

Monthly Funding Information September 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 – Tackling Loneliness Programme	9th Oct 2020
Comic Relief Community Fund (England)	Open

Funding for projects which support Young People (including young people with disabilities)	
Grant Fund	Closest Deadline
DM Thomas Foundation – Central Grants Programme	6th Oct 2020
Dept. Health and Social Care – VCSE Health and Wellbeing Fund	30th Oct 2020
Comic Relief Community Fund (England)	Open
Samworth Brothers – Sports Opportunity Fund	Open
Funding for projects which support broader community outcomes	

Grant Fund	Closest Deadline
<u>National Churches Trust - Cornerstone, Gateway & Foundation Grants</u>	10 th Sept 2020
<u>The Kings Fund - 2021 GSK IMPACT Awards</u>	17 th Sept 2020
<u>Architectural Heritage Fund - Transforming Places through Heritage Grants</u>	30 th Sept 2020
<u>Blaby District Council – Community Grants</u>	2 nd Oct 2020
<u>The Fat Beehive Foundation – build your online presence</u>	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>Plunkett Foundation - Community Pub Business Support Programme</u>	Dec 2020
<u>British Cycling - Places to Ride *</u>	Jan 2021
<u>Office for Low Emission Vehicles - Grant schemes for electric vehicle charging infrastructure *</u>	Open
<u>DEFRA - Rural Community Energy Fund</u>	Open
<u>Locality - Neighbourhood Planning Grant Funding</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 – Tackling Loneliness Programme](#)

Applications are now being accepted for projects that reduce social isolation by tackling loneliness among traditionally harder to reach groups within the Armed Forces community in the UK.

Fixed grants of £70,000 are available for projects lasting for two years.

The funding is for projects that tackle loneliness within specific groups of the Armed Forces community who traditionally do not engage with available provision.

Projects need to fit at least one of the following themes:

- Building stronger social networks and friendships.
- Improving access to local activities and provision.
- Building emotional resilience to overcome the causes of loneliness.
- Empowering Armed Forces communities to become more independent.

Projects could include bereaved families, dual serving families, Foreign and Commonwealth families including Gurkhas, single serving parents, carers of veterans as well as veterans of any age, and serving families with young children, or who are new to Service life or who have family members with SEND.

Projects that specifically work with any of the following will also be welcomed:

- LGBTQ+ Armed Forces community members.
- Those who have suffered relationship breakdown.
- Serving families, veterans and veteran families that live in rural or remote locations.
- Transitioning personnel and families (including any children).

Applications will be considered from established registered charities, community interest companies and Armed Forces units. Applicants should demonstrate that they have thought about the implications of the coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic and taken this into account when designing and planning their project.

There will be one application round in 2020.

The deadline for applications is noon on 9th October 2020.

[Comic Relief Community Fund \(England\)](#)

The Comic Relief Community Fund (England) is offering grants to grassroots community organisations with an income of less than £250,000.

There are two types of grants available to organisations whose work delivers on one of Comic Relief's four strategic themes:

- Children Survive & Thrive: projects that support children under the age of 5 to reach their potential and have the best start in life.
- Fighting for Gender Justice: projects that improve equality for women, girls and the LBTQI+ community and initiatives that help people affected by domestic violence, abuse or exploitation due to their gender.
- A Safe Place to Be: projects that support people who are rebuilding their lives because of homelessness or forced migration.
- Mental Health Matters: projects that support good mental health in communities, improve access to support and tackle stigma and discrimination.

Grants:

- Capacity Building Grant (up to £500) - to help you develop your organisation
- Project Delivery Grant (up to £4000) - to deliver projects

Administration of the local funding is being managed by community charity, Groundwork, which specialises in transforming communities and the local environment for the better.

This is a rolling programme and applications can be made at any time.

Funding for projects which support Children and Young People

DM Thomas Foundation – Central Grants Programme

Applications should be from Registered Charities or CIC's working in the areas of education or health with one of four chosen focus groups:

- Children and young people with disabilities
- Children and young people who are sick in hospital
- Children and young people who are life limited (requiring palliative care)
- Mental health of children and young people

Grants are generally not for more than £30,000 and can be for up to 2 years

Deadline 6th October 2020

Dept. Health and Social Care – VCSE Health and Wellbeing Fund

Grants are available for projects that focus on giving people from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) or poorer backgrounds the best chance at a healthy start in life.

