

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

'Making a Difference in East Ayrshire Communities'

ALERT



30 May 2025

Ayrshire Rural Islands & Ambition Fund

The Ayrshire Rural and Islands Ambition (ARIA) Fund is now open for Expressions of Interest for the Main Fund and Community Asset Maintenance (CAM) Fund.

This year the Main Fund is exclusively capital funding, and can't support staffing costs or any revenue expenditure, but can support capital projects with up to 90% grants, from £5000-£50,000. This fund is open to third sector organisations, community groups, farms and businesses, with fewer than fifty members of staff, who are within the eligibility area shown on the [Ayrshire Rural & Islands Ambition Fund map](#).

The CAM Fund is available to support community/third sector organisations who own or lease buildings, to undertake a professional survey which will result in a repair register for the building. Successful applicants will also receive £2000 as a sinking fund towards the repairs highlighted within the report.

If you are interested in either fund, please fill in the short Expression of Interest form.

The deadline for Expressions of Interests is 11 June 2025.

[South Ayrshire Council - Ayrshire Rural and Islands Ambition Fund](#)

Energy Savings Trust – Energy Redress Scheme Just Transition Fund

Ofgem Energy Redress Scheme's Just Transition Fund was first launched in October 2024. The fund, now running a third round in the same application window as the scheme's other programmes, is making a total of £2 million available to charities and community energy groups across England, Scotland and Wales to develop renewable energy projects that benefit those most in need.

The scheme aims to build the capacity of the community energy sector and deliver impactful renewable energy projects. It seeks to demonstrate how a just transition to net zero can benefit everyone.

Grants of between £20,000 and £250,000 are available for individual projects.

Applications are accepted from registered charities, Community Interest Companies (CICs), Community Benefit Societies and Cooperative Societies in England, Scotland and Wales that are registered with the Energy Redress Scheme and have passed the due diligence process.

Organisations that have not yet registered with the scheme must do so 10 working days before the relevant fund closes to allow time for eligibility checks to take place.

The deadline for applications is 11 June 2025.

[Energy Savings Trust - Energy Redress Scheme Just Transition Fund](#)

Foundation Scotland – Essentia Foundation Mid-Sized Grants

The Foundation provides financial support to charities and community groups to help achieve the following objectives:

- Improved health and social welfare of children and young people up to the age of 25 years old.
- Increased opportunities for training, enhancing learning, upskilling, and developing career opportunities, and supporting young people up to the age of 25 years old to move towards employment.

This mid-sized grant programme is focused on providing funding to medium sized charitable organisations that align with the Essentia Foundation's objectives.

The fund is looking for projects that:

- Support the participation in mainstream society for individuals with learning disabilities or long-term life limiting health conditions
- Support young people who face long-term challenges living in poverty and inequality.
- Support those who have been excluded from school to access or return to education or training opportunities
- Provide skills and training to those who are furthest from the labour market
- Aim to improve the health and welfare of children and young people (being those under 25)

Please note the above are all in relation to supporting young people up to the age of 25 only. This fund is only open to organisations with an annual income of **between £250,000 and £2million**.

Grants are for a fixed sum of £50,000 only.

The deadline for applications is 6 June 2025.

[Foundation Scotland - Essentia Mid-Sized Grants](#)

Music for All – Power of Music Fund

Music for All is offering grants of up to £2,000 to local organisations that use music making to support people living with dementia and their carers. This is only open to applicants working with underrepresented communities, including those from racially minoritised communities throughout the UK.

The Power of Music Fund aims to allow more people living with dementia and their carers to be linked up with music projects and activities in their communities in order to improve quality of life. The funding needs to provide a musical moment(s) of joy for a person or people living with dementia.

The funding can be used to support any type of ensemble including choirs, drumming circles or informal groups.

The grants should be put towards the purchase of instruments, equipment, specialised support/teaching/coaching/leading specifically designed to support the establishment and/or continuation of music groups for these groups.

The application can support costs associated with rehearsals/performance(s) including transport for participants.

Groups should have some level of co-production and lived experience built into the organisation and their planning, and their activities should be culturally appropriate. There is also an expectation that links will be formed to Social Prescribing networks locally, if they are not already in place.

