

Monthly Funding Information August 2020

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 Covid-19 specific funding information is available at:
<https://www.leicestershirecommunities.org.uk/funding-covid-19.html>

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
Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust – Positive Pathways Programme	25 th Aug 2020
Masonic Charitable Foundation - Later Life Inclusion Grants Programme	31 st Aug 2020
Thomas Wall Trust - Grants for Registered Charities	4 th Sept 2020
East Midlands Academic Health Science Network – Patient and Public Involvement fund	20 th Sept 2020
YAPP Charitable Trust	Open

[Funding for projects which support Young People \(including young people with disabilities\)](#)

Grant Fund	Closest Deadline
<u>The Police and Crime Commissioner - VRN Community Fund</u>	25 th Aug 2020
<u>Masonic Charitable Foundation – Children and Young People Grant</u>	31 st Aug 2020
<u>YAPP Charitable Trust</u>	Open
<u>Hargreaves Foundation</u>	Open

[Funding for projects which support broader community outcomes](#)

Grant Fund	Closest Deadline
<u>Biffa Award's - Partnership Grants</u>	7 th Aug 2020
<u>Mercia Park - Community Fund</u>	17 th Aug 2020
<u>Harborough District Council – Community Grant Fund 2020-21</u>	25 th Sept 2020
<u>Theatre Trust - Small Grants Scheme</u>	5 th Oct 2020
<u>Leicestershire County Council - Grants for Smarter Travel</u>	30 th Oct 2020
<u>Leicestershire County Council – SHIRE Environment Grant</u>	30 th Oct 2020
<u>Magic Little Grants</u>	31 st Oct 2020
<u>Tree Council – Branching Out Fund</u>	Open
<u>Screwfix Foundation</u>	Open
<u>Locality - Neighbourhood Planning Grant</u>	Open
<u>Severn Trent – Community Fund</u>	Open
<u>Nesta - Arts and Culture Impact Fund</u>	Open
<u>Arts Council England – National Lottery Project Grants</u>	Open
<u>Green BELLE – energy efficiency measures for SMEs</u>	Open
<u>UK Community Foundations - BAME Infrastructure Support Fund</u>	Open
<u>Leicestershire & Rutland Community Foundation</u>	Open
<u>Support available for your organisation</u>	

Funding for projects which support Adults

Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust – Positive Pathways Programme

Armed Forces charities and Community Interest Companies (CICs) that primarily support Armed Forces veterans can apply now for fixed, one-year grants of up to £35,000.

Projects should aim to improve veterans' mental health and wellbeing by getting them out and active, and grants will only be awarded to projects that are addressing a clear need.

Funding can be used for activities that organisations are already undertaking as well as new projects. Projects must fit within the theme of sports, arts/culture, heritage or getting outside.

Application deadlines:

25th August 2020

30th November 2020

Masonic Charitable Foundation - Later Life Inclusion Grants Programme

Local and national charities in England and Wales that support disadvantaged and vulnerable older people over 50 years of age can apply now for funding.

Both large and small grants are available to help people who face social isolation or loneliness for reasons such as financial hardship, care responsibilities, a decline in physical or mental health, or life transitions including retirement or bereavement. The support will help to provide a range of services to support the physical and emotional needs of people as they age, including community-based programmes and access to healthcare, transport and technology.

Depending on their annual income level, registered charities can apply for either:

- Small grants of between £1,000 and £15,000 for smaller charities with an income of less than £50,000 to support general running and/or overhead costs of the charity – core funding.
- Large grants start from £10,000 for charities with an annual income of more than £500,000. The average large grant will range from £20,000 to £60,000. Large grants are for projects and can be used for salary costs, activities, materials, etc.

All grants can be over one, two, or three years. Grant amounts should not exceed 15% of the total income of the applicant charity. Charities can only apply for one grant programme at a time.

To be eligible, charities must provide:

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

The funding is intended for charities that provide activities such as:

- Support for emotional and psychological planning for later life.
- Digital inclusion sessions to enable older people to access services.

- Activities and clubs enabling older people to remain active and make friends.
- Providing companionship and befriending schemes for periods of transition.
- Advice and information on options for those with health conditions.
- Carers and respite support.

