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. 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.

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

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Funding for projects which support broader community outcomes

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Funding for projects which support Adults

**SHIRE Community Grant**

Eligible organisations, including charities, community groups, social enterprises and Town/Parish Councils, can access grants of up to £10,000 and/or smaller grants of up to £3,000 for community-based projects and activities that are specifically focused on supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged people and communities.

Leicestershire County Council are particularly interested in funding new and innovative projects that will:

- improve the lives, health and wellbeing of vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals and communities in Leicestershire
- provide early intervention and prevention-based solutions which help to reduce demand on Council and other public services
- complement existing services already being delivered

**There are four deadlines for applications for 2019-20:**

- Monday 13th May
- Monday 8th July
- Monday 9th September
- Monday 11th November
**Futures – Community Grants**

**Grants Available for East Midlands Community Organisations to Support Unemployed People**

Jointly funded by the SFA and the European Social Fund, Community Grants give small voluntary and community organisations with a turnover of less than £300,000 an opportunity to access funds to deliver projects that help engage and progress ‘hard to reach’ individuals towards the labour market. The grants will support participants’ progression so that they are confident in their ability to move into employment.

Grants of between £5,000 and £20,000 are available for projects or initiatives that help people take steps towards a future career and reduce unemployment and inactivity, including:

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

Priority will be given to applications that demonstrate an ability to meet the LEP Priorities and target participants who are:

- Over 50 (learners must be over 16)
- With Learning Difficulties and Disabilities
- From Ethnic Minority Backgrounds
- Are women
- Unemployed for over 6 months
- Furthest removed from the labour market with significant barriers to employment

There will be three application rounds in 2019/20:

**Round 1**
15th April 2019 – 17th May 2019

**Round 2**
15th Nov 2019 – 15th Dec 2019

**Round 3**
15th June 2020 – 15th July 2020
Veterans Foundation Fund

The Veterans Foundation was created to establish a new and nationwide source of funding to help charities and other organisations that support serving and former members of the British Armed Forces, and sometimes their dependents, who are in need.

You can apply for grants of any sum up to a maximum of £30K. Trustees will also consider a bid for a spread grant, i.e. £30K as £10K for each of the next three years.

All registered charities and other organisations that support the armed forces community (veterans, serving service people and immediate dependants), including Merchant Navy veterans who have served on operations, may apply.

The broad range of charities and organisations supported by the Veterans’ Foundation is extensive and covers every aspect of social care including: homelessness, employability, poverty, disability, welfare issues, mental health, marriage guidance, care during old age, confidence building as well as reducing dependence on alcohol and drugs

Please note that the trustees are likely to award more small grants than large grants.

The Grants Committee usually sits four times a year in July, October, January and April.

Masonic Charitable Foundation

The Masonic Charitable Foundation now offers small charities multi-year funding for running costs and other core funding expenses. The grants are an extension of MCF’s current programme for non-ring-fenced grants for small charities, which are one-offs of £5,000 toward general charitable purposes.

The new grants are a maximum of £5,000 per year over three years and are available to charities with an income of £500,000 a year or less.

There are also Small (£500 to £15,000) and Large Grants (£10,000 to £150,000) to support work in the following areas:

- Early Years - supporting children and young people from vulnerable families
- Later Life – reducing loneliness amongst older people

It also supports:

- Hospice Care - for core costs (opens in May) and bereavement support services – grants up to £20,000 for an 18 month period.
- Medical research - working with selected partners to fund PhD studies into degenerative diseases (invited applicants only).

No deadline advertised
Funding for projects which support Young People

**SHIRE Community Grant**

Eligible organisations, including charities, community groups, social enterprises and Town/Parish Councils, can access grants of up to £10,000 and/or smaller grants of up to £3,000 for community-based projects and activities that are specifically focused on supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged people and communities.

Leicestershire County Council are particularly interested in funding new and innovative projects that will:

- improve the lives, health and wellbeing of vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals and communities in Leicestershire
- provide early intervention and prevention based solutions which help to reduce demand on Council and other public services
- complement existing services already being delivered

**There are four deadlines for applications for 2019-20:**
Monday 13th May
Monday 8th July
Monday 9th September
Monday 11th November

**Hilden Charitable Fund Summer Play Schemes Grant**

Disadvantaged communities around the UK can benefit from small grants to help run short-term activities for local young people. The Fund allocates a small budget each year to help community groups run summer play schemes for the benefit of disadvantaged children aged five to 18 years in the UK.

Applications are invited from voluntary agencies in the UK with an income of less than £150,000.

