

PROGRAMMES OFFICE FUNDING BULLETIN

October 2025

funding@halton.gov.uk



Funding News

Sports England has launched the Leading the Movement programme to support and develop a more diverse network of leaders working to tackle inequalities in sport and physical activity. The £5 million National Lottery-funded programme aims to address the need for better representation and support among leader from under-represented backgrounds. The programme aims to:

- Understand the challenges faced by sector leaders working to tackle inequalities, and explore solutions through engagement, training, coaching and mentoring
- Better connect leaders and encourage the exchange of information, ideas and learning
- Provide targeted support to under-represented leaders, and leaders working with under-served communities

The programme is aimed at individuals of all levels, whether paid or volunteer, in either formal or informal roles, who are helping people to be active in places with limited opportunities. Further details inside:

Funding News

National Lottery Community Fund and Department of Culture, Media & Sport – Phase 3 of Million Hours Fund

Offering grants of £30,000 to £100,000 to expand open-access youth work in areas of England with high levels of antisocial behaviour.

The £19 million programme aims to deliver an additional one million hours of supervised youth activities for young people aged 10-18 (or up to 25 for those with special educational needs or disabilities). The goal is to engage those at risk of antisocial behaviour in structured, inclusive environments promote wellbeing, safety, and personal development. Further details inside:

Programmes Office Training

Halton Borough Council's Programmes Office Team are looking to support both Halton's Community Sector and HBC Colleagues with a series of training workshops to support them in all aspects of searching & bidding for funds to support their organisation, developing a fundraising strategy, managing the grants received and monitoring the grant to report back on the outcomes for the funding secured.

- 16/10/2025 10-12pm: Managing your grant
- 23/10/2025 10-12pm: Monitoring and Evaluation
- 25/11/2025 1-3pm: Develop a Fundraising Strategy
- 02/12/2025 1-3pm: Basic Bid Writing

RSVP essential and places limited. This free training is open to HBC staff or colleagues or volunteers within the community sector, charities, not for profit or community interest organisations. For further information and eligibility please email: funding@halton.gov.uk

STRATEGIC FUNDS & COUNCIL SPECIFIC

National Lottery Grants for Heritage

Deadline

- £10,000 to £250,000: open all year round
- £250,000 to £10m (both development and delivery phases): [quarterly application deadlines](#)

How to apply

All projects must also consider long-term environmental sustainability. Partnerships are encouraged. Up to 10% match funding is required. Visit: www.heritagefund.org.uk/funding/how-to-apply

Funding Details

Not-for-profit organisations across the UK can now apply for grants of between £250,000 and £10 million from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for projects connecting people and communities to UK heritage.

We don't define heritage. We ask you to tell us what you think is important and should be preserved. From historic buildings, our industrial legacy and the natural environment, to collections, traditions, stories and more – heritage can be anything from the past that you value and want to pass on to future generations.

The funding can support a broad range of activities and project costs such as volunteer expenses, capital works, repairs, maintenance, conservation costs, professional fees, event costs, and the acquisition of heritage. maritime and transport – places and objects linked to our industrial, maritime and transport history.

Friends Provident Foundation

Deadline

This rolling programme runs until September 2027, with applications reviewed three times a year. The next application review date is the 12th January 2026.

How to apply

Visit: <https://friendsprovidentfoundation.org/grants/#new-programme>

Funding Details

Organisations working towards systemic economic change in the UK can apply for funding under two key strands of the Friends Provident Foundation grants programme. Grants range from £100,000 to £120,000 over two years.

The Transforming Financial System strand supports projects addressing structural issues within the financial system - such as banking, investment, and government regulation - to promote a fairer, more sustainable economy.

The New Economy Infrastructure strand offers long-term support to organisations driving systemic economic change, strengthening their capacity to challenge norms and build a resilient, equitable economy.

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COMMUNITY

National Lottery Community Fund – Solidarity Grant

Deadline

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis with no fixed deadlines.

How to apply

The Solidarity Fund | The National Lottery Community Fund

Funding Details

Charities and not-for-profit organisations in England can apply for grants of between £1 million and £5 million for projects tackling poverty, disadvantage, and discrimination lasting between 5 and 10 years. The funding is being made available through National Lottery Community Fund's Solidarity Fund and will support work that empowers communities, fosters collaboration, and amplifies community voices to influence public understanding of inequality. To be eligible, organisations must be led by, and accountable to support 10 organisations in its first year. Eligible costs include staff wages, training, governance improvements, IT upgrades, transport, utilities, volunteer expenses, evaluation, equipment, minor capital works, and translation services for non-English speakers.