There are different application windows:

- **Large grants 1st September to 31st October 2020**
- **Small grants 1st July to 31st August 2020 and 1st October to 23rd December 2020**

Thomas Wall Trust - Grants for Registered Charities

Grants of up to £5,000 are available for specific projects or core activities that support literacy, numeracy, digital and additional skills for learning that are likely to assist the employment prospects of people.

Round two Expressions of Interest can be submitted by Friday 4th September 2020.

East Midlands Academic Health Science Network – Patient and Public Involvement fund

This funding is aimed at health, social care, charities, voluntary and third sector organisations and groups, who want to involve patients and citizens in research and healthcare. EMAHSN welcome applications that encourage patient and citizen involvement in health and care innovation, transformation and improvement.

The scheme is offering 15 awards of £1,000 to successful organisations and groups in the region.

Closing date for application is 20th September 2020

YAPP Charitable Trust

The YAPP Charitable Trust awards core funding to charities with an annual expenditure of less than £40,000

Grants up to £3,000 per year are available for up to three years, for core funding for projects supporting:

- Elderly people
- Children and young people aged 5 - 25
- People with physical impairments, learning difficulties or mental health challenges
- Social welfare – people trying to overcome life-limiting problems of a social, rather than medical, origin (such as addiction, relationship difficulties, abuse, offending)
- Education and learning (with a particular interest in people who are educationally disadvantaged, whether adults or children)

No closing dates advertised

Funding for projects which support Young People

The Police and Crime Commissioner - VRN Community Fund

The Violence Reduction Network is making available a Community Fund of £65,000 to support grassroots community groups across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to re-engage and support vulnerable young people as part of the COVID19 recovery effort with a view to prevent a variety of negative outcomes, including preventing public place violence.

The fund is open to applications from community-based groups from areas where there are higher risks and/ or incidents of youth violence. It is particularly interested in applications which cover Charnwood and City neighbourhoods, but not exclusively.

Applications should focus on one or more types of prevention:

- Primary Prevention: work with young people and/or communities to prevent violence from occurring in the first place.
- Secondary Prevention: intervening early where there are concerns around violence to prevent its progression or escalation.
- Tertiary Prevention: work aimed at enabling those already directly affected by violence, either as a victim and/or perpetrator, to recover and build a life free from violence.

Grants are up to £5,000 are available

Application deadline 25th August 2020

Masonic Charitable Foundation – Children and Young People Grant

Grants for projects that support disadvantaged and vulnerable children and young people around the following themes:

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

Depending on their annual income level, registered charities can apply for either:

- Small grants of between £1,000 and £15,000 for smaller charities with an income of less than £500,000 to support general running and/or overhead costs of the charity – core funding. Grants can be over one, two or three years.
- Large grants start from £10,000 for charities with an annual income of more than £500,000. The average large grant will range from £10,000 to £60,000. Large grants are for projects and can be used for salary costs, activities and materials. Grants can be over one, two or three years.

Application windows:

Small Grant

1st July – 31st August 2020 / 1st October – 23rd December 2020 /

1st March 2021 – 31st March 2021

Large Grants

1st September 2020 – 31st October / 1st February 2021 – 31st March 2021

YAPP Charitable Trust

The YAPP Charitable Trust awards core funding to charities with an annual expenditure of less than £40,000

Grants up to £3,000 per year are available for up to three years, for core funding for projects supporting:

- Elderly people
- Children and young people aged 5 - 25
- People with physical impairments, learning difficulties or mental health challenges
- Social welfare – people trying to overcome life-limiting problems of a social, rather than medical, origin (such as addiction, relationship difficulties, abuse, offending)
- Education and learning (with a particular interest in people who are educationally disadvantaged, whether adults or children)

No closing dates advertised

Hargreaves Foundation

Charities and educational institutions can apply for grants to support those under the age of 18 years, and living with a mental health problem, physical disability or growing up in poverty through the mediums of sport and education.

Funding (there is no set minimum or maximum grant) will be awarded for activities that achieve one or more of the following objectives:

- Enabling individuals to experience the mental and physical health benefits of participatory sport.
- Ensuring participatory sport is accessible (accessibility includes affordability).
- Providing sporting or educational activities that foster life skills.
- Aiming to improve academic engagement and attainment.
- Encouraging the development of skills and personal attributes to aid future employability.

The following types of activities are eligible:

- One-off, time-limited (less than six months) projects or events.
- Training for staff/volunteers.
- Residential activities.
- Events.
- Purchase of specific items.

