

# Community Funding Bulletin

## January 2024 Edition



### National Lottery Community Fund - Sustainable Community Buildings Programme (Northern Ireland)

Grants are available for voluntary and community organisations in Northern Ireland to support them in making their buildings more energy efficient, helping to save money on bills.



#### Fund Information

Funding body: National Lottery Community Fund - Northern Ireland

Maximum value: £ 50,000

Application deadline: 20/03/2024

#### Background

The Sustainable Community Buildings programme is provided and administered in Northern Ireland by the National Lottery Community Fund.

#### Objectives of Fund

The funding is intended to support organisations with reducing their carbon footprint, creating an environment plan, and improving the environmental performance of their community buildings.

#### Value Notes

Grants of up to £50,000 are available.

Organisations that apply to the programme will also take part in free carbon literacy training delivered by Business in the Community, which will help them to look at ways to reduce their carbon footprint.

Action Renewables will also support organisations to write and implement an environmental plan to consider steps to improve sustainability and cut costs.

#### Who Can Apply

Applications will be accepted from voluntary and community organisations with an annual income of less than £500,000. This includes:

- Registered charities.
- Unregistered voluntary or community organisations with a governing document, e.g. a constitution.

- Not-for-profit companies (company limited by guarantee).
- Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIO or SCIO).
- Community Interest Companies (CIC).

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Have at least two board or committee members who are not related.
- Have a bank account in the organisation's name.

The applicant's community building must meet the following criteria:

- The building must have been built before 2005.
- The organisation must own their building or have an unbreakable lease for at least six years.
- The building must be open and used, evidenced by the number of people who use the building and its opening hours.
- The organisation must not be solely focused on delivering sports activities, or affiliated with a governing body of sport (recognised by Sport Northern Ireland).
- The building must not already have solar panels.

**Location:** Northern Ireland

#### Restrictions

The following are not eligible for funding:

- Anything that is not listed on the environment plan that the applicant creates together with a sustainability expert.

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Read about our Funding Support Services here [Funding support and advice for community groups in Northern Ireland. — Supporting Communities](#)



- Revenue costs for the organisation, e.g. salaries or running costs.
- Activities or events.
- Sports clubs that are affiliated with a governing body of sport (recognised by Sport Northern Ireland) - for example, the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), Ulster Rugby and Irish Football Association.
- Individuals.
- Sole traders.
- Faith or religious institutions - such as churches, synagogues and mosques. However, faith-based groups that are working in a community setting are eligible.
- Organisations based outside Northern Ireland.
- Companies that can pay profits to directors, shareholders or members (including Companies Limited by Shares).
- Statutory organisations.
- Schools.
- Organisations applying to more than one National Lottery Community Fund programme for the same project over the same period.
- One organisation applying on behalf of another.
- Applications written on behalf of an organisation by private businesses or consultants.

### Eligible Expenditure

Grants may be used for **capital funding only**.

Upon completing carbon literacy training and creating an environment plan, organisations invited to apply for funding to improve their building's environmental performance may use grants to support costs including:

- Solar panels.
- Battery storage.
- Ground-source heat pumps.
- Energy efficient lighting.
- New insulation.
- Energy-efficient windows and doors.

### How To Apply

The Sustainable Community Buildings programme will open in stages across Northern Ireland.

**In the first application period from 7 February 2024 to 20 March 2024, applications will be accepted from organisations with community buildings located in the following council areas:**

- **Ards and North Down Borough Council**
- **Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council**
- **Mid Ulster District Council**
- **Newry, Mourne and Down District Council**

In the second application period from 11 September 2024 to 23 October 2024, applications will be

accepted from organisations with community buildings located in the following council areas:

- Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
- Derry City and Strabane District Council
- Fermanagh and Omagh District Council
- Mid and East Antrim Borough Council

In the third application period from 8 January 2025 to 19 February 2025, applications will be accepted from organisations with community buildings located in the following council areas:

- Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
- Belfast City Council
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council

For all applicants, there is a two-stage application process:

- Stage 1: submit an Expression of Interest - National Lottery Community Fund aims to give applicants a decision in around six weeks. If successful, applicants will be invited to Stage 2.
- Stage 2: full application for funding.

Organisations successful at stage one will be asked to sign up to carbon literacy training. National Lottery Community Fund will also ask organisations to work with a sustainability expert to create an environment plan for their organisation.

Guidance notes and the online Expression of Interest form can be found on the National Lottery Community Fund website.