Steve Morgan Foundation

Deadline

Applications are currently open, with no set deadline, but early submission is encouraged.

How to apply

To apply, organisations must complete the Foundation's online eligibility checker; those who meet the criteria will be directed to the application Full guidance and the application <https://stevemorganfoundation.org.uk/regional-grants/>

Funding Details

Registered charities and other not-for-profit organisations with an annual income between £300,000 and £5 million can apply for grants ranging from £250,000 to £500,000 to tackle the root causes of social disadvantage.

The Steve Morgan Foundation's Regional Grants programme supports work across three key themes: education, access to provision (such as health, housing, and youth services), and employment. Funding can be used for core costs, salaries, and project delivery in Merseyside, North Wales, North Shropshire, and Cheshire (west of the M6).

To apply, organisations must complete the Foundation's online eligibility checker; those who meet the criteria will be directed to the application

COMMUNITY

Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust

Deadline

The next deadline is 1st December 2025.

How to apply

Visit: <https://www.jeansainsburyanimalwelfare.org.uk/>

Funding Details

Charities registered in the UK that work to provide sanctuary, rehoming, and rehabilitation for animals both domestically and/or internationally are invited to apply for grants of up to £10,000.

Organisations involved with wildlife conservation, the rescue, rehabilitation and (where possible) release of animals are eligible to apply. The funding can be used for general running costs or capital purchases.

This funding opportunity is provided by the Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust, which welcome repeat applications from charities, subject availability. Preference is given to smaller animal welfare charities.

The next deadline to apply is 1st December 2025, awards are usually made within 4 months of the application deadline.

The Animal Defence Trust

Deadline

The next closing date for applications is 31st March 2026.

How to apply

Visit: <https://www.animaldefencetrust.org/index.html>

Funding Details

The Animal Defence Trust, a UK based charity dedicated to animal welfare, provides funding to support approved animal welfare charities working to rescue and care for animals that have suffered cruelty. Eligible organisations must be registered charities with a proven track record in animal welfare work.

The Trust's main objectives are protecting animals from suffering and mistreatment, promoting research to reduce animal use in scientific experiments, and ensuring proper accommodation for animals during transportation. It provides grant funding to registered charities in the United Kingdom and internationally that are actively involved in animal rescue and rehabilitation efforts.

The grants, which are for capital projects and running costs, aim to support a wide range of activities, including providing shelter, medical treatment, and care for abused or neglected animals.

The Animal Defence Trust website provide no information on the minimum or maximum grants available.

COMMUNITY

The AB Charitable Trust Grant Foundation

Deadline

Applications must be UK registered charities with annual incomes between £150,000 and £1.5 million. The next deadline for applications to the Open Programme is the 24th October 2025.

How to apply

Visit: <https://abcharitabletrust.org.uk/our-priorities>

Funding Details

Funding for projects that defend Human Rights of Marginalised Groups. The AB Charitable Trust is a grant making foundation focused on promoting and defending human rights in the UK and supporting marginalised and excluded groups whose rights are at risk or under threat, has announced that its Open Programme is currently accepting applications from UK registered that address the root causes of injustice and inequality in the UK.

Through its Open Programme, ABCT offers grants ranging from £10,000 to £30,000 per year, for up to three years. The programme provides both core funding (unrestricted grants) and project funding (restricted grants), enabling charities to deliver essential activities that protect and promote human rights.

The Trust prioritises support for charities operating in the following thematic areas:

1) The Human Rights Framework, 2) Access to Justice, 3) The Criminal Legal System and Penal Reform, 4) Migrants and Refugees.

Sports England – Leading the Movement

Deadline

The programme will run until March 2029, those interested are encouraged to register for updates

How to apply

www.sportsengland.org/news-and-inspiration/new-scheme-help-leaders-tackle-inequalities

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COMMUNITY

Charles Hayward Foundation

Deadline

There are no deadlines and applications can be submitted at any time

How to apply

<https://charleshaywardfoundation.org.uk/grants/older-people/>

Funding Details

UK registered charities that have an annual income of less than 350k can apply for a grant of up to £7,000.

