

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

‘Making a Difference in East Ayrshire Communities’



ALERT



9 October 2026

Allander Youth Activities Charitable Trust

Support is primarily intended for training activities organised by the 24th Glasgow (Bearsden) Scout Group. If that group does not use all available resources, grants may be provided for similar activities organised by other Scout Groups, Guides, Boys Brigade, Girls Brigade and previous applicants, provided they are charitable in law.

Eligible applicants include Scout Groups, sections of Scout Groups and equivalent units within charitable voluntary organisations. Applicants must directly seek to improve young people's welfare through training or education. Local groups and groups belonging to a national organisation can apply, but Scout Districts, Scout Regions, national Scout Associations and equivalent bodies are excluded.

Grants generally reflect the number of participants under 18, along with the nature and length of the activity. Awards typically range from £10 to £200 per person, although the Trustees decide the amount available to each applicant. Equipment awards are based on expected use.

The grants can support outings, expeditions and visits in the UK or abroad, provided they extend the group's normal activities. Applicants must show that the activity is outside routine weekly or regular meetings and/or that the costs are not routine expenditure. Activities involving all or most group members are preferred, and eligible activities must require an appropriate amount of physical participation.

Equipment may qualify where it is needed for an eligible activity and is suitable for use on multiple occasions by different people. Activities based mainly on spectatorship, such as cinema, theatre, concerts and pantomimes, will generally not qualify. Examples of previously funded activities include water activities, camps, bouldering, skiing lessons and overseas visits.

Groups based outside Scotland can apply only where the activity takes place in Scotland. Applications are normally considered twice a year.

The next deadline for applications is 22 November 2026.

[Allander Youth Activities Charitable Trust](#)

Barchester Healthcare Foundation

Grants to small community groups and local charities across England, Scotland, and Wales for projects that help reduce isolation and loneliness, promote group activities, and generally improve mobility and quality of life for older people and adults with physical, learning, or mental disabilities.

Grants of between £100 and £2,600 are available to help small community groups and local charities with the following:

- Activities.
- Equipment and materials for use by members.
- Transport costs to enable members to attend
- Day trips, outings, and group holidays in the UK.

Priority will be given to innovative projects that help older people and those with a disability to get active, meet people, and reduce isolation.

Small community groups and small local charities based in England, Scotland or Wales can apply. Groups with financial reserves of over £200,000 are unlikely to receive support.

The deadline for applications is 31 October 2026.

[Barchester Healthcare Foundation](#)

CVO East Ayrshire – Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund for Adults Micro Grants

The Micro Grants Programme provides an opportunity for third sector and community organisations to access funding to support local activities, projects and initiatives that promote positive mental health and wellbeing, reduce social isolation, and help build stronger, more connected communities.

Expressions of Interests can now be submitted for the 2026/27 Micro Grants Programme. The maximum grant is £5,000.

[CVO East Ayrshire – Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund for Adults Micro Grants](#)

Foundation Scotland – Gateway Exchange Fund

Grants of up to £5,000 for activities that help people move forward in their lives and fulfil their potential.

The fund supports activity across Scotland that helps people who might otherwise lack opportunities, with an emphasis on innovative approaches, creative self-expression and building a strong and connected sense of community.

Not-for-profit organisations and community groups can apply, provided they meet Foundation Scotland's common eligibility criteria. Smaller grassroots organisations will be given priority where there is competition for funding.

Priority will be given to projects supporting prisoners and ex-prisoners, people recovering from drug addiction, and women and men recovering from sexual abuse.

The deadline for applications is 7 December 2026.

[Foundation Scotland – Gateway Exchange Fund](#)

Genius Within – Blooming Genius: Empowering Neurodivergent Youth

The initiative aims to support grassroots organisations and communities working to improve access to information and support around neurodiversity.

Grants are available to UK grassroots organisations delivering activities for neurodivergent children under 18 and their families. The funding aims to help neurodivergent young people thrive in life and education, with a particular focus on communities that may have limited access to information and support around neurodiversity. There is no fixed maximum award. Previous grants have ranged from a few hundred pounds to around £2,000.

Funding can support a broad range of activities that benefit neurodivergent children and their families. Examples of previously supported initiatives include music sessions, an anti-bullying book and an inclusive boxing club. Grants have also paid for communication aids for non-speaking autistic children.

