

Monthly Funding Information December 2019

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](#) .

Please note that Leicestershire County Council has a contract with [Voluntary Action LeicesterShire](#) (VAL) to provide support to voluntary and community sector organisations in Leicestershire, including help with identifying and securing funding. If you are a VCS organisation who is seeking to apply for funding, or bid for contracts, please contact VAL's Sector Support Team for assistance, advice and guidance. The funding support you can access includes help with a funding search, checking the relevance of the fund to your funding aspirations, and a read and review of your bid. You can also sign up for further e-bulletins from VAL, including, news, information, events, funding opportunities and job vacancies. More details can be seen on the VAL [website](#) or you can request support via <https://valonline.org.uk/contact/>

Please use the links in the table below to go directly to the relevant section:

Funding for projects which support Adults (including older people, veterans and disabilities)	
Grant Fund	Closest Deadline
ESF – Community Grants Programme	15 th Dec 2019
Sport England - Toyota Parasport Fund	20 th Dec 2019
Masonic Charitable Foundation - Early Years Opportunities and Later Life Inclusion Grants	3 rd Jan 2020
UnLtd – Thrive Social Accelerator (Helping Disadvantaged into Employment)	31 st Jan 2020
Woodward Charitable Trust - Small grants	31 st Jan 2020
Funding for projects which support Young People (including young people with disabilities)	
Grant Fund	Closest Deadline
Department for Education - Condition Improvement Fund	13 th Dec 2019
Masonic Charitable Foundation - Early Years Opportunities and Later Life Inclusion Grants	3 rd Jan 2020
Woodward Charitable Trust - Small grants	31 st Jan 2020
The Y Heritage fund	28 th Feb 2020

<u>Funding for projects which support broader community outcomes</u>	
Grant Fund	Closest Deadline
<u>The National Lottery - Climate Action Fund</u>	18 th Dec 2019
<u>Road Safety Trust - Small Grants Programme *</u>	20 th Dec 2020
<u>GEM - Road Safety Grants</u>	31 st Dec 2019
<u>National Open Garden Scheme - Community Gardens Award</u>	31 st Dec 2019
<u>British Cycling - Places to Ride Programme</u>	15 th Jan 2020
<u>Melton Borough Council – Community Grants</u>	19 th Jan 2020
<u>Leicestershire County Council SHIRE Environment Grant</u>	28 th Feb 2020
<u>Heart of England Co-operative Society – Helping Hearts Awards Scheme</u>	Open
<u>Power to Change Grant Schemes</u>	Open
<u>Leicestershire & Rutland Community Foundation</u>	Open
<u>Esmee Fairbairn - Museum Collections Fund</u>	Opens later
<u>Severn Trent - Community Fund</u>	Opens 2020
<u>Support available for your organisation</u>	

Funding for projects which support Adults

[ESF Community Grants Programme](#)

Jointly funded by the SFA and the European Social Fund, the Community Grants programme gives small, voluntary and community sector organisations (with a turnover of less than £500,000) an opportunity to access funding to deliver projects that engage 'hard to reach' individuals and help them to progress into employment. Grants of between £5,000 and £20,000 are available for projects or initiatives in Leicester and Leicestershire that help people take steps towards reaching the labour market, and developing their future career potential, whilst reducing unemployment and inactivity.

Activities which are eligible for funding include:

- initial help with basic skills
- work experience, including voluntary work
- training, advice and counselling
- confidence building
- job search assistance and other help necessary to secure employment
- engagement activities

Priority will be given to applications that demonstrate an ability to target participants who are:

- Over 50
- With Learning Difficulties and Disabilities
- From Ethnic Minority Backgrounds
- Women
- Unemployed for over 6 months
- Furthest removed from the labour market with significant barriers to employment

The East Midlands programme is being administered by [Futures](#).

To find out more about the Grant programme and to receive support with your application, contact:

Ashley Wilkinson (Community Grants Coordinator – East Midlands)
Email: ashley.wilkinson@futuresforbusiness.com
Tel: 07483 120941

There are 2 more application Rounds in 2019-20:

Round 2: 15th November 2019 to 15th December 2019

Round 3: 15th June to 15th July 2020

Sport England - Toyota Parasport Fund

Grants are available to support the purchase of specialist equipment to help get more disabled people involved in sport and physical activity in England.