Grants of between £500 and £1,500 are available to support the following:

- Summer play schemes for children aged five to 18 years
- Local schemes lasting for two to six weeks
- Schemes with strong volunteer support

Some priority will be given to projects that show they are inclusive of children from refugee families and show involvement of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups.
The funding is intended to be used to help with the costs related to the provision of the play schemes. Please note, however, the Trustees will not support play schemes with a budget over £12,000; club or family holidays; day care costs, or agencies with an income exceeding £150,000.

**The deadline for applications is 4 June 2019.**

**Henry Smith Charity – Holiday Grants for Disadvantaged Children**

For groups that are seeking funding to provide recreational trips or holidays for children up to the age of 13 years who experience disadvantage or disability and live in an area of high deprivation.

Schools, youth groups, not for profit organisations and charities in the UK can apply for a one-off grant of between £500 and £2,500 to support a day trip or a longer residential of up to a week for groups of children aged 13 years or younger. The trip could be to a countryside or city location but must be outside of the children’s **immediate locality**. Examples include camping, trips to adventure activity centres or the seaside.

Priority will be given to the 20% most deprived areas in the UK. This means areas that fall within the bottom 20% according to the National Indices of Deprivation. There are four rounds of applications each year. Groups must apply at least six weeks before the trip or holiday is due to take place.

**Applications will be accepted between 1 May and 2 July 2019 for holidays taken between 1 July and 31 August 2019.**

**Applications will be accepted between 3 July and 16 November 2019 for holidays taken between 1 September and 31 December 2019.**
Wallace and Gromit Children’s Charity - Funding to Transform Lives of Children in Hospices and Hospitals

Local and regional children’s hospitals and hospices can apply now for a grant to support projects that enrich and improve the quality of life of sick children in hospitals or hospices in the UK.

In the last 16 years, this charity has given more than £2 million in grants to 312 projects in 100 different hospitals and hospices. The funding has provided life-saving medical equipment, free family accommodation, a range of arts, music and play therapy programmes, sensory equipment and facilities and respite care.

Registered charities with charitable projects which enrich and improve the quality of life of sick children in hospitals or hospices in any area in the UK can apply. Preference is given to projects conceived by and in children's hospitals and hospices.

Any project which seeks to improve the quality of life of sick children will be considered, for example:

- Arts, music, play and leisure programmes.
- Facilities to support families of children treated in hospitals or hospices.
- Care and facilities in hospices.
- Promoting education and information programmes.
- Supporting children with physical and emotional difficulties.
- Medical equipment (when it can be shown that funding is not available from statutory sources).

Preference will be given to children’s hospitals and hospices in regional centres around the UK which:

- Provide a regional geographic healthcare service to a wide range of children in a hospital/hospice.
- Will not discriminate on the grounds of wealth, race, sexuality, religion or disability.
- Agree to promote the work of the Charity in their area.

Funding is at the discretion of the Trustees.

Please note that the Charity has a long-standing relationship with a number of organisations to whom they are sympathetic and to whom priority consideration may be given.

The deadline for applications is 18 October 2019.
Dept. For Education - Strengthening Families Protecting Children Fund *

Local Authorities in England are invited to apply for an £84m fund to reduce the number of children entering care. The Department for Education (DfE) is seeking applications from local authorities in England to a new programme which will invest £84 million over 5 years to support up to 20 local authorities to improve work with families and safely reduce the number of children entering care.

The Strengthening Families, Protecting Children (SFPC) programme will support selected local authorities to adapt and adopt one of 3 children’s social care innovation programme projects in their own area.

These projects aim to improve the safety and stability of vulnerable children and to reduce the need for families to access services. They will do this by:

- strengthening local practice systems
- developing services that build resilience in families
- facilitating a confident social work ethos that manages risk safely within the home.

Local authorities who join the programme will be fully supported to help implement their chosen model in their areas. They will receive funding and on-the-ground support to do this from the local authorities who designed the projects (Leeds, Hertfordshire or North Yorkshire).

DfE are looking for up to 20 local authorities with high or rising numbers of looked after children to take part in the programme.

Local authorities are eligible to join the programme if they have:

- an Ofsted rating of ‘requires improvement to be good’
- high rates of looked after children compared to their local authority statistical neighbour median over for the last 3 years, and/or rising rates of looked after children in each of the last 3 years

DfE will select local authorities to join the programme based on their need, suitability and commitment to make a whole-system change such as this. These criteria will be assessed over the summer, with local authorities announced from September.

DfE will contact local authorities that are eligible to join the programme with further information and detail on how they can register their interest to get involved.

