

Monthly Funding Information August 2018

Below is a list of current grants and funding opportunities primarily for Voluntary & Community Sector Groups and Organisations, Charities and Social Enterprises.

Where the Grant title includes an asterisk (*), Local Authorities and other partner organisations may also be eligible to apply for the funding.

This information can also be accessed via the Leicestershire Communities [website](#).

Cultural Development Fund *

Areas will be able to bid for up to £7 million for a number of projects in a certain area to help regeneration, create jobs and maximise the impact of investment. This could be for new spaces for creative businesses, bringing historic buildings back into use or redeveloping museums and art galleries. The investment is intended to help local economies grow and increase access to arts, heritage and the creative industries.

The Cultural Development Fund marks a new approach for government investment in culture and creative industries. Rather than investment going to a specific venue or art form, the funding will go to geographical locations, including cities or towns in rural areas. The fund also supports the Government's Industrial Strategy by aiming to boost productivity in towns and cities across England and use creativity as a catalyst to make places more attractive to live, work and visit.

The fund will be managed via Arts Council England's online grant management system, Grantium.

The deadline for registering on Grantium is **1 August 2018**. The subsequent deadline for submitting expressions of interest is **15 August 2018**.

Core Strength Local Communities Grants – Comic Relief

UK Community Foundations is supporting Comic Relief to deliver a £2 million investment into supporting small community led organisations across the UK. The Core Strength Local Communities Grants programme provides funding for essential core running costs for grassroots organisations that are often the first and sometimes only point of support for individuals and communities trying to make a difference in their lives. The initiative will sit under the Comic Relief programme of Building Stronger Communities – supporting groups who work to make their communities more connected, empowered and productive. Grants between £1,000 and £10,000 for up to 12 months are available to small local community organisations with an annual income of up to £100,000.

Application windows will open at different times across the UK, between August 2017 and July 2018.

Challenge Fund – Mental Health & Musculo-skeletal Conditions *

Looking for new approaches that can help people experiencing mental health and/or musculoskeletal (MSK) issues stay in work.

The Work and Health Unit (WHU), which is jointly managed by the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department of Health and Social Care, is providing a £4.2 million Challenge Fund to test new approaches that can help people experiencing mental health and/or musculoskeletal (MSK) issues stay in work.

WHU are looking to fund around twenty Initiatives which will improve their understanding of what works in one or more of the following areas:

- Helping people stay in work by increasing their ability to self-manage their conditions.
- Helping people access advice and support about what sort of work they might be capable of doing given their wider needs and circumstances.
- Developing new approaches to help employers and individuals develop workplace solutions, or ways of working that facilitate greater participation of people experiencing these conditions.
- Improving systems by joining up services to strengthen communication, liaison or joint action.

Applications must be for sums of at least £50,000.

Applications are invited from local/public authorities, the private sector (including employers and service providers) and third sector organisations.

The deadline for applications is 17 August 2018.

Domestic Abuse Fund – Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government *

Almost £19 million of funding to expand support for survivors of domestic abuse services across the country was launched on 2 July 2018 by the Secretary of State for Communities.

Councils working in partnership with charities and other organisations will be able to bid for a share of funding to support survivors of domestic abuse. This will be available for a wide range of services to help survivors rebuild their lives; including the provision of refuge beds, education, and employment and life skills training.

The deadline for applications is 17 August 2018.

Building Connections Fund

The fund aims to tackle loneliness by:

- increasing social connections, helping people form strong and meaningful relationships and creating a sense of community and belonging, and helping people feel more connected
- supporting organisations to build on their existing work, eg by reaching more people, or working in a new area or with a different method or group of people
- encouraging organisations to join up with others locally
- improve the evidence base and use learning to inform longer term policy and funding decisions.

**The Main Fund (grants of between £30,000 and £100,000) closes 24th August 2018.
The Youth Fund (grants of up to £80,000) opens August 2018.**

Main Grants Programme – BBC Children in Need

The BBC Children in Need Main Grants programme is open to charities and not-for-profit organisations applying for grants over £10,000 per year for up to three years. If you are looking for any amount up to £10,000 for one year, see [Small Grants](#).