The new Toyota Parasport Fund has been established by a partnership including Sport England, Toyota and the British Paralympic Association

Launched in March 2019, 'Parasport Powered by Toyota' is an initiative developed by Paralympics GB in response to rising levels of inactivity within the disabled community. The online hub seeks to make it easier for disabled people to get active by addressing the physical, logistical and psychological barriers which lead to inactivity and showcase the range of local opportunities available.

The Toyota Parasport Fund is part of the Parasport campaign. It aims to support the shared goals of Toyota, Paralympics GB and Sport England to improve the quality and quantity of sport and activities available to people with impairments.

This is the first in a series of funding rounds focusing on different areas that impact the quality of experience. This round offers grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 to purchase equipment that is used to get more disabled people taking part in sport or activity.

Applications will be accepted from activity providers that are registered on Parasport Powered by Toyota. This includes voluntary and community clubs and organisations, registered charities, not-for-profit companies, community interest companies, social enterprises, schools and statutory bodies.

Applicants should not wait until the last minute to apply for this funding as Sport England 'may close the application window early if demand for funding is significantly above the funding that is available'.

The deadline for applications is 20 December 2019 (5pm).

Masonic Charitable Foundation - Early Years Opportunities and Later Life Inclusion Grants

Current target areas for the Masonic Charitable Foundation's grant-making programmes include:

Creating the best start in life for disadvantaged children and young people

Grants can be offered to charities that support disadvantaged and vulnerable children and young people up to the age of 25 years.

Grants can be offered to charities that provide:

- Mental and physical health support
- Learning and development, including language and communication skills, social and emotional etc.
- Parental Support, including whole family approach
- Pastoral and advocacy support

Reducing isolation in later life

Grants can be offered to charities that support disadvantaged and vulnerable older people over 50 years.

Grants can be offered to charities that provide:

- Mental and physical health support
- Gateway and access to service, e.g. transport and technology
- Community based approaches, i.e. volunteering, positive ageing and neighbourhood support
- Advocacy, social and welfare support

Charities with incomes of under £500,000 can apply for a grant of between £500 and £15,000 over 1-3 years.

Charities with incomes of over £500,000 can seek a large grant for up to 3 years. Grants are between £10,000 and £80,000, however the average grant ranges from £20,000 to £60,000. Large grants must be used to fund a specific project.

The next deadline for small grant applications is 3rd January 2020 and for large grant applications 17th February 2020.

[UnLtd – Thrive Social Accelerator \(Helping Disadvantaged into Employment\)](#)

Provided by UnLtd, the new Access to Employment Accelerator focuses on improving the employment opportunities of those individuals who are most distant from the labour market. The scheme supports legally incorporated social businesses that are working to boost employment access for those who encounter significant barriers to work, including disabled people, ex-offenders and the homeless.

The programme offers six months' intensive support from a dedicated Venture Manager and the opportunity to secure investment of up to £50,000 in repayable capital funding (loan or equity). Business solutions that offer the most innovative ideas to improve access to employment can be funded. This includes training and support into employment or direct employment opportunities.

UnLtd has a particular focus on three key areas:

- Ventures supporting disabled people into employment.
- Ventures improving access to employment in the East End of London.
- Ventures creating access to employment across the UK.

Legally incorporated, UK based social-purpose businesses may be eligible to apply. They must be committed to delivering a social impact, with a trading record of at least two years. The business must have at least one member of staff working full time.

The deadline for applications to be submitted is 31 January 2020.

[Woodward Charitable Trust - Small grants](#)

The Woodward Charitable Trust will provide funding for core costs only, rather than for specific projects. Smaller not for profit organisations (with an annual turnover of less than £300,000) can benefit from one-year grants of up to £3,000, for work that will achieve a positive impact in at least one of the following areas:

- Arts outreach work by local groups involving disadvantaged people.
- Children and young people who are isolated, at risk of exclusion or involved in anti-social behaviour.
- Disability projects, which can include rehabilitation and training for people who are either physically or learning disabled as well as charities supporting mental health issues.
- Disadvantaged women and their children, covering refuges and domestic violence shelters and groups.
- Disadvantaged families including parenting support.
- Prisoners and ex-offenders - specifically projects that help the rehabilitation and resettlement of prisoners and/or ex-offenders and help for prisoners' families.
- Projects that promote integration and community cohesion particularly among minority groups, refugees and traveller communities.