### Useful links

National Lottery Community Fund - Sustainable Community Buildings Programme

[Sustainable Community Buildings | The National Lottery Community Fund \(tnlcommunityfund.org.uk\)](https://tnlcommunityfund.org.uk)

### Deadline - First Application Period

Application start date: 7th February 2024

Application end date: 20th March 2024

Frequency:  
Key Deadline

This application period is for organisations with community buildings located in the following council areas:

- Ards and North Down Borough Council
- Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
- Mid Ulster District Council
- Newry, Mourne and Down District Council



## Call 1 2024/25 Financial Assistance is now open

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council are pleased to announce that Call 1 2024/25 Financial Assistance is now open and are inviting applications towards the programme areas outlines below:

- Arts & Culture Projects
- Community Engagement
- Community Events, Festivals
- Community Summer Schemes
- Good Relations
- Irish Language
- Minority Communities Fund
- Sports Programmes
- PCSP Community Safety Support
- Tourism Events



Comhairle Ceantair  
**an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin**  
**Newry, Mourne and Down**  
District Council

**Closing:** 28 February 2024 at **12 noon**

Application and guidance notes can be reviewed online via: <https://newrymouredowndc.smartsimpleuk.com/>

Should you have any queries, please contact:  
**Grants & Funding Unit**  
T: 0330 137 4040 / 0330 137 4782  
E: [programmesunit@nmandd.org](mailto:programmesunit@nmandd.org)

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## Boots Charitable Trust Extends Grants Programme to Support Local Communities across the UK

Boots Charitable Trust is an independent registered charity wholly funded by Boots UK Limited. The Trust recently expanded its grants programme from its home base of Nottinghamshire to across the UK.

Registered charities working in the areas of health, lifelong learning, community development and social care can apply four times a year for grants of between £100 and £10,000. Grants of up to £5,000 are available for smaller voluntary organisations whose income and expenditure is less than £5,000 per year and who are not yet required to register with the Charity Commission.

To be eligible, projects must meet at least one of Trust's four funding priorities:

- Health: Community healthcare, such as homecare or support for sufferers of medical conditions, and health education and prevention
- Lifelong learning: Local literacy and numeracy projects
- Community development: For example, supporting councils in providing voluntary services
- Social care: Personal, social or community activities or schemes.



Additionally, a particular focus within each of these priorities is how the projects demonstrate a commitment to improving diversity, equality and inclusion within the community.

There is particular interest in projects with the capacity to deliver significant impact and which reach the greatest number of people.

The funding can be used for most expenditure items, including salary and running costs. Large building or construction projects will not be funded, although minor structural improvements and refurbishments would be considered.

There are four application windows per year and applications will only be accepted during the quarterly windows.

**Applications will next be accepted from 1st to 28th February 2024.**

For more information and to apply please visit [Boots UK - Boots Charitable Trust \(boots-uk.com\)](https://boots-uk.com)



## Grand Choice 2024

Local residents or groups in the Castlereagh East area of Lisburn and Castlereagh can apply for up to £1,000 via the 'Grand Choice' participatory budgeting initiative from 15 January 2024.

The key difference between Grand Choice and other council managed funding opportunities is that the successful projects are chosen by the community. The votes of those living in Castlereagh East will decide which projects will be funded.

Councillor Thomas Beckett, Leisure & Community Development Chairman, said: "Once again the council is proud to be supporting this scheme. There is £15,000 available for projects across the council's district electoral area of Castlereagh East. This includes the Moneyreagh, Ballyhanwood, Carrowreagh, Dundonald, Enler and Graham's Bridge areas.

"As with previous rounds of Grand Choice, successful projects can win up to £1,000 and will be chosen by their local community. Voting will be in person at a Community Decision Event on Saturday 9 March in St Mary's Church of Ireland Hall, Ballybeen, 1A Craighigh Drive, Dundonald from 11am to 3pm. We encourage residents in the Castlereagh East area to use their voting power to select the projects they feel best suit their communities."

Projects that relate to one or more of the Take 5 themes of Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning and Give will be eligible for funding.

All projects must be completed between March and June 2024.

Councillor Alan Givan, Chair of the Lisburn & Castlereagh PCSP, said: "To date Grand Choice has been a great success in all the other district electoral areas with the most recent held in the Castlereagh South area in October 2023. It offers the perfect opportunity for residents, constituted groups and schools to bring a project or event to their local community. If you and a few friends have an idea to support your local community then I would encourage you to consider applying.



"You can apply for up to £1,000 for things such as online or in-person activities, events, tutors, workshops, performers or specialist facilitator. Should you have a specific community issue that needs addressed then you could request funding for marketing campaigns or equipment for projects. If your group is not constituted you must obtain sponsor support from a local constituted group.

"All applications will be assessed to ensure the project is legal, safe, and achievable within government guidance, the budget and timescale. Our communities have the power to decide where the Grand Choice funding goes.

**"Three online workshops have been scheduled to help you decide if your project would be eligible for 'Grand Choice' funds. Please join us and talk to the team who will be happy to answer your questions," concluded Councillor Givan.**

**The scheduled community Teams workshops are scheduled for:**

- **Tuesday 23 January 2024 at 6.30pm**
- **Wednesday 24 January 2024 at 10am**
- **Thursday 25 January 2024 at 3pm**

**To register to attend one of the workshop sessions please email:**

**[pcsp@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk](mailto:pcsp@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk)**

Lisburn & Castlereagh PCSP, PSNI, Sport NI, Ark Housing, Choice Housing and Northern Ireland Housing Executive have contributed to the scheme in addition to the council.

To apply online or to download an application form [please use this link](#) before Sunday 11 February 2024.