The majority of those benefiting from the project/using the items must be from the target group, which are those under the age of 18, and living with a mental health problem, physical disability, or growing up in poverty.

Applications are accepted at any time.

Funding for projects which support broader community outcomes

Biffa Award's - Partnership Grants

Not-for-profit organisations that are looking to improve a built or natural environment in either England or Northern Ireland can apply for funding now.

Under the Partnership Grants programme, Biffa Award is making grants of between £250,000 and £750,000 available for new not-for-profit projects that will improve a built or natural environment. The projects must be of regional or national significance and located within 15 miles of a significant Biffa Group Limited operation or active Biffa Landfill site in England or Northern Ireland.

To be eligible for the funding, projects must address one of the following themes:

- The Built Environment theme aims to restore, modernise and improve facilities such as cultural, heritage or visitor centres to engage and encourage tourists and/or day visitors. The facility should be inclusive and inspire and promote learning, creativity and participation.
- The Natural Environment theme aims to restore or improve the environment and the natural systems or habitats that support it. Projects must be working to Biodiversity 2020: a strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem, its successor, or a Local Biodiversity Action Plan target.

Preference will be given to projects:

- Where Biffa Award is the majority funder.
- That work in partnership with other organisations.
- That engage with people through improving their knowledge of the asset.

The grants are to be used for site-based improvement work, and the majority of costs should be direct capital delivery work. Projects should be in a position to start work as soon as possible, once a formal offer agreement has been issued.

There is a two-stage application process.

**There are two rounds for Expressions of Interest:
Round 2 deadline is 7th August 2020**

Mercia Park - Community Fund

Applications will be considered from charities, constituted voluntary and community groups with projects which:

- Help strengthen local communities (particularly their quality of life and life chances) within proximity or affected by the Mercia Park Development at Junction 11 M42.
- Improve the natural environment within proximity or affected by the Mercia Park Development at Junction 11 M42.

Grants of between £2,000 to £5,000 are available

Deadline for applications is Mon 17th August 2020

Harborough District Council – Community Grant Fund 2020-21

The fund is open to all Parishes, and voluntary and community groups in Harborough District. The grant criteria are based on enabling healthy, inclusive and engaged communities.

Projects must support one or more of the corporate objectives:

- Improvements or provision of outdoor facilities
- Youth related capital projects such as sports or arts, equipment or facilities
- Improving the environment

Grants are for between £1,000 and £5,000

Application closing date is Friday 25th September 2020

Theatre Trust - Small Grants Scheme

The UK Theatres Small Grants Scheme is a capital fund that awards up to £5,000 to theatres across the UK run by charities and not-for-profit groups that can clearly demonstrate the value capital improvements to their theatres would make to their work in local communities. Priorities include projects that address urgent building repairs, improve operational viability, introduce environmental improvements, and enhance physical accessibility.

Please note that applications for technical equipment and refurbishment of soft furnishings are a low priority for the scheme.

In response to the coronavirus crisis, the scheme will now be able to support theatres to cover the additional costs of reopening after several months' closure, including making adaptations for increased hygiene and social distancing measures.

Round 16 of the scheme is currently open. The deadline for applications is 5th October 2020.

Leicestershire County Council - Grants for Smarter Travel

Businesses or organisations, including charities, not for profit and public sector agencies, based or operating in Leicestershire are invited to submit a bid for up to £5,000 towards the cost of physical measures to reduce the barriers to employees travelling sustainably. There is an expectation for match funding, but there are various options available for ways in which the match funding can be achieved.

The funding could be used for:

- Cycle / motorcycle / scooter parking stands and shelters
- Showers / lockers / drying / changing facilities for cyclists, motorcyclists, walkers, runners
- Pool bikes (pedal or electric) and accessories (e.g. helmets / lights)
- Cycle maintenance equipment (e.g. pump/tool station)
- Teleconferencing / mobile ICT solutions (e.g. remote access / tablets / laptops)

Please discuss any other ideas with us prior to submitting your application.

There are no application deadlines, but the Grant closes on 30th October 2020

[Leicestershire County Council – SHIRE Environment Grant](#)

Grants of up to £3,000 are available to fund new and innovative projects that will meet one or more of the grant scheme outcomes:

- To reduce the amount of household waste produced in Leicestershire
- To reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions within communities
- To improve biodiversity and support the creation, protection, enhancement and management of sustainable green spaces
- To raise awareness and understanding on the above outcomes as well as providing necessary training and skills to manage and support projects.