The projects must be in the UK and benefit older people (over 60's). Focusing on helping older people to stay in their own homes, remaining independent and improving their quality of life, offering a consistent and sustained benefit.

- Aim to alleviate isolation and depression in older people, including formal day care or regular social, physical and recreational activities
- Give practical help, assistance and support for older people living in their own homes
- Address the emotional and practical needs of people with dementia and their carers.

FCC Community Action Fund

Deadline

10 November 2025 5pm

How to apply

<https://fcccommunitiesfoundation.org.uk/apply>

Funding Details

Provides grants of between £2,000 - £100,000 to not for profit organisations for amenity projects under Object D (Public park or other public amenity) and Object DA (Conservation or promotion of biodiversity) of the landfill Communities Fund (LCF)

Applications can be submitted from:

- Registered Charity which operates a community facility
- A Church or Parochial Church Council
- A Parish or Town Council or a Management Committee or User Association acting on behalf of a Parish or Town Council
- A Local Authority
- A CASC Registered Sports Club

Only applications for projects sited within 10 miles of an eligible FCC Environment waste facility can be accepted

COMMUNITY

Covenant Fund Trust

Deadline

There will be two deadlines for applications this year.

- Deadline 1 - 30 July 2025 12pm, will receive decision before end October 2025.
- Deadline 2 - 21 January 2026, will receive decision before end March 2026

How to apply

<https://covenantfund.org.uk/programme/apart-not-alone-support-for-serving-families-programme-2025-26/>

Funding Details

Funding for projects between 5,000 - £50,000 for projects that will help mitigate the impact of service-related separation for families of serving personnel and reservists

Grants of up to 25k towards a project being delivered over a period of up to 12 months

Charities and CICs registered in the UK for at least 3 years can apply for grants up to £50k for a project lasting up to two years

The project needs to address one or more of the following outcomes

- Families feel more able to manage the impact of loneliness or isolation during periods of separation.
- Families experience fewer challenges during reintegration after deployment or extended separation.
- Improved mental health and wellbeing for serving families.
- Improved understanding of effective models of support for serving families.

FAITH, YOUTH, SCHOOLS & COLLEGES

National Lottery Community Fund and Department of Culture, Media & Sport – Phase 3 of Million Hours Fund

Deadline

The majority of funding must be spent by March 2026, with full completion required by March 2027. Applications close at 12 noon on 22 October 2025 but may close earlier if over subscribed (early subscription is strongly advised).

How to apply

Visit: <https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/programmes/million-hours>

Funding Details

Offering grants of £30,000 to £100,000 to expand open-access youth work in areas of England with high levels of antisocial behaviour.

The £19 million programme aims to deliver an additional one million hours of supervised youth activities for young people aged 10-18 (or up to 25 for those with special educational needs or disabilities). The goal is to engage those at risk of antisocial behaviour in structured, inclusive environments promote wellbeing, safety, and personal development.

Examples of Open Access Youth Work:

- Drop in youth clubs
- After school creative and sport sessions
- Safe spaces for discussion and peer support
- Street based or outreach youth engagement

Funded activities must support young people to:

- Improve emotional wellbeing
- Develop practical and life skills
- Feel safer and form trusted relationships with adults

Projects must take place in eligible wards identified through police data and be delivered by trusted adults, such as qualified youth workers or trained volunteers.

Eligible applicants include charities, CIC's, CIO's, schools, local authorities, and community partnerships. Projects must be youth-led, inclusive, and demonstrate measurable impact.

The funding can be used for:

- Staff salaries and volunteer costs to deliver this work
- Training cost
- Other direct costs to deliver youth work, like materials, equipment and food.

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FAITH, YOUTH, SCHOOLS & COLLEGES

Baily Thomas General Grants Programme

Deadline

The next deadline for applications for the main programme is the 1st December 2025. Applications to the small grants programme can be made at any time.

How to apply

Visit: <https://www.bailythomas.org.uk/grants/general-programme>

Funding Details

UK charities, parent-teacher Associations, and schools can apply for grants to help children and adults suffering severe learning difficulties, including autism.

The funding is being made available through the Baily Thomas General grants programme and can be used to purchase equipment, support capital works, and cover project and core costs.

