

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

'Making a Difference in East Ayrshire Communities'

ALERT



7 November 2025

1001 Critical Days Foundation – Charity Grants

The funding is intended for UK-based charities demonstrating measurable impact on improving outcomes for babies, and those that deliver integrated services through family hubs and other 'one-stop shop' models across the UK.

The funding is only for projects that:

- Support babies during the 1001 critical days, from pregnancy through to the age of two.
- Enable babies, families and carers to access support without shame or stigma.
- Are delivered in a family hub or similar "one stop shop" setting - ensuring families have seamless/joined up support.
- Make a meaningful and measurable difference to the lives of babies.

The Foundation prefers to fund projects which:

- Are free at the point of access.
- Support babies directly.
- Support a larger number of babies.
- Have a lasting legacy beyond the funding period.
- Have secured additional funding from elsewhere.
- Are delivered over a longer time frame, ideally three to five years.

Grants of up to £100,000 per year for between two years and five years are available. There is no minimum grant. Most grants awarded will fall between £20,000 and £80,000 per year, typically for three to five years. It is expected that between five and 10 charities will be awarded a grant per funding round.

UK-based charities that have been established for at least two years, with at least three unrelated trustees, and whose work takes place in the UK can apply.

The deadline for Expressions of Interest is 19 December 2025.

[1001 Critical Days Foundation - Charity Grants](#)

AirBnB – Best of British Fund

Airbnb, supported by VisitBritain, has launched the new £1 million Best of British Fund in support of hospitality businesses 'to help support the stays, experiences and attractions that make Britain great'.

The new fund aims to:

- Help support the British hospitality sector that is facing increasing financial pressures.
- Inspire more Brits to travel beyond the usual hotspots within the UK to typically lesser visited areas of the UK, helping communities attract more overnight trips.

Sole traders, registered businesses, charitable organisations, and publicly funded organisations can apply for grants of £25,000, £50,000 or £100,000 to be allocated from February 2026.

The funding is for initiatives of all sizes that support the visitor experience and make British travel unforgettable.

Eligible projects should fall into at least one of the following categories:

- Nature & Outdoors – submissions that encourage visitors to get outside and explore the very best of UK's rich and diverse landscape.
- Food & Dining – submissions that showcase the best of UK food culture, from pubs and street food to world-class cuisine.
- Music & Arts – submissions that shine a light on UK's global creative influence, from local festivals and theatre to iconic cultural stories.
- Culture & Heritage – submissions which protect, restore or celebrate UK's rich history and traditions.

Applicants need to make the case that a grant would support their organisation to make the visitor experience and local tourism even stronger in their local area.

Commenting on the new fund, Luke Impett, Head of Partnerships and Public Policy for Airbnb UK said:

“... Britain is packed with brilliant traditions that deserve more attention. We want to help communities bolster their local visitor offerings, attracting more overnight guests that can share in authentic local experiences while supporting the businesses and families that depend on tourism to make ends meet. This cash injection is about celebrating what makes our nation's rural landscape and local communities so special, and helping more people discover it first-hand.”

The deadline for applications is 23 November 2025.

[AirBnB - Best of British Fund](#)

Fight for Sight – Digital Inclusion Fund

This new fund aims to address the huge unmet need amongst blind and vision impaired people in the UK who are getting themselves ready for the workplace, applying for jobs or adjusting to new roles or to changes in their vision.

Grants of up to £30,000 for projects of between 12 and 36 months are available.

Projects should address one or more of the following priority areas and incorporate expertise by experience as a defining element:

- Getting ready for the workplace.
- Looking for and applying for jobs
- Job retention and progression
- Working in technology or digital support

Projects may span multiple areas and collaboration is highly encouraged.

Applications will be considered from:

- UK registered charities
- Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs)
- Charitable companies, limited by guarantee
- Community Interest Companies (CICs), limited by guarantee
- Exempt charities (eg, educational establishments).

Applicants must directly support people who are blind and vision impaired or those who are at risk of losing sight.

The funder is keen to hear from organisations of all sizes across the UK.

The deadline for applications is 6 January 2026.

[Fight for Sight - Digital Inclusion Fund](#)

Gardens Trust – Community Grants

Grants of up to £8,000 for volunteer groups across the UK to help seed-fund projects that will improve, enhance, and support historic designed landscapes

The Gardens Trust Community Grants Fund will support both capital and revenue costs related to historic designed landscape projects. Priority will be given to:

- Seed-funding or pump-priming for a sustainable activity, such as a restoration plan, Friends Group set-up costs, research project, or volunteer training schemes.
- Applications that reflect the Trust priorities around conservation, knowledge sharing, and encouraging participation and enjoyment of historic landscapes.

Preference will be given to smaller charities and projects that will be completed within 18 months of the application.

The deadline for applications is 14 November 2025.

[Gardens Trust - Community Grants](#)

Paddle Trust

Grants for projects across the UK that:

- Increase or enhance existing public access points to water for all forms of paddlesport.
- Create launching and landing sites, to and alongside water, for all sectors of the community and all abilities, that are designed to be durable and use sustainable materials when applicable.
- Protect and enhance natural blue spaces such as rivers or coastline.
- Are “ready to go”.

Funding is at the discretion of the funder. In the past, grants of between £500 and £10,000 have been awarded.

The grants will support:

- Launch and landing platforms, ramps and steps
- Improvements to pathways and accessible routes to the water’s edge
- Designated or essential additional parking for water users
- Works that create more sustainable access points
- Access improvement projects that actively engage and allow water users to protect/enhance the waterway or riverbank environment.
- Signage and information that promotes positive behaviour.
- Projects that benefit more than one user group.
- Projects that benefit or provide opportunities to a wide range of paddlers rather than facilities limited to private members.

Applications will be accepted from a range of organisations, including paddle clubs, community groups, charities, parish councils, and local authorities.

The deadline for applications is 18 December 2025.

[Paddle Trust](#)

Thomas Wall Trust – Grants for Registered Charities

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 Thomas Wall 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 (aged 18 years and older) 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.

The deadline for stage one applications is 22 December 2025.

[Thomas Wall Trust - Grants for Registered Charities](#)

WCIT Charity

Grants of up to £15,000 are available for educational establishments and constituted not-for-profit organisations across the UK to support IT projects and activities.

The WCIT Charity will support activities within the themes of education, inclusion, IT for charities, and understanding of IT, such as the development and delivery of new services, solutions, training, apps, analytics, AI, robotics, or accessibility features/hardware.

Projects that are more likely to be funded include:

- Projects where WCIT is a material or sole funder.
- Projects where WCIT is the sole funder of the IT component of a larger project.
- Organisations that could benefit from pro bono support.

Proposals should demonstrate an innovative use of IT, be scalable for wider replication, and be sustainable over time.

The next deadline for applications 6 February 2026.

[WCIT Charity](#)

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](#)