Under the Main Grants programme, funding is available for projects addressing the needs of children and young people of 18 years and under experiencing disadvantage through:

- Illness, distress, abuse or neglect
- Any kind of disability
- Behavioural or psychological difficulties
- Living in poverty or situations of deprivation

Projects funded aim to make differences in children's lives that help prevent or overcome the effects of the disadvantages they face. Projects achieve these differences by either working directly with children or seeking to improve their social and physical environments.

The next deadline for applications is 13 September 2018.

Skills and Opportunities Fund

This fund is making grants of up to £35,000 available to not-for-profit organisations (charities, social enterprises, community groups, schools and colleges) with a project or project idea focused on providing opportunities for people to develop their financial capability skills or the skills to start or develop a new business now or in the future in our local communities.

As a general guide, the funding has been awarded to projects that offer training, support, qualifications, work placements, employment, self-employment, career guidance and enterprise opportunities. Examples include, but are not limited to, projects that have supported women with low literacy and numeracy and no work experience, the homeless, unemployed people, disadvantaged young people, women in rural areas, students about to leave school, ex-offenders and those with a history of addiction.

The Fund opens for applications on 3 September 2018 but will only be open for approx. 2 weeks.

[GSK Impact Awards](#)

The GSK IMPACT Awards provide funding, training and development for charities doing excellent work to improve people's health and wellbeing. The awards are open to registered charities that are at least three years old, working in a health-related field in the UK. Awards will range from £3,000 to £40,000 with the added value of free training valued at £6,000.

The deadline for applications is 5pm on Thursday 20 September 2018.

[Creative Civic Change – Local Trust](#)

A new programme to help make positive change in your community using the arts and creativity.

The programme will provide funding as well as other support, like advice and mentoring, to at least 10 local areas in England over the next three years. It wants to support creative projects and activities led by local communities, so you can achieve your vision for your area.

At this stage, it is inviting you to say if you want to get involved. It will then select some communities to work with from autumn 2018 onwards – together we will develop your ideas further, and decide how best the programme can help with delivering those plans from spring 2019 (and for up to three years after). In this stage, it will identify how much funding might be needed to support your ideas (between £50,000 and £300,000 in each local community).

There is more information on the programme in the [FAQ's](#), [briefing document](#) .You can also [contact us](#) with your questions and to find out how we can help with this process

Expressions of interest to be submitted by 28th September 2018.

Help the Homeless Grants

Help The Homeless makes grants to charitable organisations with the aim of helping homeless people return to the community and enabling them to resume a normal life. Grants are available to small and medium-sized charitable organisations to fund the capital costs of projects with grants of up to £5,000.

The quarterly deadlines for grant applications each year are: 15 March, 15 June, 15 September and 15 December.

Screwfix Foundation

The Screwfix Foundation raises funds to support projects that will fix, repair, maintain and improve properties and community facilities for those in need throughout the UK. They work with both national and local charities, donating much needed funds to help all sorts of projects, from repairing buildings and improving facilities in deprived areas, to decorating the homes of people living with sickness and disabilities.

The Screwfix Foundation currently offers local registered charities and not for profit organisations funding of up to £5,000.

All applications are reviewed individually on a quarterly basis – the review dates are in February, May, August and November.

Children Affected by Domestic Abuse *

Applicants must be able to provide evidence of their ability to deliver suitable interventions to support children who are or have been exposed to domestic abuse. A child is defined as anyone under the age of 18. Bids will be accepted from local commissioners, such as:

- PCCs
- Local authorities
- Health commissioners
- Or from any other suitable organisations across England and Wales.

Consortium bids incorporating larger and smaller organisations are particularly encouraged but must have a Legal lead, to enter into the Grant Agreement.

Minimum application £500,000

The deadline for applications is 19 September 2018.

