

# COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

## 'Making a Difference in East Ayrshire Communities'



# ALERT



5 June 2026

## Arnold Clark – Cost-of-Living Support Fund

Smaller charities, voluntary and community organisations who are working with those most affected and vulnerable to the increased cost of living can apply for grants of up to £2,500.

The summer 2026 round is only for applications seeking support in the following areas:

- Accommodation aid for shelters, women's aid, homelessness assistance (food or housing) and help with appliances and household bills (case by case) - for example, organisation focused on energy bills for community.
- Food and utility banks for hygiene banks, baby banks, food poverty, resources for refugees and asylum seekers - for example, food vouchers, pet food, food / utility packages, and laundry services.
- Poverty relief and equal opportunities for disability groups and youth groups in lower income areas - for example, funding for social activities or work experience, amateur sports clubs, and community-based trips (case by case).

Note starting this year - charities and community groups may submit one application per campaign (Cost-of-Living, Community Support and Gear Up For Sport) per calendar year. If successful in one campaign, they are ineligible to apply for any other campaign within the same calendar year. Applications to multiple campaigns are permitted, provided only one application is submitted per campaign, however, the funder will only approve a maximum of one application per organisation. Additional applications to the same campaign within the same calendar year will be disqualified.

There is no set deadline for applications; however, it is recommended that groups apply as early as possible after the round opens as applications may close early due to high demand.

**The fund is currently open to applications.**

[Arnold Clark – Cost-of-Living Support Fund](#)

## BUPA Foundation – Green Community Grants

This scheme offers grants of between £500 and £2,000 to support practical projects which benefit both people and planet health from across the UK with priority given to regeneration of green spaces in cities for community use.

Non-fee-paying schools, registered charities, not-for-profit organisations, local authorities and social housing providers from across the UK, including the Channel Islands, and Republic of Ireland can apply.

This year, priority will be given to projects that:

- Improve existing green spaces or create new ones in cities, especially in priority areas - London, Staines, Brighton, Leeds, Greater Manchester (in particular Salford), Dublin and Glasgow.
- Take place in areas with the greatest need, meaning areas in the top 20% most deprived, based on official Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) data.
- Have not received a Bupa Foundation Green Community Grant before.
- Clearly show how they improve people's health and the health of the planet.

Examples of eligible projects include but are not limited to:

- Improving a local community garden for community use and recreational activities.
- Volunteer-led tree or flower planting to improve air quality and biodiversity.
- Creating an outdoor classroom, forest school or natural play area.
- Green/living walls in school grounds or community space to improve air quality
- Planting to reduce flooding and increase biodiversity
- Creating a community food growing space to be more sustainable and healthier
- Making a green city space more accessible.
- Creating a 'pocket park', bringing more greenery into cities for wellbeing.

Projects must be completed by the end of April 2027.

The scheme is being administered by Groundwork UK on behalf of the Bupa Foundation.

**The deadline for applications is 30 June 2026.**

**[BUPA Foundation – Green Community Grants](#)**

## CPF Trust

Grants of between £1,000 and £3,000 once a year to other UK registered charities.

The grants can support projects addressing the following priorities:

- The arts.
- Education.
- Support for carers and older people.
- Early intervention projects for disadvantaged children and young people.
- Animal welfare.
- Health and disability.

Only registered charities based and working in the UK may apply for funding.

The trustees will consider making grants towards revenue or capital costs and for project or core funding. Only one-year grants are made.

**The deadline for applications is 30 September 2026.**

[CPF Trust](#)

## Energy Saving Trust – Energy Redress Scheme

Applications are now open for the first funding round in phase three of the scheme, with £30 million available to support energy-related projects across England, Scotland, and Wales.

Community energy groups, including co-operatives, community benefit societies and community interest companies, are able to apply for grants through the Main and Small Funds, alongside registered charities. Funding will support projects that help households most at risk from cold homes and high energy bills. The scheme also prioritises projects that develop innovative energy-related products or services and empower people to reduce their carbon emissions through the Innovation and Carbon Emissions Reduction Funds.

The funding streams available are:

- The Main Fund, containing £19 million – aimed at projects seeking grants between £50,000 and £2 million that will support households in vulnerable situations.
- The Impact Fund, containing £1 million – aimed at projects monitoring the impact to households, of energy advice and other interventions. Applicants can apply for grants between £20,000 and £500,000.
- The Small Project Fund, containing £1 million – aimed at projects seeking grants between £20,000 and £49,999 that will support households in vulnerable situations.

- The Innovation Fund, containing £4.5 million – aimed at projects that will develop innovative products or services to benefit households. Applicants can apply for grants between £20,000 and £1 million.
- The Carbon Emissions Reduction Fund, containing £3 million – aimed at projects that will reduce UK carbon emissions and empower households to reduce their carbon footprint. Applicants can apply for grants between £20,000 and £1 million.
- The Just Transition Fund, containing £1.5 million – aimed at projects that will develop community renewable energy which will benefit energy consumers in vulnerable situations. Applicants can apply for grants between £20,000 and £250,000.

Organisations can submit one application as a lead partner per round across all the funds. Funding rounds are launched quarterly.