## Funding to Support Rural Development Projects Across the UK

NFU Mutual Charitable Trust is offering grants of between £1,000 and £50,000 for organisations working in agriculture, rural development, and insurance across the UK to deliver projects and activities across one or more of the Trust's main objectives:

- To advance the education of the public using research and dissemination of information concerning agriculture.
- To advance the education of young people within rural areas.
- To relieve poverty within rural areas.
- To promote the benefit and social welfare of inhabitants of rural communities by associating together with the inhabitants and local authorities, voluntary and other organisations to advance education and leisure.
- To promote research into agricultural-associated activities.
- To advance the education of the public using

research and dissemination of information concerning insurance.

Priority will be given to larger initiatives that would have a significant impact on rural communities, as well as initiatives in the areas of education of young people in rural areas and relief of poverty within rural areas.

Trustees met twice a year to consider applications, typically in June and November.

**The next deadline for applications is 24 May 2024.**

For more information and to apply, please visit [NFU Mutual Charitable Trust: What do we do | NFU Mutual](#)



**NFU Mutual  
Charitable Trust**

## Water Quality Improvement Strand of NI Environmental Challenge Fund Open for Applications

Funding is available to community-focused organisations for projects to help people improve and to connect with Northern Ireland's aquatic environment.

The Northern Ireland Environment Agency has launched the 2024/25 call for applications to the Water Quality Improvement Strand of its Environmental Challenge Fund Competition. The competition is open to applications from constituted not-for-profit organisations and local authorities, with projects beginning from spring 2024.

All on the ground project activity must take place in Northern Ireland, with the three key themes for funding under this challenge competition as follows:

- Connecting people with the aquatic environment to achieve behavioural change.
- Conservation and restoration of our aquatic environments.
- Nature-based solutions, particularly for climate change mitigation and adaptation.



Department of  
**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**

Sustainability at the heart of a living, working,  
active landscape valued by everyone

Capital grants of between £5,000 and £30,000 are available to cover up to 85% of eligible project costs. Applicants must be able to demonstrate that sufficient match funding is available to complete their project, and projects must be completed by 28 February 2025.

**The deadline for applications is 10th March 2024 (11.59pm).**

For more information and to apply, please visit [Environment Fund – Water Quality Improvement Strand 2024/25 | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](#)



## Coastal Foundation Fund Accepting Applications for 2024

Sea Changers is offering grants of up to £2500 for community groups and other not-for-profit organisations to help prevent negative impacts on UK coastal and marine environments and species by reducing marine litter through the provision of well-located coastal water fountains that will significantly reduce the use of non-reusable plastic drinks bottles.

The Coastal Foundation Fund will support groups to cover the cost of purchasing a water fountain unit for installation in a busy or environmentally important coastal location.

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Need and impact – fountains should be placed in areas which either:
  - Have significant public use/a lot of littering.
  - Are of environmental importance or status.



- Viability to be operational within 2024.
- Sustainability.
- Value for money.

Funding is only for the cost of purchasing a water fountain. Installation or maintenance costs will not be considered.

**The deadline for applications is 23 February 2024.**

For more information and to apply, please visit [Coastal Fountain Fund 2024 | Sea-Changers](#)

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## LandAid's Routes Out of Homelessness Programme to Open 8 January

LandAid is a charity established by the UK property industry that has been working for 30 years to end youth homelessness across the UK.

It award grants to exceptional small-medium sized charities working with young people who are at risk of becoming homeless, are currently homeless, or have experienced homelessness in the past. Mainly capital projects are funded as they provide much-needed homes for vulnerable young people.

The Routes out of Homelessness grants programme aims to create new bedspaces for young people (16-25 years) who are homeless or have experienced homelessness.

There are three funding streams within this programme.

- **Safe Spaces Programme:** to create new/additional hosting bedspaces, generally bedspaces in the homes of individuals or families who may be volunteers or paid. These bedspaces would generally be used for emergency housing, or as a form of supported housing. There are no funding limits, but bedspaces are expected to cost anywhere between £1,000 and £3,500.
- **Capital Grants Programme** with awards between £20,000 and £100,000: to create bedspaces in properties owned by, or on a long-term lease to, charitable organisations. These bedspaces could be used for emergency, supported or move-on accommodation.
- **Move-on Grants Programme:** To unlock bedspaces in the private, or social, rental sector. These bedspaces will be for move-on accommodation. These grants would be for charities working with

young people who are ready and wanting to move forward into independent living, but face barriers in accessing rental accommodation. It is anticipated that the average move-on bedspace in the private sector will generally cost £1,000 to £2,000 to unlock.

In 2024, there is particular interest in projects that will create bedspaces with the following attributes:

- Based in the North-East of England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.
- For groups of young people who may be disproportionately at risk of homelessness. This would include young people of colour, young refugees and young people identifying as LGBTQ+.
- Which would be transformational for the charity and/or local area.

UK organisations with charitable objectives and three unrelated members of their board of trustees can apply. This includes registered charities, Community Interest Companies (CICs), Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs) or other not-for-profit organisations. Partnership applications are also welcome.