Applications are capped at 200 per application window. Once that limit is reached, further applications will not be processed.

The deadline for applications is 24 October 2026.

[Genius Within – Blooming Genius: Empowering Neurodivergent Youth](#)

Historic Environment Scotland – Places of Worship Fund

Representatives of Scotland's places of worship can apply now for a refund grant to cover VAT paid on eligible works.

Projects must involve a listed building used as a place of public worship a minimum of six times a year. Works must be currently underway or have been carried out or completed since first April 2026.

The funding is to be used for internal works to the building fabric, as well as fixed items of furniture and religious ritual, and external repair and maintenance works.

Repair work covered by the scheme includes the following:

- Architectural features
- Drainage
- External features
- Windows
- Internal features
- Boundary walls
- Professional fees for eligible project

Applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis once a complete application and all required supporting documentation have been submitted.

The deadline for applications is 31 March 2027, or until all available funding has been allocated.

[Historic Environment Scotland – Places of Worship Fund](#)

Hostelling Scotland – Happy Hosteller Funded Breaks

Hostelling Scotland is offering schools, early years centres, youth groups, and charities working with disadvantaged young people across Scotland funded residential trips at Hostelling Scotland Youth Hostels.

The Happy Hosteller Funded Breaks Programme gives disadvantaged youth aged between 6 and 25 access to residential trips for up to two nights that include:

- Accommodation in a Youth Hostel from a wide selection of locations, with shared private rooms for young people, with separate rooms for families and leaders.
- A 'wee breakfast' as well as other catering options, depending on the hostel and group size.
- Personalised guidance from Hostelling Scotland to help plan trip activities related to the theme(s) chosen by the group.

Funded breaks can include activities that fall within two of the following themes:

- Nature and the Environment – Exploring Scotland's natural landscapes, wildlife, and ecosystems.
- Culture and Historic Heritage – Discovering the Scottish stories and cultural gems.
- Wellness and Play – Engaging in physical fun activities that promote health and self-discovery.

Target groups include families living in areas of deprivation, young people receiving free school meals, young carers, refugee and migrant groups, young people in the care system or care leavers, LGBTQ+ support groups, and young people and families who have never had a residential experience due to cost or other barriers.

The deadline for applications is 6 November 2026.

[Hostelling Scotland – Happy Hosteller Funded Breaks](#)

Museums Association – Esmee Fairbairn Communities and Collections Fund

The fund offers:

- Partnership project grants to museums and community organisations that work equitably together and share aims for diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). Proposals should have ambitious and compelling ideas for inclusive project work with collections, with a focus on how the work contributes to local community agendas and needs.
- Core grants to museums that have established strategic aims for DEI, and that are ready to use their collections and the funding to support social and climate justice in ways that are relevant to local contexts and relationships. The work needs to address organisational or systemic change with potential for strong legacy and future community partnership. Applicants should move away from a project output approach and focus more on the organisational or systemic change that they wish to influence through their work.

Grants of £50,000 to £110,000 are available over a period of up to three years. It is expected that around 12 grants will be awarded per year. The grant can make up any proportion of the overall budget for the work, including the full cost of a project without match or partnership funding.

Applications are open to all Museums Association institutional member museums and galleries in the UK. Applicants should initially contact a member of Communities and Collections Fund staff before submitting an EOI to ensure that the fund is a good fit and to help draw out the strengths in their application.

The next deadline for Expressions of Interest is 20 January 2027.

[Museums Association – Esmee Fairbairn Communities and Collections Fund](#)

National Archives – Project Grants

Grants of up to £30,000 are available to support collaborative partnerships between GLAM (Galleries, Libraries, Archives, and Museums), heritage organisations and community organisations to deliver co-designed and community-led projects and activities that create meaningful changes and strengthen the relationship between GLAM or heritage organisations and the communities they serve.

The funding will support in-depth research, skills development, and the creation of long-lasting resources that reflect diverse voices and experiences.

Eligible costs could include:

- Staff time or freelance fees for project delivery.
- Community engagement and co-design activities.
- Training and skills development for participants.
- Travel and subsistence for project participants.
- Materials, equipment, or venue hire.
- Digital tools, platforms, or content creation.
- Evaluation and dissemination of project outcomes.
- Translation or accessibility services.
- General organisational overheads or core running costs.

