

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

'Making a Difference in East Ayrshire Communities'

ALERT



6 March 2026

National Lottery Community Fund – Young Start

Young Start, delivered by The National Lottery Community Fund and funded by dormant assets, will invest £9 million annually in projects run for and with 8 to 24-year-olds in Scotland.

The programme will fund projects that help children and young people build confidence, develop skills, strengthen relationships and take action on issues that matter to them.

The Fund paused in December 2025 to undergo strategic changes. The new programme was developed in collaboration with children and young people and has a strong focus on their voices and ideas.

The programme is now split into two funding streams:

- Small Grants of between £300 and £20,000 over one year for organisations to begin involving children and young people in their work.
- Main Grants of between £20,001 and £150,000 for up to three years for organisations that include children and young people in the project or organisation.

Applications are accepted from voluntary and community organisations in Scotland working with young people aged between 8 and 24, such as:

- Constituted voluntary or community organisations.
- Constituted groups or clubs.
- Registered charities.
- Scottish charitable incorporated organisation (SCIO).
- Not-for-profit companies.
- Community interest companies (CICs)
- Community Benefit Societies.

Applications can be made at any time.

[National Lottery Community Fund - Young Start: Main Grants](#)

[National Lottery Community Fund - Young Start: Small Grants](#)

National Lottery Community Fund – Supporting Change: Carers

A funding programme for voluntary, community and public sector organisations in Scotland aimed at reducing health inequalities for unpaid carers through long-term and meaningful systems change.

Grants of between £500,000 and £2 million are available over 5 to 10 years. Organisations can also apply for £50,000 in development funding.

It is expected that four or five projects will be funded.

Projects must:

- Support carers during changes in their role.
- Make it easier to identify and support carers.
- Improve support for carers who face extra barriers.
- Change how care is understood and valued.

Project costs and overheads are eligible for funding.

Groups must contact the National Lottery Community Fund to discuss their project idea and request an application form.

There is a two-stage application process.

The deadline for Stage One applications is 15 July 2026.

[National Lottery Community Fund - Supporting Change: Carers](#)

Children's Alliance

Grants of up to £15,000 for not-for-profit organisations across the UK to deliver projects and activities that give children and young people under the age of 18 access to water for learning, developing, and playing

Proposed projects must support children under the age of 18 years to have access to water in the form of swimming lessons, transport to lessons, swimwear and water play equipment. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to:

- Free swimming lessons and swim nappies for children who need them.
- Online learning programmes that teach valuable life skills for parents and children.
- Water splash areas to encourage play as well as water confidence and safety.

Priority will be given to grassroots initiatives delivering water-based projects for disadvantaged children.

There are typically two application rounds per year, in March and September.

The next deadline for applications is 31 March 2026.

[Children's Alliance](#)

Creative Scotland/Scottish Futures Trust – Adapted Cultural and Creative Buildings Fund

Funding to support minor capital works that address climate-related risks in existing cultural and creative assets across Scotland. The National Lottery-funded programme, managed by Scottish Futures Trust, is aimed at pathfinder projects that can be delivered quickly and generate transferable learning for the wider estate.

A total pot of £400,000 is available, with awards of up to £80,000. The intention is to support 8-10 projects that demonstrate practical interventions and clear insight. Funding is intended for cultural and/or creative organisations that own the cultural building, site or land asset in Scotland.

Eligible works focus on adaptation rather than mitigation and may include measures to manage overheating or improve ventilation, responses to flooding and drainage, modest reconfiguration of internal layouts to improve resilience and usability, and site or landscape works that reduce exposure to climate impacts. Projects must be delivered within the 2026-2027 financial years.

Applications are prioritised where experience, learning and pace can be demonstrated, with an emphasis on sharing insight for future investment decisions.

The deadline for Expressions of Interest is 25 March 2026.

[Scottish Futures Trust - Adapted Cultural and Creative Buildings Fund](#)

Music for All – Schools and Community Groups Awards

Grants are available for schools, community groups, educational establishments, and other not-for-profit organisations across the UK to support initiatives that are seeking to bring music to their communities.

The Music for All Community Grants Programme is for groups that need assistance to fulfil their potential in developing truly sustainable music programmes. Applicants should be based in deprived or marginalised areas and be developing music education for those living in the area, including, but not limited to, social infrastructure.

In the current funding round, support is available in the following distinct areas:

- Electro-acoustic guitars (to suit varying abilities/levels).
- Pbuzz instruments.
- Ukeleles.
- Keyboard bundles.
- Drum kits.
- Orange Crush mini amps.

Priority will be given to applicants who are most in need of help. The charity is unlikely to be able to meet all applications in full, so applicants are strongly advised to apply to other bodies for assistance as well.

The deadline for applications is 7 May 2026.

[Music for All - Schools and Community Groups Awards](#)

Schroder Charity Trust

The Schroder Charity Trust welcomes applications from organisations whose primary activity/activities addresses the Trustees' current funding objectives and priority areas of interest. The Trustees will prioritise organisations bringing about measurable outcomes in their field, and also those operating in areas in the top 20% of indices of multiple deprivation (IMD)

They will consider applications for charitable work under the following two objectives:

Objective (1): Enabling children and young adults from disadvantaged backgrounds to thrive and achieve their potential in education and employment.

Objective (2): Strengthening communities through services and opportunities which enhance the wellbeing and life outcomes of vulnerable and disadvantaged people.

Grants of up to £5,000 are available.

The deadline for applications is 30 April 2026.

[Schroder Charity Trust](#)

East Ayrshire Council Community Grant

The next deadline for applications is 27 March 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](#)