There is a two-stage application process.

**Expressions of Interest will be accepted from 8 January 2024.**

For more information, please visit [Routes Out of Homelessness Grant Programmes - LandAid](#)



## The Foyle Foundation Completes its Grant Giving Programme in 2025

*The Foyle Foundation will complete its grant giving programme in 2025, marking 25 years of giving to the fields of the Arts, Learning, Community Small Grants, State Schools Libraries and formerly Health.*

We are delighted to announce that applications are still open for the final rounds of grants for projects which will complete by the end of 2025. For full details, including timings of the application process and cut off dates, please see the relevant specific section of each of our grantmaking schemes ([Main Grants Scheme](#), [School Library Scheme](#), [Small Grants Scheme](#)). Please also see [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

### What We Currently Fund

The Foundation awards funding in three main areas:

ARTS and LEARNING charities predominantly via the [Main Grants Scheme](#)



SMALL CHARITIES of all descriptions (with a turnover of less than £150K per annum) via the [Small Grants Scheme](#) (grants between £2K and £10K)

STATE FUNDED SCHOOLS predominantly via the [Foyle School Library Scheme](#) (grants between £2K and £10K).

For more information, please visit [The Foyle Foundation](#)

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## The Brian Conlon Foundation

The Brian Conlon Foundation is an independent Charitable Trust set up in Brian's memory to continue his legacy by supporting causes that were close to his heart and that he was passionate about.

Brian was hugely successful in many walks of life – a high achiever in education, entrepreneurship, sport and in business. When a knee injury ended his budding Gaelic football career, Brian turned his attention to business, setting up First Derivatives from his mother's spare bedroom in 1996. Now one of Ireland's most successful companies, it employs nearly 3,000 people with fifteen offices globally. Thousands of local graduates have passed through the company's HQ in Newry, many of whom ended up being deployed to large financial institutions throughout the world.

Brian was immensely proud of his roots and his hometown of Newry, and, despite all of his success, he remained a humble and generous individual throughout, supporting numerous people and deserving causes, often quietly.

Grants will be awarded to community associations and groups in the Newry area, who are working to advance education, amateur sport, provide opportunities for young people, and assisting communities in the local area.

Grants up to £3,500 will be open for applications.

The Brian Conlon Foundation will support the provision of support for projects based in Newry City – view boundary map [here](#)

The fund will focus on the following priorities:

- Advancement of Education

- Advancement of Amateur sport
- Opportunities for young people from the local area
- Assistance for communities in disadvantaged areas



This might include:

- Educational activities supporting people from disadvantaged areas
- Projects that provide enhanced sporting opportunities for people who are particularly disadvantaged
- Projects that will directly benefit those disaffected from mainstream education
- Early years intervention, particularly in disadvantaged areas, within Newry city

Awards will be available of up to a maximum of £3,500 to support small community projects. We anticipate, however, that the average grant will be around £2,000.

Under the most recent funding round (May 2023) – 43% of applicants were successful.

### Who can apply?

Constituted organisations with charitable purposes based within and to support beneficiaries in the Newry city area

Closing date for applications is 9th February 2024.

For more information and to apply, please visit [The Brian Conlon Foundation - Community Foundation Northern Ireland \(communityfoundationni.org\)](#)



## Cregganconroe and Inishative Community Benefit Fund's are now open

### Cregganconroe Community Benefit Fund

Purpose of the fund:

This local community benefit fund was set up by Gaelectric in 2016 and is now managed by CGN Europe – a wind energy and energy storage company that believes in a sustainable future. GCN is committed to ensuring that their wind farms, whilst having obvious environmental benefits, also provide significant economic benefits to the local community.

Cregganconroe wind farm is based just off the Loughmallon Road, Pomeroy, Co Tyrone. The areas located within a 6-mile radius of the wind farm are largely rural, having a rugged mountainous terrain within the Sperrin Mountains and comprises dispersed rural settlements including the hamlets and villages of Cappagh, Galbally, Pomeroy, Carrickmore, Kileenan and the Rock.

The Cregganconroe Community Benefit Fund is administered by the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland.

The Cregganconroe Community Benefit Fund is available for local community projects within a 6-mile radius of the wind farm. Applicant organisations must be located in this area.

#### [Cregganconroe Boundary Map](#)

The fund aims to encourage:

- Any programmes/projects that address marginalisation and help tackle rural isolation. In particular, support will be considered for transport solutions that allow a greater sharing of local community resources and to allow for improved mobility for the most isolated.
- Projects that have a particular emphasis on maximising community space by providing minor capital works that bring premises or facilities up to modern standards and in line with current building control regulations.
- Activities/services that are specifically aimed at children and young people and older people; provision of local educational classes/training courses and health related initiatives and arts/cultural activities.
- Projects designed to improve and develop local environmental schemes.
- Priority will be given to beneficiaries within the Pomeroy area given their close proximity to the wind farm.
- Projects that encourage greater cross community interaction at a local level with a focus on improving relations between nationalist and unionist communities in the area. Consideration will be given to activities and events designed to encourage this interaction and cohesion e.g. – Open Days, Festivals and other Community Events including programmes of shared culture, music, sport, drama and dance.