The Council is keen to support projects that can maintain or build on some of the positive environmental benefits that have arisen from the current Covid 19 situation, such as reduced carbon emissions; increased biodiversity; improved air quality; greater appreciation of nature and green spaces.

Application deadlines:

30th October 2020

26th February 2021

[Magic Little Grants](#)

Charitable organisations can apply for up to £500 for projects which support and inspire people to participate in sports or exercise with the primary aim of improving the physical health of participants.

Closing date 31st October 2020

[Screwfix Foundation](#)

The Screwfix Foundation is now open for applications from registered charities and not-for-profit organisations across the UK. for projects that fix, repair, maintain and improve properties and community facilities for those in need across the UK.

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be helping those in need by reason of financial hardship, sickness, distress or other disadvantages in the UK.
- Be looking for funding to support projects that relate to the repair, maintenance, improvement or construction of homes, community buildings and other buildings.

Grants of up to £5,000 are available for projects that relate to the repair, maintenance, improvement or construction of homes, community buildings and other buildings in deprived areas or for those in need.

This can include repairing run-down buildings and decorating the homes of people living with illness and disability. Projects should be environmentally friendly.

Applications can be made at any time and are reviewed on a quarterly basis. The next review will be in August 2020.

Tree Council – Branching Out Fund

Each November, the Tree Council organises National Tree Week at the start of the tree planting season. Its purpose is to raise public awareness of trees and to encourage tree planting and good management.

Applications are now being accepted from schools, community groups, members of Tree Warden Networks and Parish and Town councils that want to undertake well-planned tree and hedge planting projects which involve young people aged up to 21.

Projects have to take place this winter (November 2020 – March 2021), preferably during National Tree Week (28 November – 6 December 2020). If funded projects cannot go ahead at any time this winter due to social distancing restrictions related to the coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic, then the delivery deadline of the grant will be extended to the following year.

This year, the Tree Council will fund 100% of the cost (excluding VAT) of strong applications from £300 to an increased upper limit of £1,500.

The grants can be used for:

- Buying trees, hedges and fruit trees.
- Reasonable costs of supports and aids - stakes, ties, cardboard guards (not plastic ones), mulch, fertiliser and peat-free soil amelioration products (only where conditions make this necessary).

Applications are assessed on a rolling basis.

Locality - Neighbourhood Planning Grant

Funding available, from Locality for community groups and organisations who are preparing a Neighbourhood Plan:

- Basic Grant Funding: All groups undertaking a neighbourhood plan are eligible to apply for up to £10,000 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.
- Additional Grant Funding: Groups meeting the eligibility criteria are able to apply for additional grant of up to £8,000 (in addition to the basic grant). This will take the total amount of grant available to you to £18,000.
- Affordable Housing for Sale Grant Funding: This is a new element to the programme, and it is running as a pilot scheme. The pilot began in 2019-20 and will continue in 2020-21. If you are wishing to bring forward affordable housing for sale you may be eligible for further grant funding of up to £10,000 to help develop these ideas.

All grants are now open.

Severn Trent – Community Fund *

Not-for-profit organisations can apply for funding to support:

- People: Projects that help people to lead a healthier life and gain new skills
- Places: Projects that help to create better places to live in and use
- Environment: Projects that will help look after our natural environment, give people greater access to that environment or help look after water

The fund will also consider projects that have a connection to water (although not essential)! This might mean creating sustainable drainage, installing grey water recycling or creating water efficient green spaces. There are three sizes of grant that can be applied for:

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

To apply for more than £10,000 you must be a registered charity; a business registered with Companies House; a local authority; or parish council.

This is a rolling grant programme with no deadlines for applications

Nesta - Arts and Culture Impact Fund

Repayable loans of between £150,000 and £1,000,000 are available to support the UK's arts, culture and heritage social enterprises.

The Arts & Culture Impact Fund sets out to achieve several objectives for the arts, cultural and heritage sectors:

- Provide organisations with appropriate and bespoke repayable finance
- Develop the financial resilience of borrowers
- Support organisations to better monitor, evaluate and communicate their social impact
- Attract additional investment into the sector to help organisations thrive
- Promote the wider positive impact the arts, culture and heritage have on society and support more organisations to benefit individuals and communities through their work.