For more information about the strengthening families, protecting children programme, email strengthening.families@education.gov.uk.
**Masonic Charitable Foundation**

The Masonic Charitable Foundation now offers small charities multi-year funding for running costs and other core funding expenses. The grants are an extension of MCF’s current programme for non-ring-fenced grants for small charities, which are one-offs of £5,000 toward general charitable purposes. The new grants are a maximum of £5,000 per year over three years and are available to charities with an income of £500,000 a year or less.

There are also Small (£500 to £15,000) and Large Grants (£10,000 to £150,000) to support work in the following areas:

- Early Years - supporting children and young people from vulnerable families
- Later Life – reducing loneliness amongst older people

It also supports:

- Hospice Care - for core costs (opens in May) and bereavement support services - grants up to £20,000 for an 18 month period.
- Medical research - working with selected partners to fund PhD studies into degenerative diseases (invited applicants only).

**No deadline advertised**

**Funding for projects which support broader community outcomes**

**The Rank Foundation - Pebble Grants**

This is a funding stream for UK registered charities and recognised churches which are raising money for projects where the total cost is less than £1 million. If you are raising money for a particular project for which the mainstay is capital costs (building work, refurbishment or the purchase of long-term equipment) or a one-off short-term activity (such as an annual respite break or holiday for disadvantaged young people) and have already raised a third of the total costs, you may be eligible for this.

- Applicants annual income should be under £500,000
- Facilities need to be open to the wider community
- Grants are usually for £1000

The Rank Foundation are currently accepting applications for the May 2019 trustees’ meeting.
**Ofcom’s Community Radio Fund**

Managed by Ofcom with funding from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, this fund offers two funding rounds in 2019 to radio stations that are not-for-profit, run by local people for local people about local issues.

Each funding round has around £200,000 available for grants. There is no set level of funding. Grants can range from about £2,000 to around £19,000 with an average grant of about £14,000. Grants will be made as a single lump sum and are to cover a one-year period only.

The funding is intended for community radio licensees broadcasting under a community radio licence in the UK to cover costs including:

- Fundraising to support the station.
- Management.
- Administration.
- Financial management and reporting.
- Community outreach.
- Volunteer organisation and support.

Priority will be given to licensees that have not been awarded a grant in previous funding rounds and to newly-licensed stations.

The funding is intended to help further a station’s financial stability and future sustainability. Therefore proposals to promote long-term financial security and posts which could become self-sustaining are viewed more favourably than applications for other support roles.

This is a very competitive grants programme with many more requests for funding than can be awarded.

**The deadline for Round 1 applications is 7 May 2019.**
National Churches Trust - Cornerstone, Gateway & Foundation Grants

The National Churches Trust is operating a number of grant programmes:

- **Cornerstone grants.** The Cornerstone Grant Programme offers grants of between £10,000 and £50,000 towards the cost of urgent structural repair projects costed at more than £100,000 including VAT. The Trust will also consider projects that introduce kitchens and accessible toilets to enable increased community use, costed at more than £30,000 including VAT. Grants will never exceed 50% of the project cost.
  
  **The next deadline for applications is 1st July 2019.**

- **Gateway grants.** The Gateway Grant Programme offers grants of between £3,000 and £10,000 towards project development and investigative work up to RIBA planning stage 1, to support churches preparing for a major project, and in developing their project to the point at which they can approach a major grant funder. Grants will never exceed 50% of the project costs for this phase.
  
  **The first deadline for applications will be 9th May 2019.**

- **Foundation grants.** The Foundation Grant Programme will offer grants of between £500 and £3,000 towards urgent maintenance works and small repairs identified as high priority within a recent Quinquennial Inspection or Survey Report. Also, small investigative works and surveys. Project costs should not exceed £10,000.
  
  **The first deadline for applications will be 12th May 2019.**

Tree Council’s 2019 Tree Futures Grant Scheme

Schools and community groups can apply for small grants towards the costs of well-planned, educational, tree and hedge planting projects in the UK during National Tree Week.

National Tree Week is the UK’s largest annual tree planting campaign and aims to raise public awareness of trees and to encourage tree planting and good management. The festival is organised by the Tree Council, one of the UK’s leading charities for trees, and takes place at the start of the tree planting season. In 2019 it will be held on 23 November to 1 December.