Community Housing Fund – Homes England *

The funding will come in two phases: revenue grants to help community led housing groups to fund planning stages and capital for infrastructure; followed by capital grants for the construction of affordable housing.

The prospectus for the Community Housing Fund is due to be published on the [gov.uk website](http://gov.uk).

The scheme will remain open for applications until the funding is fully committed, or until 31st December 2019.

Awards for All – Big Lottery Fund

National Lottery Awards for All offers funding from £300 to £10,000 to support what matters to people and communities. You can apply if your organisation is a:

- voluntary or community organisation
- registered charity
- constituted group or club
- not-for-profit company or community interest company
- social enterprise
- school
- statutory body (including town, parish and community council).

National Lottery Awards for All has three funding priorities. Applications must meet at least one of them. The priorities are:

- bringing people together and building strong relationships in and across communities
- improving the places and spaces that matter to communities
- enabling more people to fulfil their potential by working to address issues at the earliest possible stage

This is an open programme. Applications can be made at any time.

Partnerships – BIG Lottery Fund

Through partnerships funding, BIG Lottery aim to make grants available over £10,000 for organisations who share responsibility and influence with others, who have a shared set of goals and values, and achieve their mission by starting with the bigger picture rather than just what their organisation can do on its own.

Grants are awarded for up to five years and can fund project activities, operating costs, organisational development and capital costs.

The three priorities for BIG Lottery Partnerships funding are:

- bring people together and build strong relationships in and across communities
- improve the places and spaces that matter to communities
- enable more people to fulfil their potential by working to address issues at the earliest possible stage.

Reaching Communities England – BIG Lottery Fund

The Reaching Communities programme aims to make positive change in communities. Big Lottery particularly wants to hear about ideas that support:

- Lasting and sustainable changes to places and spaces
- Communities to develop happier and stronger relationships with each other
- Taking action to focus on the root causes of social problems to tackle them at the earliest possible stage

Through Reaching Communities funding you can apply for between £10,000 and £500,000. Successful grant can fund some or all of the costs associated with delivering a project, including staff salaries, training, volunteer expenses, management costs, equipment, premises costs, monitoring and evaluation and overheads. The programme can also fund up to £100,000 for small scale capital work, such as refurbishment, the purchase of vehicles, land or buildings.

Big Lottery encourages applicants to contact them before applying for additional advice and support before you submit your application.

The programme re-opened for applications on 2 April 2018.

Community Centres & Village Halls Grants – Trusthouse Charitable Foundation

Trusthouse is interested in applications for capital projects at community centres in the most deprived urban areas and village halls in remote and economically deprived rural areas. The Foundation wants to support community centres and village halls which are at the heart of small, deprived communities. They expect that you will be providing a range of activities for all ages and abilities which help to promote community cohesion and address local problems of isolation, poverty, lack of local facilities, transport and other issues of relevance to your area. They interpret 'community centres' in the broad sense, so you might be a church, sports facility or other building which offers a range of activities throughout the week which all the community can access.

The Foundation will consider applications for new buildings; upgrading, renovating or extending buildings; improving or creating outside space (but not car parks). You will need to have secured a minimum of 50% of the costs of the project before you start an application.

Landfill Communities Fund – SUEZ Communities Trust *

SUEZ Communities Trust (formerly SITA) provides funds to not-for-profit organisations to undertake work that is eligible under the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF). Applications are considered for three areas of work which qualify for funding through the LCF.

These include:

- Public Amenities
- Historic Buildings, Structures or Sites
- Biodiversity

Projects can be supported that make physical improvements at sites located in any of 100 funding zones around qualifying sites owned by SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK. A 'Smaller Projects Fund' is available for grants up to £20,000 and a 'Primary Fund' for projects up to £50,000.

No application deadlines

Tesco Bags of Help – Tesco and Groundwork

The money raised from the 5p bag charge in Tesco stores in England, Wales and Scotland is being used to support community participation in the development and use of open spaces. Projects that will get supported will include; volunteer training, physical improvements of open spaces, equipment purchases, community events and sports and leisure activities.