The fund does not currently accept appeals from Community Interest Companies.

There are two funding programmes. The main programme for grant of above £9,000 and a small grants programme for appeals below £9,000.

The National Churches Trust

Deadline

1) Large grants - The deadline for 1st stage applications is 4th November 2025 (midnight).

2) Medium and small grants - The deadline for 1st stage applications is 16th December 2025.

How to apply

<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/get-support/grants>

Funding Details

Applications are considered from listed and unlisted Christian places of worship, of any denomination in the UK. Grants awarded will never exceed 50% of the project cost.

Large grants - Grants are provided of up to £50,000 for urgent structural repair projects and for projects to install kitchens and toilets. The grant awarded will never exceed 50% of the project cost.

Medium and small grants - Grants are provided of up to £10,000 to support urgent repair and maintenance issues and project development work. Also, small investigative works and surveys.

FAITH, YOUTH, SCHOOLS & COLLEGES

The Allen Lane Foundation

Deadline

Young people's programme - Applications can be made at any time. Those received now until early December will next be considered in February 2026

How to apply

<https://allenlane.org.uk/applying-for-funding/>

Funding Details

Offering grants £5,000-£15,000 for charities and not-for-profit organisations who work with young people aged 12-21 who are socially excluded or marginalised, and who may have experienced significant issues within their lives.

Those that focus their work on:

- Young people within criminal justice system,
- Looked after children or care leavers
- Those with mental health concerns or complex needs,
- Young people who have been traumatised by challenging family backgrounds, neglect, violence or abuse
- Those that have fallen through gaps in care and/or education
- Those already affected by, or vulnerable to exploitation
- Whose experiences could seriously impact their transition into adulthood

The Foundation will only fund smaller organisations. Organisations that work across a local area and have an annual income of less than £100,000. Organisations that work across the entire UK must have an annual income of less than £250,000

Masonic Charitable Foundation Charity Grants

Deadline

Charities interested in applying should first submit an expression of interest (EOI), which can be submitted anytime. If shortlisted, applicants will be invited to complete a full application.

How to apply

Visit: <https://mcf.org.uk/get-support/grants-to-charities>

Funding Details

Funding is available for registered charities in England that support disadvantaged children and young people. The funding which is made available through the Masonic Charitable Foundation Charity Grants programme offers two type of grants.

- Small grants ranging from £1,000 to £5,000, are available to charities with an annual income between £25,000 and £500,000 and can be used for any purpose (unrestricted).
- Large grants ranging from £10,000 to £60,000, are available to charities with an annual income between £500,000 and £5 million. Funds may be spent on salaries, equipment, training, monitoring and administration.

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FAITH, YOUTH, SCHOOLS & COLLEGES

Paul Hamlyn Foundation

Deadline

Applications can be submitted at any time

How to apply

<https://www.phf.org.uk/funding/youth-fund?tab=section56852>

Funding Details

Offering grants for organisations who work with young people aged 14-25 and complete targeted work with and for young people who face transitions in their lives which may be challenging or create barriers work that recognizes young peoples multiple and overlapping identities (for example race, gender, sexual orientation, class, faith, migration status, ability)

The Youth Fund is designed to be a strategic investment in your organisation, so we only fund:

- for the full three years and at the amount appropriate to your plans to drive change;
- organisations where at least 50% of the organisation's focus is on work with and for 14-25 year olds; and
- not-for-profit organisations which can be charities, community organisations, social enterprises and not-for-profit companies with a turnover over £30,000 and under £3.5 million. Non-charities must clearly declare how funding is for charitable purposes and have an asset lock in place.

Funding provided:

- Up to £50,000 per year for three years (max grant £150,000). We prefer to fund organisations at the maximum amount and term. We do not make grants of less than £30,000 per year;
- To cover core operating costs (salaries, organisation and delivery costs); and
- To grow the impact of what you already do. We are not looking to fund new or untested approaches, projects or finite pieces of work.

FAITH, YOUTH, SCHOOLS & COLLEGES

Educational Opportunity Foundation

Deadline

Stage 1 application deadline for UK projects is 14.01.26 (Grants Committee meeting 15.04.26)

How to apply

<https://educationalopportunity.org.uk/home/grants/main-fund/apply-here/>

Funding Details

Funding is available for projects that improve the educational outcomes and life chances of care experienced young people (under the age of 25 and living in the UK)

UK registered charities with an income of between £25,000 - £2.5 million can apply for grants of £30,000 - £90,000 per project (Max £30k per year for multi year projects).