As part of this celebration, the Tree Council’s new Tree Futures Grant Scheme offers funding for projects planned in conjunction with the event that will educate and encourage young people under the age of 16 to work towards a greener future. The scheme replaces and combines the Tree Council’s three previous funding schemes (Trees for Schools, Community Trees and Orchard Windfalls).
Grants of between £300 and £1,000 are available towards the cost of purchasing trees, hedges and orchard trees and for equipment to help support or aid growth, such as stakes, ties and fertiliser.

Applications are accepted from schools or community groups in the UK whose proposed planting sites are on public/trust or charity-owned/leased land. Planting must start during National Tree Week or as near as possible afterwards, depending on when trees are available from the suppliers (seasonal variations affect this date).

The deadline for applications is 17 May 2019 (5pm).

**Ecclesiastical - Movement for Good Awards**

Ecclesiastical Insurance has designed this new awards programme for charities registered in the UK and Republic of Ireland. It is open to a range of charities, from small volunteer-run groups to larger, well-known organisations.

The £1 million giving programme has been divided into two categories with:
- 500 charitable donations of £1,000.
- 10 grants of £50,000 each.

To be eligible, applicants must:
- Be registered with one of the following:
  - the Charity Commission for England and Wales
  - the Charity Commission in Northern Ireland
  - the Charities Regulator for the Republic of Ireland
  - the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.
- Not be red flagged by the relevant charity commission (or other regulator).
- Not discriminate unlawfully in any way.
- Not support any specific political party or affiliated group.

Charities applying for a smaller award must have been in existence for at least six months.

Charities applying for the larger award must:
- Have been registered as a charity with the relevant charity commission or regulator on or before 1 July 2017.
- Have an income of less than £5 million in 2018 and a predicted income of less than £5 million in 2019.
Grants must be used:

- To cover a specific project (rather than funding general ongoing running costs).
- To take an existing successful project or initiative to a new level or bring a creative and challenging new idea to fruition.
- For one or more of the following charitable objects:
  - The advancement of education and skills;
  - The advancement of citizenship or community development; and/or
  - The advancement of arts, culture or heritage.

Entries for a £1,000 grant will be accepted from 23 April to 17 May 2019 (23:59). Entries for a £50,000 grant will be accepted from 17 June to 26 July 2019 (23:59).

**Power to Change - Community Business Fund**

This programme is for existing community business based in England. The fund is designed to support existing community businesses with grants to help them progress towards self-sufficiency. This could be through increasing trading income, securing an asset or significantly reducing revenue costs.

Grants of £50,000 – £300,000 are available to cover:

- Capital costs including building, vehicles, equipment of significant value, refurbishment costs.
- Project-specific revenue costs like staff costs, professional fees, volunteer costs

**The fund closes 22nd May 2019.**

**Mick George - Sports Fund**

Mick George Ltd has struck a new partnership with Leicester-Shire & Rutland Sport, which will permit additional applications throughout the majority of Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland. The funding is open to local sports clubs and organisations that meet the necessary qualifying criteria of supporting the delivery of sport and physical activity.

Projects must be located within the Leicester-Shire and Rutland area and must also be located in the funding area of the wider Mick George Community Fund.
Locally there is £25,000 available for individual grants between £500 and £1,500, for capital community sports projects or developments, open to the general public. Examples may include:

- General improvements to sports facilities
- Training / practice equipment (site based)
- Football / rugby goal posts
- Changing room improvements
- Cricket nets / screens
- Outdoor gym equipment
- Drainage and field improvements
- Rollers / mowers / lining machines

Projects with a total cost of over £1.5K require match funding which must be secured before applying.

**First closing date for applications is 25th June 2019.**

**Round 2: 26th June - 17th September 2019**

**Round 3: 18th September - 19th November 2019**

**SHIRE Community Climate Change grant**

Voluntary and Community Groups and organisations are being encouraged to apply to help them to reduce their carbon emissions by improving their community buildings.

The grant fund is for community projects in Leicestershire (not Leicester City or Rutland) that help to improve the energy efficiency of community buildings and make local environmental changes to help reduce carbon emissions.

A maximum grant of £5,000 per applicant is available for projects in any one financial year. Grants are available for:

- EPC's (Energy Performance Certificate) or DEC's (Display Energy Certificate) of community buildings
- Installation of energy efficiency measures such as new heating systems, roof or cavity wall insulation or low energy lighting
- Installation of renewable energy systems

**The first closing date for applications is Friday 28th June 2019**
**SHIRE Recycling Grants**

Leicestershire County Council is committed to minimising the amount of waste that is thrown away. In order to help achieve this, the Council is offering up to £3,000 in the form of SHIRE Recycling Grants.

These grants will be available for eligible community-based organisations to deliver local waste prevention, recycling and composting projects and activities.