In each region, the project that received the most votes from all stores in their region will receive a grant of up to £5,000. The second placed project receives up to £2,000 and third placed up to £1,000. Every year, over 7000 projects will receive funding through this scheme.

Rural Community Energy Fund

The Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF) supports rural communities in England to develop renewable energy projects which provide economic and social benefits to the community. The fund will provide up to approximately £150,000 of funding for feasibility and pre-planning development work to help projects become investment ready. RCEF provides support in two stages:

- Stage 1 provides a grant of up to approximately £20,000 to pay for an initial investigation into the feasibility of a renewable energy project.
- Stage 2 provides an unsecured loan of up to approximately £130,000 to support planning applications and develop a robust business case to attract further investment.

The fund is being delivered on behalf of the government by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP).

Applications will be reviewed on a monthly basis and there is no set deadline for bids

First Steps Enterprise Fund

The Fund offers loan-grant packages of up to £30,000 to charities and social enterprises working to improve lives in communities in England to help them grow their services and become more sustainable.

Organisations must be able to demonstrate that they address the needs of, and are of benefit to, their local community.

Preference is given to organisations that work in the following areas:

- Older people.
- Health and wellbeing.
- Employment for young people

Packages comprise 90% loan and 10% grant, with the loan element of the package charged at 5% (fixed) to be repaid over a period of four years with an optional capital holiday for the first year.

The first step in the application process is to send an email to SIB to arrange a telephone conversation. Contact: christian.stannard@sibgroup.org.uk

Nationwide Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme *

The Nationwide Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme (GBVS), announced on 15 March 2018, will provide vouchers worth up to £3000 for a small or medium sized business or £500 to residents to help with the costs of connecting to full fibre broadband. The scheme is part of a wider government plan to get more homes and businesses connected to full fibre broadband. It builds on the £200 million Local Full Fibre Networks programme which gives funding to local areas to boost full fibre delivery and on trial voucher schemes operated in four parts of the country.

Free Wi-Fi programme (WiFi4EU) – European Commission *

The European Commission is seeking to promote free Wi-Fi connectivity in public spaces such as parks, squares, public building, libraries, health centres, and museums everywhere in Europe through WiFi4EU.

The budget of the WiFi4EU scheme is EUR 120 million between 2017 and 2019. It will support the installation of “state-of-the-art Wi-Fi equipment in the centres of community life.” The WiFi4EU scheme will be disbursed in a geographically balanced manner, so that high-speed connections can benefit both residents and visitors of thousands of local communities across the EU - at least 6,000 to 8,000 local communities by 2020.

The WiFi4EU scheme will be open to public sector bodies – typically local authorities. It will fund the equipment and installation costs (internet access points), while the beneficiary will pay for the connectivity (internet subscription) and maintenance in good order of the equipment for 3 years.

Local authorities will be encouraged to develop and promote their own digital services in areas such as e-government, e-health and e-tourism through a dedicated app. Projects will be selected on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Emergency Essentials Programme – BBC Children in Need *

Family Fund Business Services are working in collaboration with BBC Children in Need to deliver the Emergency Essentials programme supporting children and young people living with severe poverty as well as additional pressures such as domestic violence, disability or poor health in the family.

The programme can deliver or fund critical items such as:

- Gas or electric cookers
- Essential household items
- Furniture and kitchen equipment
- Children’s beds and bedding
- Washing machines
- Fridges and freezers
- Baby equipment
- Clothing in exceptional or emergency situations.

Applications must be completed by a registered referrer who is part of an organisation that is supporting the family or young person and capable of assessing their needs.

Neighbourhood Planning Grants – Locality

Locality will continue to deliver the Neighbourhood Planning Support Programme over the next four years, from 2018-2022. The programme builds on the 2015-18 programme and any support previously received will be taken into account.