The Trust favours small-scale, locally based initiatives and is especially interested in those that make good use of volunteers and encourage past and current users to participate.

The next deadline for applications is 31st January 2020.

Funding for projects which support Young People

[Department for Education - Condition Improvement Fund](#)

Applications are now being accepted from academies and sixth form colleges across England. This annual fund provides capital funding for academies, sixth-form colleges and non-diocesan voluntary aided (VA) schools in England to transform facilities, improve school buildings and create more good school places. The funding can help expand classrooms, upgrade facilities such as sports halls or science labs, and address issues with the general wear and tear of school buildings.

For unsuccessful bids, applicants will still have the option of applying for Urgent Capital Support to ensure their buildings are safe for pupils and staff.

An initial proposal can be submitted for works expected to cost more than £20,000 (for primary and special schools) and £50,000 (for Secondary, all-through and sixth form colleges) for initial approval prior to further development and final approval at a later stage. The maximum project cost for all schools is £4 million.

In addition to grants, two types of loans are available to applicants for all or part of the project costs:

- Energy Efficiency Salix Loans
- CIF Loans

Loans are offered at Public Works Loan Board rates of interest, the same rate that local authorities can access to invest in their schools.

The deadline for all applications is 13 December 2019.

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The next deadline for applications is 31st January 2020.

[The Y Heritage Fund](#)

The Y has been awarded £707,500 through the Heritage Lottery Fund's pioneering "Kick the Dust" funding programme. "Y Heritage" is a collaboration between The Y, local universities and local authorities, and a range of heritage, cultural and creative organisations from across Leicester and Leicestershire.

Y Heritage will run a series of "Dragons Den" style pitches over three years where Leicester/Leicestershire based organisations can apply for funding of up to £30,000 from a panel of young people. The young people all engage in some way with The Y. The applicants must build opportunities for work or training into their project funding application. The aim is that young people and the heritage projects develop and thrive together.

The definition of Heritage is wide-ranging and includes many things from the past that should be preserved for future generations. This does not mean it is solely historic sites or buildings.

Y Heritage will work to two commissioning and training cycles a year over a three-year period; one which takes place between September and December; and another which takes places between February and May.

The deadline for the next commissioning round is Friday 28th February 2020.

Funding for projects which support broader community outcomes

[The National Lottery - Climate Action Fund](#)

The Climate Action Fund will support communities across the UK to take action on climate change. These communities will demonstrate what is possible when people take the lead in tackling climate change. With National Lottery funding, they will work together, share their learning and be active participants in a broader movement of change.

In this initial round, the fund will support up to 15 place-based community-led partnerships to make the changes in their community they believe will have the biggest impact on climate change.

Funding expectations:

- The amount of funding available per application will depend on what each partnership needs at this stage:
- Applicants who need more time to develop their partnership, engage widely or test their approaches can access initial development funding (up to £200,000 over 18 months)
- Applicants who might be able to start longer-term plans at an earlier stage can access larger, longer-term awards (up to £2.5m over five years)

The funding is for activities that have the potential to make a meaningful and lasting difference on the carbon footprint of communities. This includes action on sustainable energy, sustainable transport, consumption (food and waste), and the natural environment.

The funding can be used for:

- Staff salaries
- Project activities
- Engagement activities
- Learning and evaluation
- Running costs
- Equipment
- Organisational development
- Some capital costs.

Further funding rounds will be available at a later stage.

Initial ideas must be submitted by 5pm Wednesday 18th December 2019.

Full proposals must be submitted by midday Friday 27th March 2020.

[Road Safety Trust - Small Grants Programme](#) *

The main aim of the Small Grants Programme is to improve road safety at a local level.