We are particularly interested in funding new and innovative projects that will:
- Reduce household waste, divert waste from disposal and optimise levels of recycling and composting in a cost-effective way.
- Reduce the amount of waste produced in Leicestershire by waste reduction, reuse and recycling and encouraging resourcefulness through repairing, refurbishing, repurposing, sharing, swapping and composting.
- Enable residents and communities to get involved in waste related initiatives and support permanent changes in individual behaviours.

**The first closing date for applications is Friday 28th June 2019.**

**ACRE - Village Hall Grant Scheme**

ACRE provides support and advice to rural halls, with the money given by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) ACRE will help to fund updates and adaptations needed to keep halls in service. The funding aims to prioritise older buildings; helping with updating or adaptations.

Village hall committees can apply now for grants to update and refurbish their village hall or rural community building as long as the building is located in a town or village of under 10,000 people.

This new £3 million fund provided by Defra (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs) and managed on its behalf by Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) is expected to support around 100 community buildings.

The funding is intended for the updating and refurbishment of village halls so that they are fit for purpose and can provide activities which seek to achieve one or more of the following outcomes for the local community:
- Improved health and wellbeing/reduction in loneliness
- Demonstrates a positive impact on the environment
- Supports the local rural economy
The fund offers grants of between £10,000 and £75,000 which can cover up to 20% of eligible costs and can support a number of different things, including, but not limited to:

- Internal reconfigurations
- New roof and roof refurbishment which includes insulation
- Improvements which help to increase energy efficiency
- Refurbishment of toilets and kitchens
- Damp proofing
- Installation of Wi-Fi
- Guttering, repointing and drainage
- Replacement of external and/or internal doors.

There is a two-stage application process.

**Although there is no stated deadline for stage one applications, groups should bear in mind the deadline for second stage applications is 31 March 2020 or as soon as the funding is fully committed.**

ACRE also manages the £700,000 Defra Rural Community Buildings Loan Fund which helps community groups with renovation, refurbishment and building projects. Communities are encouraged to raise funds, knowing a loan could be available to help them meet their target and win funding from other sources. The average loan taken out by hall committees is around £15,000 – but larger loans are considered.

**The Clothworkers’ Foundation - Open Grants Programme**

The Clothworkers’ Foundation award grants to UK registered charities, CICs, and other registered UK not-for-profit organisations (including special schools). Grants are awarded towards capital projects which are defined as:

- Buildings (purchase, construction, renovation or refurbishment)
- Fittings, fixtures, and equipment
- Vehicles

Applications must fit within one of the main programme areas: alcohol & substance misuse; disadvantaged minority communities; disadvantaged young people; domestic & sexual abuse; homelessness; older people; people with disabilities; prisoners & ex-offenders; visual impairment. It will fund both large and small projects (under or over £10,000). The size of grant awarded will depend on a number of factors including the size of the applying organisation and the cost and scale of the capital project.

You must be able to demonstrate that the work of your organisation fits within one or more of the programme areas, and that at least 50% of service users benefiting from the capital project are from one or more of those groups.

**No deadline advertised**
**Marsh Christian Trust**

The Trust focuses on providing funding which could help small (annual income under £25,000) registered charities pay for various running costs, such as volunteer expenses, training days, equipment maintenance and other core outgoings.

The Trust’s funding strategy is to provide long-term core funding for such costs, as they understand that many of the organisations they support depend on unrestricted income in order to meet their operating needs.

Grants are unrestricted and range from £300 to £2,000, with new applications at the lower end of this scale.

It funds work in the following areas:

- Arts and heritage
- Education and training
- Environmental causes and animal welfare
- Healthcare
- Social welfare

Applications are considered on the basis of the organisation’s financial position, performance against charitable aims and objectives and the ratio of voluntary income against fundraising expenses.

The Trust aims to build long-standing relationships with successful applicants and, subject to an annual review, continue its support over time.

**There are no deadlines for applications**

**Asda Foundation - First Steps Enterprise Fund**

First Steps Enterprise Fund (FSEF) is a £300,000 pilot fund to support community organisations. The Social Investment Business manage this fund on behalf of the Asda Foundation. Funding is available for community organisations (charities and social enterprises) based in England that are looking to take on their first loan to help them grow and become more sustainable. Particular preference is given to organisations that work in the following areas:

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

Funding packages of up to £30,000 are available (90% loan and 10% grant). The loan element is charged at 5% (fixed) to be repaid over a period of 4 years with an optional capital holiday for the first year. Up to £50,000 is available for exceptional cases.

**No deadline advertised**