### Inishative Community Benefit Fund

Purpose of the fund:

This local community benefit fund was set up by

Gaelectric in 2016 and is now managed by CGN Europe – a wind energy and energy storage company that believes in a sustainable future. GCN is committed to ensuring that their wind farms, whilst having obvious environmental benefits, also provide significant economic benefits to the local community.

The Inishative Community Benefit Fund is administered by the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland.

The Inishative Community Benefit Fund is available to local community projects within a 6-mile radius of the wind farm. Priority is given to applicant organisations based within the Carrickmore (3.5 miles), Galbally/Cappagh (4-5 miles) and Sixmilecross (6 miles) areas.

#### [Inishative Boundary Map](#)

The fund aims to encourage:

- Stronger more inclusive communities by ensuring that local people have ownership and involvement in the design and delivery of the project.
- Partnership working with community, voluntary and statutory agencies to ensure a coordinated approach.
- Sustainable solutions that address local issues.
- Projects that improve the utilisation of existing community space in each of the above areas.
- Particular emphasis will be placed on funding activities/services that are specifically aimed at older people, people with disabilities, children and teenagers (including pre-school children), providing skills development of local people and promoting health related activities or services.
- Given the remoteness of some of these locations, the isolation and lack of statutory transport provision consideration will be given to local transport initiatives.
- Projects and programmes offering invaluable advice and information and signposting on key rural issues e.g. Farm Support Services, Welfare & Benefits and Parenting/Family issues etc.
- Outdoor/Environmental projects will also be considered in terms of encouraging a healthier and active community as well as protecting and enhancing the local environment.
- Finally, wider community events and programmes that encourage greater community interaction (including cross community aspects) encompassing the local rich and varied cultural aspects of music, drama, dance and sport.
- Funding will be considered for costs associated with running/administration costs and for purchasing additional equipment to expand services/activities in each of the areas.
- Priority will be given to projects which demonstrate the ability to collaborate, network and share best practice.

For more information on both funds and to apply, please visit [Available Grants - Community Foundation Northern Ireland](#) ([communityfoundationni.org](http://communityfoundationni.org))





## Halifax Foundation for NI launch new funding streams

Halifax Foundation for NI have launched their new website and Strategy for 2024 - 2028, 'Better Together' - the following new funding streams are now available;

### Community Flex

This is our main programme which will be a rolling programme, open to registered charities only which have 1 years full accounts published on the Charity Commission website. Maximum grant available £10,000. The charity income in the last 12 months needs to be less than £500,000 (this is a change to our last programme as it was open to those with an income of less than £1m) the charity must support those in greatest need and we can support running costs, salaries, materials, training, transport, activity costs and volunteer costs. Open now!

### Ignite

This is a seeding grant for new charities, this does not mean newly registered on the Charity Commission website this means set up within the last 2 years -we will check the constitution date for this information. Groups must be on the Charity Commission website. The maximum grant available is £2,000. There is a set budget for this programme and once this has been allocated we will not be able to issue any further grants. There is an option for mentoring or training support with this grant. Open now!

### Collaborate

This programme is for 2 or more registered charities coming together to tackle a social issue, both charities must have an income under £500k. This programme has a set budget and once this is allocated we will not be able to issue any further funding. Applicants must have a pre-application meeting with the Grants Team before applying online. This is for one year funding only.

This programme is open for applications now.



Max grant £20k.

### Empower

This programme is not currently open for applications however this will open for funding on **3rd June 24 closing on 28th June 24. Awards will be made in August with a starting date of September.**

This is for infrastructure charities supporting community groups to receive 1-2 year funding , maximum grant is £20k. The organisation needs to be a registered charity and must be strategic/ transformational in nature. Projects must not duplicate activities supported by or the responsibility of government departments. A pre-application meeting must take place before applying.

### 40 Invest

This programme is not open for applications. It's our 40th Anniversary in 2025, to celebrate we will be providing 2 year grants of £40,000 (£20k per year) 10% of this can be allocated as a contingency fund for unexpected expenditure. **This programme opens for applications on Monday 2nd September and closes on Monday 30th September 2024. Awards will be made in December, with a start date of January 2025.** An additional £5,000 we will held for each grantee to support capacity building initiatives. Income must be less than £250k.

More information on each funding stream can be found on their website - [About Us – Halifax Foundation NI](#)

## Comic Relief Announces New UK Fund for the UK's Migration Sector to Open in February 2024

Comic Relief has given advanced notice that it 'expects to launch a new funding opportunity in February for organisations that are supporting refugees and asylum seekers in the UK and/or who are doing influencing work for safer routes and improved outcomes for people affected. **This will be for organisations that are already working in this area.**'

'Further funding criteria is being developed. More information about the funding and the application process will be made available in February 2024.' This will be the first grant scheme under Comic Relief's new funding strategy, which is focused on the following:

- Effects of Poverty programme fund works that enables people who bear the brunt of poverty to build community-led solutions and overcome the

many problems they face.