The Road Safety Trust are looking for measurable interventions that link to local priorities and show a proposed link to reducing casualties either directly or through clear interim measures. Eligible projects are pilots/trials, expanding successful trials across a new area, and/or the evaluation of interventions. Projects should have the potential for being brought to scale - with the ultimate goal of reducing deaths and injuries both locally and across the UK.

The maximum project length under this grant programme is 24 months. The minimum amount that can be applied for is £10,000 and the maximum is £30,000 over two years in total. All projects should have other sources of funding, either cash or in-kind.

The total amount currently available under this funding round is £120,000.

Local Authorities, Police Forces, Fire and Rescue Services or UK-based registered charities, not-for-profit social enterprises or community interest companies can apply.

The deadline for applications is 20 December 2019.

[GEM - Road Safety Grants](#)

GEM Road Safety Charity is inviting applications for grants of up to £10,000 for road safety projects. Since it was established in 1985, the Charity has funded many projects which have aimed to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on the UK's roads.

The GEM Road Safety Charity exists to contribute to improving the safety of all road users throughout the country by making grants and providing financial assistance to support innovative projects that have regional or national significance. It welcomes applications from registered charities, road safety organisations, universities and groups with a clearly defined and well-planned project. This can include anything from educational initiatives through to research.

Deadline for applications Tuesday 31st December 2019

National Open Garden Scheme - Community Gardens Award

National Garden Scheme Community Gardens Award provides funding to amateur gardeners from community groups in England and Wales to create a garden or similar project (such as an allotment) with horticultural focus for the benefit of their local community. The scheme is not open to schools. Projects should aim to bring a community together by being a space people can share, by the acquisition and sharing of gardening knowledge and skills and by inspiring a love of gardening.

All applications are considered on their individual merits. No fixed amount is set but awards do not usually exceed £5,000. Funding could cover, for example, site preparation (including hire of small mechanical tools such as rotavators), hand tools, plants, trees, shrubs, containers and seating.

Decisions are notified in March 2020

Deadline for applications Tuesday 31st December 2019

British Cycling - Places to Ride Programme

The Places to Ride programme will fund the development of new or the improvement of existing cycling facilities in communities across England. The programme has been made possible through a new £15million commitment from Government and will be delivered over the next three years through a partnership of British Cycling, Sport England and the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS).

The aims of the programme are as follows:

- Encourage more people from a range of different backgrounds regardless of gender, age, ability or ethnicity to engage with cycling in all its forms. We want to provide more opportunities for people to enjoy riding in an accessible and inclusive environment; focusing especially on provision that responds to the needs of women and girls and people with a disability.
- Invest in opportunities that connect local communities and address barriers to engaging with cycling. Recognise the wider benefits of riding a bike to enable societal benefits such as community cohesion, reducing social isolation and promoting health and well-being through prevention.
- Ensure the delivery of a lasting legacy of active environments that provide high quality and affordable opportunities to engage with cycling now, that will continue to be deliverable in the future.

Grants which are available:

- Large Grants (£50K - £500K) typically for new facilities or significant improvements to existing venues
- Small grant (£1k - £50K) for equipment, cycle storage, small-scale facilities or venue improvements
- Equipment packages for equipment to activate your local space. It will cover 80% of the cost of the package. The costs vary according to the package required. Packs include equipment like start /finish signs, banners and other items needed to run events

Applications can be made at any time and the closing date is 15th January 2021.

Melton Borough Council – Community Grants

Community Grants can provide funding to deliver projects and services within the Melton Borough which demonstrate community benefit. Applications to deliver specific projects are encouraged and therefore organisations may submit more than one application per year if they organise more than one qualifying project.

Projects should help deliver the Council's priorities.

The Council's current People Priorities are:

- Helping people fulfil their potential and achieve their ambitions;
- Working with our partners to address vulnerability and tackle the root causes of social problems;
- Building safe, happy and healthy communities;
- Focussing on our priority neighbourhoods, supporting people to overcome disadvantage and live well independently.

