levels of activity if they are already active.
- More physical activity provision for everyone with Parkinson's across the UK.
- Improved social wellbeing in people with Parkinson's as a result of attending the project.

Priority will be given to innovative and new projects that will help people with Parkinson's:

- Become and stay active, or
- Who are already active to significantly increase their levels of physical activity.

Grants of between £500 and £3,000 are available.

The deadline for applications is 23 October 2025.

[Parkinson's UK - Grants for Physical Activity Providers](#)

Robertson Trust – Nurturing Relationships

The Nurturing Relationships theme, refined from the previous Emotional Wellbeing Relationships Theme in 2024, now more effectively supports efforts to break the cycle of persistent poverty and intergenerational trauma. The first round of funding under this theme was issued as an open call.

Under the Nurturing Relationships theme, the Trust is particularly interested in initiatives that offer:

- Preventative support for families experiencing poverty, including children and caregivers, to strengthen relationships and reduce the risk of intergenerational trauma.
- Whole-family support for those involved in or at risk of entering the care system, including services for young people with care experience who are not in a family setting.
- Crisis support at the point of family breakdown, especially for women and children affected by domestic abuse.
- Recovery and restorative approaches addressing experiences of homelessness, substance use, and/or contact with the criminal justice system. The Trust is particularly interested in holistic models that address both financial and broader needs, either directly or through partnerships with specialist providers.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.

[Robertson Trust - Nurturing Relationships](#)

Shared Care Scotland – Better Breaks

Grants of up to £35,000 for constituted third-sector organisations (£10,000 for unincorporated organisations) across Scotland to develop and deliver a wide range of short breaks projects and activities for disabled children and young people (aged 20 and under), their carers, and their families.

This can include breaks away and days out, or shorter, regular activities and sessions.

A total of approximately £1.7 million is available for the 2026-27 funding round for short breaks activities that contribute directly to the delivery of at least three of the following outcomes:

- Disabled children and young people (aged 20 and under) will have more opportunities to have fun, develop friendships and do activities they enjoy.
- Carers of disabled children and young people (aged 20 and under) will have more opportunities to enjoy a life outside of their caring role.
- Carers of disabled children and young people (aged 20 and under) will feel better supported to sustain their caring role.
- Disabled children and young people (aged 20 and under) and their carers will have improved well-being.

Funding can be used to cover costs directly associated with project delivery, such as contracted, sessional, or permanent staff costs, volunteer training and expenses, equipment, transport, office costs, or management and organisational support costs.

The deadline for applications is 3 November 2025.

[Shared Cares Scotland - Better Breaks](#)

Walk, Wheel, Cycle Trust – Love Your Network

The programme supports communities living near the National Cycle Network to help maintain, improve, and enhance the spaces along local paths, as well as supporting wildlife conservation.

Applications are being accepted from constituted community groups, registered charities, and social enterprises.

Funding will take the form of equipment and training bundles of up to £1,000 in value rather than money. These may include:

- Litter picking bundles.
- Hand tool bundles.

Applications for items or equipment not featured within a bundle may also be considered, and applicants are invited to create their own bundles to suit their needs.

The deadline for applications is 26 February 2026.

[Walk, Wheel, Cycle Trust - Love Your Network](#)

East Ayrshire Council Community Grant

To check the next deadline date for applications please contact Democratic Services at Council HQ on 01563 554400 for further information.

[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](#)