Projects should be inclusive, sustainable, and impactful, with a strong emphasis on shared ownership and mutual benefit for all participants.

Priority will be given to co-designed, community-led initiatives that prioritise inclusion, sustainability, and long-term impact.

Projects should be for no more than a year. All projects **must** be completed, with all money spent, by December 2027.

The deadline for Round 2 applications is 16 November 2026.

[National Archives – Project Grants](#)

Rosa – Voices from the Frontline

This fund is offering between 35 and 40 grants of up to £10,000 to women's and girls' organisations to support campaigning and influencing work that enables women and girls in the UK to use their voices to achieve change. The campaigns could be targeted at local communities, the general public, local or national government, media, service providers or businesses.

To be eligible, organisations need to:

- Have identified the issue they want to campaign on.
- Have an understanding of their intended audience.
- Be ready to start, or have started, their campaign.
- Secure resources to support their campaigning and influencing work.

The work funded should strengthen the organisation's skills and experience in campaigning, activism and/or advocacy and influence power holders in the UK.

Applications will be accepted from not-for-profit women's and girls' organisations in the UK that have been active for at least one year and can produce annual accounts for an entire year.

Rosa is committed to funding organisations across the UK as well as to funding a mixture of national and local campaigns.

Priority will be given to the following organisations, not listed in priority order, that are:

- Operating in the top 20% of the most disadvantaged areas in the UK based on the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD).
- Based in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.
- Led by and for Black and minoritised women and girls.
- Led by and for disabled women.
- Led by and for LGBTQ+ women and girls.

There is special interest in funding organisations which are led by and for the women they work with.

Applicants will be notified of decisions in March 2027 and will have up to 18 months to spend their grant.

Rosa will be hosting a 'How to Apply' webinar on 20 October (10:00 to 11:00) and 05 November (14:00 to 15:00). Registration is required and can be done on Rosa's website.

The deadline for applications is 16 November 2026.

[Rosa – Voices from the Frontline](#)

Scottish Wildlife Trust – Riverwoods Development Grant

The Riverwoods programme is offering grants to help organisations develop River Woodland Development Plans. These plans aim to improve flood resilience, enhance water quality, create habitats for wildlife, and expand access to nature in Scotland.

A total of £250,000 is available in this round with grants of up to £20,000 for up to 90% costs. Funding requests are expected to be within the £10,000 - £20,000 range.

Projects should take place between February 2027 and June 2028.

The funding is intended to allow local organisations to overcome barriers in scoping, planning, and designing development plans, the first step toward restoring and protecting river woodlands.

The following are eligible for funding:

- Environmental NGOs.
- Charitable trusts and organisations
- Constituted community groups, voluntary groups, foundations.
- Environmentally focussed not-for-profit organisations.
- Local public bodies including Local Authorities and District Salmon Fisheries Boards.

Applicants and projects must be based in Scotland.

The deadline for applications is 1 December 2026.

[Scottish Wildlife Trust – Riverwoods Development Grant](#)

Trefoil – Organisational Grants

Registered charities and constituted not-for-profit organisations with an annual turnover of less than £500,000 can apply for a grant (there is no minimum or maximum amount) to support the core costs of projects and activities that are for the benefit of children and young people under the age of 25 with additional support needs, including but not limited to physical disability, caring obligations, other disadvantages or learning and psycho-social needs (or a combination thereof) and to foster their independence, confidence, and assertiveness.

The funding can be used for the following types of projects:

- Projects promoting education, health, and social welfare.
- Team building activities.
- Recreation with an educational element.
- Therapeutic activities that are not core funded by the statutory authorities.
- New development and start-up project costs.

The grants are for core costs:

- Costs of travel or accommodation for an event (e.g. to help athletes attend national training or compete in events, musicians attend events).
- The hiring of sessional skill in particular expertise (e.g. paying a musician or dance instructor to provide specific skills for an activity).
- Volunteer training (i.e. to train volunteers in the skills necessary to run/be involved in a particular activity).
- Activity costs (e.g. cost of materials etc needed for particular activities).

This funder supports organisations that operate within Scotland or are for the benefit of people living in Scotland; but they do not have to be a Scottish registered charity.