- New or pilot projects, or projects which have started in the past 12 months.
- Funding is available for one to three years.
- Between 25% to 100% of total project costs, but will give preference to projects with some degree of matched funding.
- Annual grant payments cannot exceed 50% of an organisation's three-year average income.
- Overhead contributions up to 20% of the total grant.

Organisations must demonstrate financial stability, submit at least three years of accounts, and have safeguarding procedures in place.

Weaver's Company Criminal Justice Grants

Deadline

The next closing date for applications is the 13th November 2025.

How to apply

Visit: <https://weavers.org.uk/charity/charitable-grants/>

Funding Details

Registered charities, charitable incorporated organisations, and in exceptional circumstances Community Interest Companies can apply for grants for projects that support offenders and ex offenders as well as into work and helping specific less popular groups within the Criminal Justice sector.

The funding is being made available through the Weaver's Company. In allocating funding, priority is given to projects that support offenders into work and projects that work with less popular groups in society. A secondary priority is given to supporting projects that work with young people from disadvantaged and socio-economically challenged groups, such as immigrants, to ensure that they are given every possible chance to realise their full potential and to participate fully in society.

The company operates two funding streams: 1) A Small Grants Programme that provides grant of up to £5,000 2) A Main Grants Programme which has no maximum grant limit

The funding is available for both project and core cost. Applicants must show they have investigated other sources of funding and made plans for the future funding.

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ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE

The Bagri Foundation

Deadline

There is a two stage application process. The deadline for stage 1 applications is 11pm on 3 October 2025. The deadline for stage 2 application is 11pm on 17th November 2025.

How to apply

Visit: https://bagrifoundation.org/funding-opportunities?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Funding Details

The Bagri Foundation, a UK charity dedicated to promoting an understanding of Asian cultures, has launched its 2025/26 Arts & Culture Grants programme. The Foundation is inviting UK non-profits to apply for funding for projects that explore and promote Asian arts and culture.

Grants range from £5,000 to £150,000, typically covering 10-40% of the total project cost. The scheme is open to registered charities, CIOs, CICs, exempt charities, and experienced creative collectives. Individuals are not eligible to apply.

Projects must focus on traditional or contemporary Asian culture and involve established or mid-career artists from Asia or its diasporas.

For funding requests over £75,000, applicants are advised to contact the Foundation in advance.

Esmée Fairbairn Communities and Collections Fund

Deadline

The next deadline for expressions of interest is 21 January 2026, shortlisted applicants will be notified 23rd February 2026. Shortlisted applications will need to make a second stage application by 13th May 2026 and grants will be awarded at end of June 2026.

How to apply

<https://www.museumsassociation.org/funding/efccf/>

Funding Details

The fund supports work with museum collections to improve inclusion and equitable working with community partners through core grants and partnership project grants. Grants of up to £100,000 are available over a maximum of three years.

- 1) Core grants to single museum organisations - For strategic development of their inclusive collections work
- 2) Partnership project grants for museums and community organisations working equitably with collections to achieve shared aims for inclusion.

CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT

National Lottery Community Fund – Climate Action Fund

Deadline

Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis until at least 17th December 2025

How to apply

Visit: <https://tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/climate-action-fund-our-shared-future>

Funding Details

The National Lottery Community Fund has announced that the Climate Action Fund - Our Shared Future is open for applications. This fund is part of a broader, ten-year £100 million commitment to supporting climate related activities at the community level and aims to support projects that integrate climate action into everyday community life and aims to support projects that integrate climate action into everyday community life, particularly targeting groups and individuals who have not previously engaged with environmental issues.

Grants available through the programme range from £500,000 to £1.5million for most projects, with the possibility of up to £3 million for exceptional initiatives running over a period of up to seven years.

Organisations eligible to apply include: Voluntary and community organisations, registered charities, charitable, incorporated organisations, schools, colleges and universities, statutory bodies (including local authorities, town, parish, or community councils), other not for profits organisations.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to consult with NLCF prior to submission to ensure alignment with fund.