Eligible organisations must:

- Be registered and operating in the UK. Digital organisations will need to demonstrate their primary audiences are based in the UK.
- Have core operations or primary activity in the arts, culture and heritage
- Have a clear social mission, reflected in its structure and governance
- Be able to demonstrate measurable social impact on individuals or communities in the UK.

The repayment terms can be between one and ten years and interest rates range between 3% and 10%.

The following fees apply:

- 1% completion fee
- 2% per annum, pro rata holding fee (minimum holding period is six months)
- No early repayment fee.

Applications can be submitted at any time.

Arts Council England – National Lottery Project Grants

The programme supports development by allowing artists, cultural practitioners and organisations to work in new ways and to get their work out to new audiences.

The grants can support a broad range of activities, but it is keen to support:

- Applications from individual creative practitioners (including time to think and plan).
- Research and development activity.
- Organisational development activity.
- Live activity that can be safely delivered within this period (rather than activity with a start date far in the future).
- Activity that closely aligns with the Arts Council's Equality Objectives

Grants of between £1,000 and £100,000 are available until April 2021

Green BELLE – energy efficiency measures for SMEs

Green BELLE supports Small or Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) in Leicester and Leicestershire to increase their energy efficiency, reduce their energy costs and lower their carbon emissions. Grants of £1,000 to £7,000 are available to support the installation of low carbon and energy efficient technologies in local SMEs.

If you are applying for a Green BELLE grant, your proposed measures should reduce carbon emissions and increase energy efficiency.

Potential eligible measures:

- Energy efficient heating systems and controls, e.g. boiler replacements and heat pumps
- Low energy lighting replacements (LEDs) and controls
- Renewable energy systems – e.g. biomass, solar panels
- Innovative low carbon measures, such as heat recovery systems
- Replacement Energy Efficient Machinery – e.g. Air Compressors
- Insulation
- Building Energy Management Systems

Participating SMEs will receive a site visit, carried out by a dedicated Project Officer. The visit will be used to discuss the best energy efficiency options for their premises.

The grant scheme will end in December 2022 or when all the funds have been awarded, whichever is the sooner.

[UK Community Foundations - BAME Infrastructure Support Fund](#)

The funding is intended to support BAME-led groups and organisations that can, in turn, help other BAME organisations to access their local Community Foundation and secure National Emergencies Trust (NET) funds from them.

Grants of between £5,000 and £20,000 over a maximum of three months are available and up to 20% of core costs can be funded. The funding is to be used for the following (not an exhaustive list):

- Awareness-raising via marketing and communications.
- Mentoring/supporting of groups through the local Community Foundation application process.
- Support with monitoring and reporting.
- Provision of micro grants to enable applications for NET funding through community foundations.
- Building relationships to help community foundations identify and address barriers to funding BAME-led organisations and communities.

No application 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 [Making Local Life Better Fund](#) (previously the Donor Matching Scheme). This scheme is currently closed whilst it delivers the [Coronavirus Emergency Support Fund](#).

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

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!

Grant Funds

[The Reach Fund](#)

A grant programme that helps charities and social enterprises raise investment. This fund is for organisations who need some extra support to raise investment e.g. governance, financial modelling or business planning. To access this fund, you need to approach a social investor and then complete a diagnostic tool. If approved, then you work with the social investor to develop a support plan.

[The Enterprise Development Fund Programme](#)

Offers tailored support to organisations that are thinking of exploring new models of trading to help them become more financially resilient and who require support to make the transition. The second round is going to be launched soon, and the themes are equality and mental health.

Business Support

Co-operative and Social Enterprise Development Agency (CASE) is a social enterprise and co-operative established in 1982 that is the trusted organisation for co-operatives, social enterprises and community enterprises in Leicester and Leicestershire. It supports co-operatives and social enterprises to develop and grow and we promote co-operative ways of working.

CASE has been awarded a small grant from the Connect Fund to raise awareness about social investment, support groups to develop social enterprise business models and scale up and access social investment. The project started in January 2019 and finishes in June 2020.

If you are a social enterprise or charity in the East Midlands that has a good idea or proposal to generate income from trading then please feel free to get in touch with Natasha Job, Social Impact and Investment Adviser on Tel: 0116 222 5010, Email: n.job@case.coop

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