

# COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

## 'Making a Difference in East Ayrshire Communities'

# ALERT



31 March 2026

## National Lottery Community Fund – Awards for All: All In

An additional £2.2 million of National Lottery funding has been announced, which will support community, arts, and sports activity inspired by Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games, bringing the excitement of the Games to towns and neighbourhoods across Scotland.

The funding will be delivered through National Lottery Awards for All Scotland, the small grants programme that helps grassroots activity thrive. It will support projects that use sport, arts, and community engagement to get people active, bring communities together, and create local celebrations - ensuring the benefits of Glasgow 2026 are felt widely across the country.

The £2.2 million additional investment announced today is made up of £1 million from The National Lottery Community Fund, £1 million from Sport Scotland and £200,000 from Creative Scotland.

All In is the national call to action for the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games, which invites communities to celebrate the Games in their own altogether brilliant way.

This summer organisations delivering Glasgow 2026-inspired activities can apply for up to £10,000 of National Lottery funding for projects lasting up to 12 months that will:

- increase access and remove barriers so more people can take part in arts or sports activities
- bring people together and strengthen connections within and across communities
- support health and wellbeing through physical activity and shared community experiences
- celebrate cultural diversity and international connections
- create a lasting legacy that communities can enjoy beyond the Games

Interested organisations can call 0300 123 7110 or email [advicescotland@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk](mailto:advicescotland@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk) to discuss their projects before applying.

## Barclays – Community Sports Fund

The Access Grant is available to support the delivery of football, tennis or cricket activities for women and girls.

Not-for-profit organisations, including charities, community groups, youth groups and traditional sports clubs can apply for funding but only one grant can be awarded to each organisation.

Groups must:

- Deliver football, cricket or tennis activities for women and girls (or can apply for funding to start activities).
- Operate in an area of high deprivation.

Additionally, applications can be considered for projects engaging women and girls with disabilities or facing challenges of rural isolation that are not in deprived areas.

Grants of £1,000 are available.

**The closing date for applications is 27 May 2026.**

[Barclays – Community Sports Fund](#)

## Caremark – Community Care Fund

The funding aims to improve quality of life and strengthen local communities through practical, locally led activity.

Grants of £3,000 are available for projects that deliver tangible benefits. Supported activities include the purchase of equipment for inclusive sports or activity groups, improvements to village halls or community centres and supplies for community gardens or green spaces.

Funding may also be used for equipment for food banks, community larders or support services, as well as enhancements to spaces used by charities or community groups. In addition, projects can include new equipment for pre-schools or playgrounds.

The competition is open to UK-based community groups, charities, not-for-profit organisations, schools, pre-schools and projects run by local authorities or community bodies. Applicants must be UK residents aged 18 or over and can submit a bid on behalf of an eligible project.

The grants are intended to support activities that create lasting local impact and address community needs through accessible and practical improvements.

**The deadline for applications is 31 May 2026.**

[Caremark – Community Care Fund](#)

## CEMVO Scotland – Ethnic Minority Development Fund

Grants of between £500 and £15,000 to ethnic minority-led (at least 60% representation of people from an ethnic minority background on their board, management team and in decision-making roles) third sector organisations in Scotland with an annual income of £100,000 or less to support projects that promote the well-being of ethnic minority communities.

Support is available for projects and activities across Scotland that achieve at least one of the following priorities:

- Bring ethnic minority people together and build strong relationships across communities.
- Help more ethnic minority people to be the best they can be by supporting them as soon as possible.
- Improve places and spaces that matter to ethnic minority communities.

Funding can be used for a variety of costs, including but not limited to:

- Equipment.
- One-off events.
- Small land or building projects.
- Staff costs.
- Training costs.
- Transport.
- Utilities/running costs.
- Volunteer expenses.

Proposed projects should involve community members in the design, development, and delivery of any planned activities.

**The deadline for applications is 26 May 2026.**

[CEMVO Scotland – Ethnic Minority Development Fund](#)

## Goldsmiths Foundation – Open Grants Programme

The Goldsmiths' Foundation focusses on advancing creative, technical, and vocational skills, education and training in the craft and trade of goldsmithing, silversmithing and jewellery – as well as in the wider creative industries.

The Foundation is currently accepting application to its open grants programme.