**The deadline for applications is 23 June 2026.**

[Energy Saving Trust – Energy Redress Scheme](#)

## Grocers' Charity

UK registered charities with a turnover of £500,000 or less (except for medical charities which have a limit of £15 million) can apply for one-off grants of up to £5,000 to support the following areas:

- Relief of hardship: provide training courses, better facilities, or parenting support; support and empower those who experience or are at risk of homelessness, including domestic violence/abuse; work in areas of high deprivation.
- Children and young people: build children and young people's strengths and potential to empower them to participate and take action to realise their goals; support children and young people's wellbeing through peer support or group activities.
- Elderly: provide services that end social exclusion; befriending or other programmes to end loneliness; and services that enhance daily activities or home life.
- Disability and inclusion: identify and tackle the barriers to inclusion and participation; and provide front-line support for disabled people.
- Health: undertake ethical research into specific medical conditions; support people with medical conditions by purchasing a piece of equipment or other tangible project; support people with wellbeing concerns or mental health illnesses.
- Military: provide innovative programmes, education or employment for ex-service people; and support the physical, emotional and mental wellbeing of current and ex-service people and their families.
- Arts: provide opportunities, education and skills development of creative talent for artists with financing challenges or disability support requirements; engage with marginalised audiences (eg disabled, BAME, and people living below the minimum poverty threshold for the appreciation of arts, performances or exhibitions).

- Heritage: conservation and restoration of historic buildings (excluding places of worship); conservation of historical objects and paintings.
- Environment and conservation: support of the protection and survival of plants and animals by maintaining and restoring habitats, enhancing ecosystems, and protecting biological diversity; educating of behavioural changes addressing environmental issues; countering the effects of pollution and climate change.

**The deadline for applications is 15 August 2026.**

[Grocers' Charity](#)

## Henry Smith Foundation – Early Years Parenting Fund

The funding aims to improve the development of children most at risk of poor Early Childhood Development (ECD) outcomes, by investing in effective parenting support. The first round is focused on communities where outcome gaps are largest.

Charitable organisations should be working closely with and understand parents with children aged newborn to five years from:

- Black (Caribbean or African, Any Other Black), Pakistani, and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities and/or
- Growing up in the most deprived 20% areas nationally (using the official deprivation index for that nation).

The funding aims to support organisations that are trusted by the communities they serve and that can evidence the difference their work makes.

Charitable organisations with an annual income between £100,000 and £5 million can apply for a total grant of £225,000 (£56,250 per year for four years). The fund also provides support and relationship-building.

The funding is flexible – grants can be used towards general running costs - and is to be used for work that helps achieve the following objectives:

- Improve children's outcomes across physical development, cognitive development and social and emotional development through support for effective parenting
- More families accessing support that feels culturally relevant, safe and responsive
- Learn what works best for groups most at risk of poor early childhood outcomes to influence public sector service and other support

In this fund, 'parents' refers to anyone with a primary caregiving role for a young child. Applications are welcome from organisations supporting a wide range of caregivers of children aged newborn to five.

**The deadline for Expressions of Interest is 1 July 2026.**

[Henry Smith Foundation – Early Years Parenting Fund](#)

## Hugo Burge Foundation – Creative Grants

The Hugo Burge Foundation is accepting applications to its creative grants programme, offering financial support for arts, crafts and the wider creative industries across the UK.

Support is available through three strands:

- Creative Education backs projects that give young people aged 0 to 29 opportunities to take part in creative activity. This can include workshops in schools, field trips to arts or cultural sites and the purchase of materials to support student engagement.
- Creative Communities is aimed at organisations, festivals, fairs and community groups that develop and deliver cultural and creative arts activity in their local areas. Eligible activity includes community arts festivals, cultural fairs and other locally delivered creative events.
- Creative Individuals offers support to artists aged over 18, including practitioners working in visual and expressive arts as well as writers and craftspeople. The strand is intended to help individuals undertake artistic projects and develop new creative work.

The maximum award is £15,000 for applications under the Creative Education and Creative Communities strands. For Creative Individuals, grants of up to £5,000 are available.

Funding is available to a broad range of applicants. For Creative Education, eligible applicants include schools, local authorities, community groups, charities, museum and gallery spaces, educational institutions and arts organisations. The Creative Communities strand is open to festivals, charities, arts organisations and community groups. The Creative Individuals strand is open to artists over 18 who may be practitioners across creative disciplines.

In addition, the Foundation provides an access support fund totalling £7,000, available on a first come, first served basis. This can contribute towards access support workers, up to £300 per day, for applicants who may face barriers applying without assistance, including those who are Deaf, disabled or neurodivergent.

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

[Hugo Burge Foundation – Creative Grants](#)

## Idlewild Trust – Conservation Grants

The funding is for projects that aim to conserve historic or artistically important objects and works of art including artefacts, textiles, furniture, metalwork, manuscripts, and wall paintings. Works must be in museums, galleries, and historic buildings or their grounds, and be accessible to the public. Priority will be given to applications that include a knowledge sharing element as an outcome of the project, such as with professional colleagues, for example a webinar, lecture, or published article. A public engagement activity that helps to improve the public understanding of conservation practice is encouraged.

The following are not eligible for a conservation grant:

- Places of worship.
- Structural repair of buildings or routine maintenance, cleaning and preventative work on objects or works of art.
- Capital projects/new facilities including extensions, redevelopments, heating and lighting.
- Environmental projects or conservation of lands.
- Large projects that are dependent on a major grant if that major grant has not yet been secured.

Grants of up to £7,000 are available to UK registered charities.

**Applications will be accepted from 8 June to 5 September 2026.**

[Idlewild Trust – Conservation Grants](#)

## 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](#)