- Tackling Injustices programme funds organisations and movements that strive for fairness and equity, in order to end the injustices that cause and keep people, in poverty.
- Climate Justice programme will work in places and with people who are already vulnerable and dealing with the effects of climate change.

Further details about the new grant will be provided as soon as they become available.

For more information, please visit [Funding opportunities | Comic Relief](#)



## TBUC Camps Programme 2024-25

Applications are now open for groups who wish to run a Camp under the T:BUC Camps Programme 2024/25.

Completed applications must be returned to the Education Authority no later than **4pm on Friday 9th February 2024**.

*\*Successful applications are subject to funding being made available*

The T:BUC Camps Programme is a headline action described in the Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) strategy which was announced by the Northern Ireland Executive in 2013. The relevant strategic aim relating to young people is:

“To continue to improve attitudes amongst our young people and to build a community where they can play a full and active role in building good relations.”

The Programme is about building positive relations and long lasting friendships among young people across all parts of the Northern Ireland community. Camps must therefore bring diverse groups together to get to know each other, try new experiences and help build longer term relationships between young people.

Good Relations learning must be at the heart of every Camp.

### All Camps must:

Have a significant good relations element throughout the Camp which must be clearly demonstrated in funding applications;

- Be run on a cross community basis and focus on ensuring correct variance of both Catholic and Protestant participants is met. Proposals are also strongly encouraged to include participants from other communities including ethnic minority communities and those of different racial backgrounds;



- Target young people aged 9 to 25 years;
- Provide social action opportunities
- Be fun and be appropriate to the needs and interests of participants.

### Who is Eligible?

EANI registered youth organisations

- Bona fide voluntary and community organisations (including churches/faith based organisations, sports groups, arts groups etc.)
- Schools
- Regional organisations that have experience in working with young people
- Councils

The Education Authority will be running workshops to support groups to help develop their programmes and assist with applications.

Attendance at a workshop is strongly encouraged, as it will allow you to meet and network with other possible applicants, speak directly to members of the T:BUC team, receive support and guidance on programming and good relations resources, and be given support in how to make a good quality application to the T:BUC Camps Programme.

A number of the workshops are face to face, with online options also available. It is essential that a place is pre-booked. You can do so through the button below or by [clicking here](#).

For more information, please visit [T:BUC Camps Programme – EANI Funding](#)



## Creative Youth on a Shared Island Programme Invites Applications

Grants are available for sectoral organisations to facilitate projects encouraging creativity among 0-24 year-olds across the island of Ireland.

The Creative Youth on a Shared Island funding scheme seeks to reach children and young people by leveraging the experience and expertise of organisations working in the creative, cultural, arts, community and youth sectors. The primary focus is to encourage collaboration among young people, fostering opportunities for creative engagement across the island of Ireland.

The programme is seeking projects from partnerships that are of significant scale and ambition. Applications must be jointly made with at least one partner based in the Republic of Ireland and at least one partner based in Northern Ireland, with a lead partner identified for the project.

Eligible projects may include expanding existing initiatives or pilots, and applications are sought from diverse entities, including youth organisations,

community development groups, arts institutions, charities, philanthropic bodies, and more.

It is anticipated that a maximum grant of £154,000 (€180,000) will be awarded per project and that at least three projects will be funded. The timeframe for the projects to run is June 2024 to December 2025.

Applications are particularly sought which will foster sustained engagement between young people, as distinct from once off stand-alone events or engagements. Additionally, due to the commitment within the Creative Youth Plan 2023-2027 to young people who are considered seldom heard, it is envisaged that at least one of the projects funded would target a cohort in this category.

**The deadline for applications is 25th March 2024 (5pm).**

For more information and to apply, please visit [Applications are open for the Creative Youth on a Shared Island Fund - Creative Ireland Programme](#)

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## From Idea to Impact: UnLtd Offers Funding and Support for Social Ventures

Funding and specialist support are available for UK social entrepreneurs to help them develop as social leaders, and to start up or grow their idea for a social venture.

UnLtd is inviting applications from social entrepreneurs aged 16 and over who are living in the UK and who are the founder of the social business. Depending on the stage of development, UnLtd can offer:

- Funding of up to £8,000 for entrepreneurs who are starting up their venture.
- Funding of up to £18,000 for entrepreneurs who are scaling up their venture.

To be eligible, the social entrepreneur must:

- Have identified a social issue and developed a business model that works to solve it.
- Be committed to, and have a track record of, delivering local, regional or national social impact at scale.
- Be experienced, ambitious and capable of growing their venture.
- Have a realistic growth plan.
- Be committed to working full-time in their social venture.

Their social venture must:

- Be at least one year old and less than four years old.
- Have a turnover of less than £250,000 in their last financial year.
- Be dynamic and ready to grow to local, regional or national scale and have a logical and appropriate plan to deliver this.
- Have a compelling performance to date and/or a logical and appropriate plan for rapid growth to reach local, regional or national scale.
- Not solely exist to secure investment in the year ahead.
- Target beneficiaries predominantly based in the UK.