This round is focused on organisations working primarily in craft. It aims to:

- Strengthen technical and vocational skills infrastructure in underserved craft communities.
- Champion the contribution that skilled makers, designers and craftspeople make to more just and equitable communities.
- Grow the systems and networks that allow craft and vocational practice to thrive equitably.

Grants of between £30,000 and £50,000 are available.

Operating/core cost grants and project activity grants are available.

Applications will be accepted from:

- UK registered charities
- Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs)
- Excepted and exempt charities.

**The deadline for applications is 11 May 2026.**

[Goldsmiths Foundation – Open Grants Programme](#)

## Help the Homeless

Help the Homeless is a small grant-making organisation with limited funding available to charities across the UK. It supports people experiencing homelessness in reintegrating into the community and rebuilding their lives.

Applicant organisations must be registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator. Small and medium-sized registered charities with an annual turnover below £500,000 and who are working wholly or mostly with homeless people may apply for funding.

Grants up to £5,000 are available to support capital projects, such as refurbishment costs and furniture.

An online application form is available at the Help the Homeless website.

**The next quarterly deadline for applications is 20 June 2026.**

[Help the Homeless](#)

## Local Energy Scotland – CARES Community Buildings Fund

Grants of up to £80,000 are available to community groups, registered charities, and other not-for-profit organisations across Scotland to support the installation of low-carbon and renewable energy measures in community buildings and to help support decarbonisation.

Funding is intended to enable groups to install low-carbon and renewable energy measures in self-managed community buildings, such as village halls, community centres, community hubs, sports facilities, and faith buildings.

Projects must be completed by 17 March 2027.

**The fund will close to applications at the end of October 2026 or when funding is fully allocated, whichever is sooner.**

[Local Energy Scotland – CARES Community Buildings Fund](#)

## Local Energy Scotland – Community Energy Generation Growth Fund

Grants are available to established and incorporated community groups such as development trusts and community energy and climate action groups to set up renewable energy generation projects, such as:

- Installing wind turbines and solar panels.
- Developing other types of renewable energy generation, such as hydro, to meet local needs.

The funding available is mostly capital. A limited amount of funding is also available for feasibility studies and option appraisals. The following levels of funding are available:

- Feasibility Stage: Grants of up to £20,000.
- Development Stage: Grants of up to £200,000.
- Construction Stage: Grants of up to 80% of construction costs up to a maximum of £150,000. Organisations can also apply for loans for up to five years.

Projects should be able to demonstrate that they can complete a significant project milestone by 17 March 2027.

**Applications are now being accepted.**

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

## RS MacDonald Charitable Trust

The following funding streams are available:

- Small Grants: up to £20,000 (but no more than £10,000 per year).
- Main Grants: over £20,000 awarded twice a year. For the current round, three-year grants up to £55,000 are available (i.e. up to £18,250 per year).

The following themes are funded:

- Tackling child abuse and neglect.
- Visual impairment.
- Neurological conditions.
- Animal welfare.
- Medical research.

Medical Research Grants for Scotland-led research into neurological conditions and visual impairment/sight loss are also available to Scottish universities and charities, but applicants are advised to contact the Director directly. Additionally, Strategic Grants are usually only available to organisations that have previously received funding from the Trust.

Funding is available for:

- Revenue or capital costs.
- Project funding or core funding.
- One-off awards.

- Multi-year awards for up to three years.

Small grant applications are accepted any time.

**The deadline for Main Grant applications is 2 September 2026.**

[RS MacDonald Charitable Trust](#)

## Youth Scotland – Safe Spaces Youth Work Fund

Grants of up to £2,000 are available to youth groups working in Scotland.

The Safe Spaces Youth Work Fund is provided by the RS Macdonald Charitable Trust and administered by Youth Scotland.

Eligible groups must be:

- Members of Youth Scotland.
- Working with young people between 5 and 25 years of age.
- Working with young people at risk and/or who have been affected by Adverse Childhood Experiences.
- Willing to participate in the relevant training or evidence that they have received training from another provider.

Groups who are currently receiving funding from the RS Macdonald Charitable Trust must contact Youth Scotland before applying.

The following costs are eligible for funding:

- Programmes of activities.
- One-off events.
- Equipment and programme materials.
- Travel costs to an activity.

Activities must be delivered by 1 September 2026.

**The deadline for applications is 22 April 2026.**

[Youth Scotland – Safe Spaces Youth Work Fund](#)

## 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](mailto: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](#)