Key Criteria:

- The organisation or project must be Melton based or carry out activities which benefit the Melton Borough.
- The organisation to which the application relates should be inclusive. However, exemptions can be applied for specific projects or services which cater for under-represented groups or those with protected characteristics.
- The purpose to which the grant is to be applied must not relate to promoting religious belief or party-political activities. However:
 - 1) Religious Organisations and Festival Projects provided by religious organisations will be considered for funding if they are providing a relevant service to the community. Religious festivals that demonstrate cultural diversity and are open to other communities in order to bring a 'shared experience' will also be eligible for funding. Requests for funding to promote religious beliefs will not be granted.
 - 2) Project Requests from political organisations or those which are of a purely social nature fall outside the scope of Community Grants.

Applications must be submitted by constituted community and voluntary groups for activities not conducted for profit.

The grant fund totals £42,000. Applicants can apply for any amount up to the maximum of £42,000.

For projects seeking funding of under £1,000 there is a separate process for applying.

Please contact the Community Grant Team with your enquiries by email: communitygrants@melton.gov.uk

Deadline for applications 19th January 2020

[Leicestershire County Council SHIRE Environment Grant](#)

Leicestershire County Council has recently launched its new SHIRE Environment Grant. This programme has been established to support the delivery of community-based projects which are focused on waste prevention and reuse, reducing carbon emissions and improving biodiversity.

This new scheme will be replacing the current SHIRE Recycling Grant and SHIRE Climate Change Grant, which are now in their final rounds of funding.

Grants of up to £3,000 will be available through the new scheme, with applications for the first round closing on Friday 28th February 2020. Grants will be available for any of the following organisations:

- constituted village/community groups
- community enterprises
- registered charities
- town/parish councils
- community managed libraries
- schools and colleges
- places of worship

Projects could include ideas such as repair cafes, reuse libraries, community gardens and improving energy efficiency of community buildings.

Deadline for applications is 28th February 2020

[Heart of England Co-operative Society – Helping Hearts Awards Scheme](#)

The Helping Hearts Awards scheme helps charities and groups in the regions of Coventry, Warwickshire, South Leicestershire and Northamptonshire.

In Leicestershire, the scheme is focussed on Earl Shilton, Barwell, Sapcote, Stoney Stanton and Hinckley.

Community based groups and organisations, including schools, can apply for grants of up to £1,000.

This year the Society is pledging more than £1million to benefit the local community.

Applications can be found in stores across the region or contact: Jo Dyke, Community and Membership Adviser on 02476 382331, or email jo.dyke@heartofengland-coop.co.uk

No deadline advertised

Power to Change Grant Schemes

The following grant schemes are open and available to organisations across England:

More than a Pub – offers business development support, advice, and Loan and Grant funding to community groups in England to help them established a community-owned pub.

More than a Pub aims to increase the number of community-owned pubs open and trading and also to grow the range of services they offer to help the wider community. Services provided by community pubs could include a shop, post office, library, internet café, cash point, police surgeries, lunch clubs for the elderly, prescription services and informal meeting spaces for a range of community activities such as sports teams, choirs, live music and walking groups.

Groups can apply for:

- Expert support in areas such as Business Planning, Community Shares, Legal Structures, Social Impact and Finance
- Opportunities to attend events, workshops, peer-to-peer study visits
- Bursary Grants of up to £2,500 for feasibility costs
- A combined Loan and Grant Package of up to £100,000 towards capital costs.

Community Shares Booster Programme – this programme is designed to help communities to invest in businesses that serve a community purpose. Funding is provided to community businesses run by local people for local people and can be used to save local shops and pubs, transform community facilities, support local food growing, fund new sports clubs and restore heritage buildings

Groups can apply for:

- Equity investments of up to £100,000 to match what societies can raise through community shares. Match funding will be in the form of equity held on equal terms with other community shareholders.
- Development grants of up to £10,000 to help societies get investment ready and meet standards of good practice.

Community Business Crowdfundmatch – up to £6,000 is available to help start or grow community businesses. Power to Change will match fund up to 50% if your target (max £6,000) as long as you raise the rest through crowdfunding.

The funding can support a range of costs including; getting the right legal structure for your community business, putting together your business plan, doing market research, covering costs of a feasibility study for a building or land, or running local activities to test your business idea. The fund will also help you prepare a community share offer.