Together with funding, programme participants receive expert advice and mentoring through a community of business professionals, corporate partners and social entrepreneurs.

**The deadline for applications is 31 March 2024.**

For more information please visit [UnLtd - Awards | Funding and support to grow your impact |](#)



## Update from the Reconciliation Fund

The Reconciliation Fund's Annual Funding Round (for 12-month funding) will open on **Monday 12 February 2024 at 11am**. We will accept applications through our online application portal until the **final closing date of Wednesday 20 March 2024 at 12pm**. **No late applications will be accepted.**

Due to the high volume of traffic on the online application portal, it may take some time to receive the email to register as a new user, or to reset your password, so please allow for this when planning the submission of your application.

**From 2023, the Reconciliation Fund has moved to one annual funding application round only. This means there is no longer an autumn application round for annual grants. Please ensure that if you are planning to apply for grant funds from the Reconciliation Fund in 2024, you are prepared to submit an application in this upcoming round.**



**An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha**  
Department of Foreign Affairs

All applicants should consult the strategy to ensure that their proposals align with the criteria and priority areas identified there. A copy of the Strategy is available [here](#) (in pdf format).

In addition to project funding, the Reconciliation Fund will welcome applications for core operational as well as certain capital costs, where this will support organisations' work within the framework of Dept of Foreign Affairs strategy. Further information on this is available in the Strategy document and on the webpage.

Full details on how to apply in this funding round can be found on our website: [www.dfa.ie/reconciliation](http://www.dfa.ie/reconciliation). As always, "[Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)" and



## ONGOING FUNDING AVAILABLE

### Community Grants Programme

The overall aim of the Halifax Foundation is:

To support charitable organisations within Northern Ireland to enable people, who are disadvantaged or with special needs, to participate actively in their communities.

The Foundation has two main target areas to which it seeks to allocate funds:

- Social and Community Needs
- Education and Training



Types of costs funded include - materials and equipment, contribution towards salary costs, overheads, transport costs, volunteer expenses, training/tutor costs, activity costs and refurbishment costs.

For more information and to apply, please visit [Funding Opportunities 2023 | Halifax Foundation NI](#)

### The Foyle Foundation

#### Small Grants Scheme Guidelines

These guidelines were last updated on 8 March 2022. Guidelines and application forms are updated regularly throughout the year – please ensure you download the most recent guidelines to read through and to use the most recent application form links.

The Foundation understands that charities are now operating in different circumstances due to the pandemic. We are keen to be as flexible as can be in our support of small charities following this difficult and constantly changing period, while maintaining a focus on those who can demonstrate a clear (usually local) need for their services and financial viability over the twelve months from the date of their application.

#### **Who Can Apply**

Our Small Grants Scheme is designed to support charities registered and operating in the United Kingdom, especially those working at grass roots and local community level, in any field, across a wide range of activities. Please note we are not able to support individuals. School PTAs and Friend groups are not eligible to apply. We are unlikely to support newly set up charities without a track record.

Online applications can be accepted from charities that have an annual turnover of less than £150,000 per annum. Larger or national charities will normally not be considered under this scheme. We take into consideration your latest complete financial year, however, if you expect your turnover to exceed £150,000 in your current financial year, you are unlikely to be supported.

Please note that competition is intense; we receive many more applications than we are able to fund.

#### **What the Foundation will Fund**

Our focus will be to make one-year grants only, to cover core costs, projects, essential equipment or building projects.



Our priority will be to support local charities still active in their communities which are currently delivering services to the young, vulnerable, elderly, disadvantaged or the general community.

If applying for funding towards a capital project please apply towards the end of your fundraising campaign, when the majority of funding has been raised and you have an estimated start date for the works. We are unlikely to consider a request if the lease is less than 10 years. If your application is successful, the pledged grant offer is only valid for 12 months. Please note that the Foundation does not fund feasibility studies.

The Foyle Foundation does not fund religious activity or activities promoting religion. If applying from a religious organisation and/or place of worship we will expect to see a clear division in both your accounts and application between your religious and non-religious activity.

Applicants must show how any grant will make a significant difference to their current work.

#### **How Much Can You Apply For**

Charities can apply for between £2,000 and £10,000. Please note that if successful, the Trustees may award less than the amount requested.

#### **When Can You Apply?**

There are no deadlines - online applications can be submitted at any time. Once received, it will take up to four months, occasionally longer, to receive a decision from Trustees.

For more information and to apply, please visit [Small Grants Scheme - \(foylefoundation.org.uk\)](#)



## Funding in Northern Ireland

The National Lottery Community Fund is the largest community funder in the UK. Each year we distribute millions of pounds of funding raised by National Lottery players to community groups and charitable projects across Northern Ireland.

Our priority is to keep money flowing to support communities across Northern Ireland.

We are here to help and want to talk to you about your ideas to support local communities. We have a range of open funding programmes and are happy to chat to you about these.