All groups undertaking a neighbourhood plan or neighbourhood development order are eligible to apply for up to £9,000 in basic grant. As well as applying for a basic grant, you can also apply for technical support (provided you meet the eligibility criteria) to help you with your neighbourhood plan or neighbourhood development order.

You must spend your grant funding within 12 months or by the end of the financial year, whichever is earliest.

Groups meeting the eligibility criteria are able to apply for additional grant of up to £8,000 (in addition to the basic grant). To qualify for this additional grant, you must be at least one of the following:

- Allocating sites for housing
- Including **design codes** in your plan
- A designated business neighbourhood plan
- A cluster of three or more parishes writing a single plan
- A Neighbourhood Area with a population of over 25,000

Under the new programme there are some important changes to eligibility criteria for support available to groups. In addition, the amount groups are eligible for in grants will depend on what they have received in the 2015-18 programme.

[Grant schemes for electric vehicle charging infrastructure – Office for Low Emission Vehicles](#) *

The government offers grants to support the wider use of electric and hybrid vehicles via the Office of Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV). This includes:

- The Electric Vehicle Homecharge Scheme (EVHS) provides grant funding of up to 75% towards the cost of installing electric vehicle chargepoints at domestic properties across the UK.
- The Workplace Charging Scheme (WCS) is a voucher-based scheme that provides support towards the up-front costs of the purchase and installation of electric vehicle charge-points, for eligible businesses, charities and public sector organisations.
- The On-street Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS) provides grant funding for local authorities towards the cost of installing on-street residential chargepoints for plug-in electric vehicles.

[Community Fibre Partnerships – BT](#)

£2 million of grants have been made available from BT Community Fibre Partnerships delivered by Openreach. Grants are for communities in the so called 'final 5%' of the UK not covered by fibre broadband rollout plans.

Grants of up to £30,000 toward the cost of new fibre infrastructure are available, so long as that new infrastructure serves the local Ofsted registered (or equivalent) school or learning establishment.

50% of the required funds could be available from the scheme with the community raising the additional 50%. BT has teamed up with the Crowdfunding website "[Spacehive](#)" to assist with community fundraising.

Applications can be made at any time until the £2 million has been allocated.

Rural Four: Prince's Countryside Fund

This dedicated programme of support for community projects in England, Scotland and Wales is funded by Players of People's Postcode Lottery. Now in its second year the project seeks to reach out and engage with up to 10 rural communities annually to help deliver and reinvigorate community assets and services.

Overall, the Rural Four project aims to:

- Reinvigorate community networks by assisting with rebuilding community assets;
- Improving the health and well-being of 200 socially isolated people through providing access to improved community assets and a network of support;
- Create a lasting legacy of support and community spirit in the areas supported.

The Prince's Countryside Fund, working with partners Scottish Business in the Community, Plunkett Foundation and Pub is the Hub, utilise their networks as a catalyst for community engagement. Support and guidance is provided to communities to collaborate and learn from others to build plans for projects that reinvigorate or restore vital assets. Funding is then provided to those that meet our eligibility criteria in order to support the community to create change.

Funding of up to £25,000 is available and applications are currently open.

Community Shares Booster Programme – Power to Change

The Community Shares Booster Programme is a funding scheme to support community share offers. It will invest equity up to £100,000 to match community shares in societies that can demonstrate higher than average levels of community impact, innovation and engagement. The programme will also provide development grants of up to £10,000 to help societies get investment ready and meet standards of good practice. Match funding will be in the form of equity held on equal terms with other community shareholders. Power to Change has provided £3m funding for the Booster Programme over a five-year period from 2017-22.

The programme is expected to match fund around 60 share offers in the first three years of the programme (to 2020) and then provide active investor support to societies on a continuing basis. The programme is run by the Community Shares Unit, a joint initiative between Co-operatives UK and Locality.

Community shares are defined as non-transferable, withdrawable shares in an asset locked society that has at least 20 member-shareholders and £10,000 in share capital.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.