No deadlines are advertised

[Leicestershire & Rutland Community Foundation](#)

The Leicestershire & Rutland Community Foundation is a charity which helps local individuals and companies to give money, in a tax efficient way, directly to local needs. It does this by helping set up new local family and company charitable funds and then supports those donors to give grants to local charitable groups of their choice through the [Donor Matching Scheme](#).

The Community Foundation also administers local and national grant schemes on behalf of those organisations. These vary throughout the year, please check the [website](#).

[Esmee Fairbairn - Museum Collections Fund](#)

More than £3.75 million of funding is available over the next three years towards core collections work and time-limited projects in UK museums that bring collections closer to people.

The Esmee Fairbairn Collections Fund, which is provided by the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation and administered by the Museums Association (MA), has been offering grants to museums since 2011 to fund projects that demonstrate the significance, distinctiveness and power of collections to people.

In this new phase, which was launched at the MA's recent conference in Brighton, a total of £1.25 million per year will be awarded over the next three years. Reflecting changes to the museum sector and the findings of the MA's 'Empowering Collections' report, the Fund will now be split into two tiers, with support for core collections work in museums being offered for the first time.

Around 12 grants of up to £250,000 will be available to museums and their partnerships for five-year projects that contribute to an organisation's strategic direction and which leave a long-term legacy. Smaller grants will be offered for time-limited projects of two to three years that are ambitious, innovative or test new ways of working.

Applications will be assessed on the following criteria:

- The potential of the collection to inspire and interest audiences, and the coherence of the plans to enhance its understanding and use.
- The approach to engage and involve local communities, communities of interest, or other audiences in the collection, and the sense of how this will enhance the lives of those taking part.
- The beneficial impact on the organisation and individuals within it, and, where appropriate, how the project benefits partner museums, the wider museum sector, or partners from other sectors.
- The project's feasibility and value for money.
- The longer-term legacy of the work and the strength of the plans to make it sustainable.

There is a two-stage application process. Initial application forms are available to download from the [Museum Association's website](#) and should be submitted by email to the Museums Association.

The Fund is due to open for applications later this year.

Severn Trent - Community Fund

Severn Trent Community Fund is a programme that aims to support community wellbeing as well as protect and sustain water and natural resources, within the Severn Trent area. The programme will distribute grants of £2,000 - £250,000 for local initiatives that meet the following aims:

- People - Projects that facilitate healthier lifestyles and skills development
- Place - Projects that help create better places to live in and use
- Environment - Projects that facilitate a healthier natural environment, greater access to that environment or support the preservation of water

Since they are a water company, they also encourage projects to have a connection to the water cycle in some way. This might mean creating sustainable drainage, installing grey water recycling, creating more water efficient green places (parks, allotments) or encouraging hydration for health. Not for profit organisations can apply for a grant for:

- Funding for new projects and their associated costs that meet the aims of the fund (unfortunately retrospective funding or general running costs are not eligible)
- Projects need to be sustainable with a long-term impact.

There are 3 sizes of grant that can be applied for:

- £2,000- £10,000
- £10,001 – £75,000
- £75,001 - £250,000

Organisations applying for more than £10,000 must be registered and supply a charity/company number

You can register your interest on the Severn Trent Community Fund [website](#).

Applications will be open from early January 2020

Support available for your organisations

Social Investment

Social investment is a financial enablement tool which enables organisations to focus on organisational development and long-term sustainability. It can be used for buildings, infrastructure, IT, equipment, cashflow, enabling and retaining contracts and trading activities, kicking start new services/ projects or strategic positioning. Grant funding alone is not a viable source of sustainable business funding! A good place to start to find out more about social investment is the Good Finance [website](#)

Don't be put off by the fear of having to repay a loan when you first start exploring social enterprise and investment. Going on the investment readiness and social investment journey is beneficial in that it will help you to think about the direction your organisation will take and where income will be generated. It will therefore help you to develop a business mind-set. The journey is just as important as the end goal.

You are not obliged to take out a loan when developing social enterprise business models, but it is likely that you will need it if you are successful!

If you are interested in accessing support to develop and grow through enterprise and investment, you can contact:

[VAL Sector Support Helpline](#)

0116 2575050

helpline@valonline.org.uk

[CASE](#)

0116 222 5010

enquiries@case.coop