The deadline for applications is 16 June 2025.

[Music for All - Power of Music Fund](#)

Naturesave Trust

Charities, social enterprises, community groups, voluntary organisations, small grassroots groups and businesses who are working to connect their communities to nature can apply now for a grant of up to £5,000.

The funding is intended to encourage nature connection initiatives within the local community, such as:

- Arts and cultural activities.
- Community gardening.
- Green gyms.
- Eco anxiety and mental health.
- Training a community with green skills.
- Conservation volunteering.
- Urban nature programmes.
- Social prescribing.
- Access to nature.
- Community wildlife surveys.
- Nature mindfulness.

Applicants must be entirely based in the UK and have a website or social media presence.

The deadline for applications is 15 July 2025.

[Naturesave Trust](#)

Scottish Government – Climate Engagement Fund

The Scottish Government is offering grants of between £25,000 and £80,000 for charities, community groups, community planning partnerships, and other ‘trusted messenger’ organisations, to deliver projects and activities that help to build an understanding of the climate emergency across communities in Scotland, in line with the strategic objectives of the Scottish Government’s Net Zero Nation: Public Engagement Strategy for Climate Change (PES).

A total of £275,000 is currently available for groups to achieve the following:

- Increase the number of individuals and communities who are climate literate.
- Increase the number of individuals and communities who understand the need to act and are empowered to do so.
- Widen participation by engaging new communities and individuals.

Engagement activities that can be considered for funding include public events or lectures, climate festivals, learning and development activities, skills workshops, exhibitions and art installations, or youth development programmes. Projects must be completed by 31 March 2026.

The Fund will support both local and national climate change engagement projects, as well as provide support for both new and continuing activities.

The deadline for applications is 8 June 2025.

[Scottish Government - Climate Engagement Fund](#)

Thomas Wall Trust

Grants of up to £5,000 are available for UK registered charities for specific projects that improve communication skills for disadvantaged adults and supports NEET people into employment.

The Trust views communication skills as critical capabilities for people who want to improve their employment prospects, self-confidence, resilience, and life chances.

The funding is for registered UK registered charities with an annual turnover of between £25,000 and £500,000 that are working to develop communication skills for people from disadvantaged groups who want to improve their employment prospects. Beneficiaries must gain at least one accredited vocational qualification during delivery.

Proposals are welcome which target people experiencing multiple deprivation or other groups demonstrably facing major hurdles to employment, especially women, people with physical, mental, or learning disabilities, and refugees.

Priority will be given to match funded projects and self-sustainable projects, with a view to becoming less reliant on grants in the future.

Grants cannot be used for capital costs.

There is a two-stage application process.

The deadline for stage one applications is 22 September 2025.

[Thomas Wall Trust](#)

Wellbeing of Women – Women’s Health Community Fund

Grants of up to £5,000 to small, grassroots organisations and community groups to deliver health information and support to women, girls and people from underrepresented groups in the UK.

The funding is for projects that address the following key points:

- **Improving information, education or support** for menstrual health, menopause and/or related gynaecological conditions e.g. PCOS, endometriosis, adenomyosis, fibroids, PMDD.
- **Supporting people and groups that are often excluded** in mainstream healthcare, including those from Black, Asian and ethnic minority backgrounds, LGBTQ+ communities, people living with disabilities, those experiencing homelessness, addiction, or living in areas of economic deprivation.

Activities must focus on women’s health in one of the following areas:

- Periods
- Menstrual health
- Perimenopause and menopause

Activities should aim to improve health outcomes through promoting positive and healthy conversations, knowledge sharing, education and/or training.

Grants of up to £5,000 are available to spend within 12 months. Funds will be distributed in two parts: 50% at the beginning of the project and 50% upon receipt of a six month report.

Applications will be accepted from small, grassroots organisation (registered charity, non-profit, or community interest company) operating in the UK with an income of less than £250,000 per year or fewer than 5 FTE staff, providing services in a local or regional community to minoritised groups.

The deadline for applications is 15 June 2025.

[Wellbeing of Women - Women's Health Community 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](#)