Contact us if you have an idea on 028 9055 1455 or at [enquiries.ni@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk](mailto:enquiries.ni@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk)

### National Lottery Awards for All Northern Ireland £300–£10,000

- Projects bringing local people together to make positive changes in their community.
- No deadline, so groups can apply any time.
- Applying is quick and simple.
- Applications welcome from constituted voluntary or community organisations, schools, and statutory bodies.
- If we funded you within the last two years, we may have to give priority to other groups that have not recently been funded through this programme.
- This funding is for projects that will run for 12 months or less

### People and Communities £10,000–£500,000

- Project ideas should come from the community. Talk to the people you want to help and get them

involved in shaping and planning the project.

- Your project should make good use of the skills, knowledge, resources and energy of people within your community; making it stronger and ready for the future.
- Understand the need for your project and how it fits with the work of other organisations. Build relationships and work together on shared goals.
- Applications welcome from constituted voluntary or community organisations, and social enterprises.
- This funding is for projects that will run for between 1 and 5 years.



### Empowering Young People £10,000–£500,000

- This funding is for projects that work with young people (8 – 25 years old), and which will run for between 1 and 5 years.
- Projects will help young people to: have the skills they need for the future; have better relationships with their support networks and communities; and/or have improved health and wellbeing.
- Young people must be involved in the planning and delivery of the project. They must be able to develop the skills to help themselves, and their support networks and communities need to be involved too.
- Applications welcome from constituted voluntary or community organisations, and social enterprises.

Apply here - [Funding in Northern Ireland | The National Lottery Community Fund \(tnlcommunityfund.org.uk\)](https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk)

## Community Solutions to Housing and Homelessness

The programme supports the development, testing, and delivery of new ideas and collaborations. Addressing the root causes of housing issues and homelessness, by working with a range of organisations and giving voice to individuals with lived experience across Northern Ireland.

**Expressions of interest are now open! We also have a number of online information workshops so you can find out more about the programme and ask your questions. [Sign up here.](#)**

Expected outcomes:

- New collaborations emerge amongst organisations working on housing issues and homelessness
- New solutions to specific challenges within housing

and homelessness are developed and tested, placing the insights and voices of people with lived experience at the centre

- New opportunities to influence decision making and public services relating to housing and homelessness
- Enhanced knowledge and skills in creative problem solving for participating individuals and organisations

For more information please visit [Community Solutions to Housing and Homelessness - Community Foundation Northern Ireland \(communityfoundationni.org\)](https://www.communityfoundationni.org)



## Grants for Northern Ireland

### Before you apply

- Are you a charity or waiting to be called forward by the Charity Commission (have received a password) ?
- Do you produce annual accounts (if over one year old)?
- Do you have a written set of rules?
- Do you have a bank account in the name of the group which requires at least two unrelated signatories?
- Does your project fall within the criteria?

We accept requests for up to 3 years of funding when running costs are required. Preference is given to organisations seeking funding for projects which fall within the Foundation's target areas for giving which are:

- **core running costs**
- **volunteer out of pocket expenses**
- **education and training costs**
- **venue and travel costs**
- **one-off project costs**
- **small items of equipment (if part of a wider project)**

Trustees will continue to review the Foundation's grant making policy at regular intervals.

No grants are made to individuals, nor are grants made for capital building projects or for work that clearly falls



under statutory responsibility. Please see [What We Do Not Fund](#) for a complete list of our exclusions.

The size of grant varies, but we prefer to give smaller grants to a larger number of projects. Applications may be refused where we feel that the organisation concerned is already well funded or has large reserves. If your group is not a registered charity, you may apply for funding as long as the work you do is charitable in law.

### The types of organisations / projects that we like to support

Those that are:

- trying to build and strengthen communities
- working in partnership with others
- carrying out trust building initiatives
- addressing previously unmet needs
- providing advice and support
- trying to change attitudes and broaden horizons

For more information, please visit [Grants for Northern Ireland - John Moores Foundation \(jmf.org.uk\)](#)

## BBC Children In Need

At BBC Children in Need, children and young people are at the heart of what we do. After the events of the last few years, we have developed a new charitable ambition and grantmaking strategy. This strategy focusses on our principles of:

- Sharing power with children and young people
- Acting flexibly
- Using our voice to build awareness and empathy around issues
- Building partnerships to bring communities and investors together

As part of this, we have made some significant changes to our grantmaking model:

- We will continue to offer project based funding, similarly to how we have in the past.
- We will be offering funding for core (organisational) costs as a separate grants stream.
- In spring 2023, we will launch a funding stream for smaller, emerging organisations. This stream is

aimed at organisations who may need greater support to access our funding.



**Organisations will only be able to apply for one of these streams per year.** Your organisation should choose which stream is most suitable to your work and we will provide more detailed information about them, over the coming months. We will also give more details about our funding priorities at a local and regional level.

### Funding currently open for applications are -

- **[Project Grants Funding Stream - Project Costs Funding Stream - BBC Children in Need](#)**
- **[Core Grants Funding Stream - Core \(Organisational\) Costs Funding Stream - BBC Children in Need](#)**