The next deadline for applications is 6 November 2026.

[Trefoil – Organisational Grants](#)

Theatres Trust – Small Grants Programme

Grants of up to £7,500 are available for not-for-profit theatres across the UK to deliver small essential works to improve a theatre's resilience, sustainability or accessibility, or to improve the diversity of audiences.

The Theatre Trust, supported by the Lindury Trust, will support small capital improvements and repairs, such as:

- Improvements and repairs to building fabric.
- Purchase of key plant and machinery.
- Purchase of capital items that improve physical access and the audience/participant experience.
- Purchase of equipment to improve digital access.

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Have a bona fide UK charitable or not-for-profit legal structure and be able to provide audited accounts for at least two years.
- Own or manage theatres with titles or signed leases of five years on buildings in England, Scotland, Wales, or Northern Ireland.
- Be open and running a year-round, public programme of live performance, of no less than 30 performances a year of theatre, dance, comedy, or musicals.
- Have the property owner's permission to do the required work.

Priority will be given to improvements to buildings that protect theatre use and remove barriers to participation and attendance, and to projects where total project costs are less than £250,000 or where the grant is the sole external funder and/or is achievable within the total fund awarded.

The deadline for applications is 25 January 2027.

[Theatres Trust – Small Grants Programme](#)

UK Government – Pathways to Work Innovation Fund

The Department for Work and Pensions has opened the first round of the Pathways to Work Innovation Fund, offering grants for new approaches to help disabled people and those with long-term health conditions move towards, enter, stay and progress in work.

The initiative is part of Pathways to Work, a government programme bringing together personalised employment, health and skills support. It aims to develop evidence about what works and for whom, with projects expected to produce learning that could inform future services.

UK-based organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors can apply. Eligible applicants include charities, voluntary organisations, social enterprises, Community Interest Companies, businesses, academic and research bodies, local authorities and mayoral strategic authorities. Partnerships and consortia can also submit applications.

Individuals may participate in a partnership but cannot apply independently. One organisation must act as lead applicant for a partnership and manage any grant awarded.

Funding can be used to develop, test, deliver, monitor and evaluate innovative proposals. Eligible activity includes developing technology, equipment or artificial intelligence solutions, testing interventions, piloting products and services and carrying out user research or co-design.

Other eligible costs include staff, volunteer and participant expenses directly related to delivery, specialist support, partnership activity and monitoring and evaluation. Projects may also develop employer support, improve coordination across employment, health and skills services or apply an existing approach in a substantially different context or with a new target group.

The Round 1 deadline for applications is 26 October 2026.

[UK Government – Pathways to Work Innovation Fund](#)

Wildlife Trusts – Green Community Grants Programme

One-year flexible grants of up to £25,000 to organisations whose main aims and objectives fit with one of the following themes:

- Contributing to nature recovery and responding to the climate emergency.
- Improving nature-rich spaces and access to them.

The grants can be used for a wider range of sustainable activities, including recycling, litter picking, beach cleans or sustainable transport.

Not-for-profit groups based in England, Scotland and Wales can apply as long as they:

- Have an annual income between £10,000 and £1 million in the most recent financial year.
- Have been operating for a minimum of 12 months and have signed annual accounts at the time of submitting their application.
- Have a UK bank account in the organisation's name with two unrelated signatories.

As funding is expected to be oversubscribed, priority will be given to organisations:

- With an income of between £10,000 and £250,000.
- That work in communities located in the top 15% of the Index of Multiple Deprivation
- Whose main activities are focused on supporting marginalised groups. This could include, but is not limited to, disabled people, communities experiencing racial inequity, and LGBT+ people.
- Organisations whose objects or purpose within its governing document relate to habitat or species restoration/protection.

Groups can apply for no more than 25% of their annual income listed on their most recent set of signed accounts.

This funding is designed to offer flexibility and support so groups can strengthen their organisation and deepen their impact.

There are three application rounds in 2026.

The deadline for applications is 21 October 2026.

[Wildlife Trusts – Green Community Grants Programme](#)

East Ayrshire Council Community Grant

To check the next deadline for applications please contact Democratic Services at Council HQ on 01563 554400 or communitygrants@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

[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](#)