Applications are now being accepted for a new £3.3 million Fund that aims to improve outcomes for mothers and babies in deprived areas or from BAME backgrounds from preconception to up to 2-and-a-half years of age.

Grants of between £200,000 and £510,000 are available over three financial years. They will be awarded to VCSE organisations in England to allow them to expand or develop existing projects and programmes that have been running for at least three years and are whole-family and/or community-centred.

Projects that aim to support the following health outcomes are eligible:

- Improvement in perinatal mental health.
- Reduction in the percentage of babies born with low birthweight.
- An increase in babies being breastfed.
- Obesity prevention and support.
- Reduced smoking or smoke-free homes.
- Improvement in learning and speech and language development.
- High immunisation rates and reduction in rates of preventable disease.

Organisations interested in applying are strongly advised to register for one of the “Meet the Funders” webinars taking place on 8 September 2020 (2pm - 3pm) and 10 September 2020 (2pm - 3pm).

The deadline for applications is 30th October 2020.

Comic Relief Community Fund (England)

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Samworth Brothers – Sports Opportunity Fund

There are two grants available:

- Small grants of around £1,000 for projects nominated by Samworth Brothers employees.
- Larger grants fund is also available which supports larger projects each year. Multi-year projects of up to three years are also considered. These do not require a Samworth Brothers employee nomination.

Projects should:

- Support young people develop confidence, self-esteem and better life skills through sport.
- Improve access to sport for young people in particularly hard to reach and disadvantaged groups.
- Grow or develop the opportunities in sport that a club can offer young people.
- Be located in areas where a Samworth Brothers business is an integral and important part of the local community.

No application deadline is advertised

Funding for projects which support broader community outcomes

[National Churches Trust - Cornerstone, Gateway & Foundation Grants](#)

The National Churches Trust has the following grant programmes currently open:

1. Cornerstone grants - 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 2nd November 2020.**
2. Gateway grants - 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 next deadline for applications is 10th September 2020.**
3. Foundation grants - offers grants of between £500 and £5,000 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. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis from the end of January 2020. **The final opportunity to submit an application will be 30th October 2020.**
4. Preventative maintenance micro grants. If the cost of booking maintenance services is a problem, the National Churches Trust, with its partner the Pilgrim Trust, can offer grants towards the cost of a building's maintenance services. You could receive up to 50% of the cost of works (excl. VAT) up to a maximum grant of £500. The cost of your service must not exceed £1,000 (excl VAT).

[The Kings Fund - 2021 GSK IMPACT Awards](#)

The awards are funded by GSK and managed in partnership with The King's Fund. Winning organisations will receive core funding of up to £40,000, plus access to excellent training and development to support their leaders.

To be eligible to apply, organisations must be a charity, at least three years old, working in a health-related field in the UK, with income between £80,000 and £2.5 million. Up to 20 awards will be made, ranging from £3,000 to £40,000; the training and development is valued at a further £9,500. Organisations will also have a film made, receive help with press and publicity, and be given a set of promotional materials.

The awards recognise and reward charities that are doing excellent work to improve people's health and wellbeing.

Deadline for applications is Monday 14th September 2020

Architectural Heritage Fund - Transforming Places through Heritage Grants

This programme supports projects that will contribute to the transformation of high streets and town centres in England helping them become thriving places, strengthening local communities and encouraging local economies to prosper. It is part of a wider initiative to revive heritage high streets in England, alongside Historic England's High Street Heritage Action Zones.

This programme is for individual heritage buildings in, or transferring to, community ownership. They will support charities and social enterprises to develop projects with the potential to bring new life to high streets by creating alternative uses for redundant or underused historic buildings in town centres.

The programme will focus on places where strategic regeneration programmes are planned or are already underway. This includes Heritage Action Zones or places that have secured funding through the Future High Streets Fund. Historic building projects located within other area-based regeneration programmes, such as Townscape Heritage areas or where an applicant can demonstrate a significant community-led strategic approach is in place, will also be considered. Projects should not be standalone but sit within a wider initiative to regenerate and bring a new purpose to the immediate surrounding area.

A range of grants are available:

- Project Viability Grants: up to £15,000, for early viability and feasibility work, **open now** for applications.
- Project Development Grants: up to £100,000, for capital project development costs, **open now** for applications.
- Crowdfunding Challenge Grants: up to £25,000, to match fund crowdfunding campaigns, **open now** for applications.
- Transformational Project Grants: up to £350,000, for transformational capital projects. **The deadline for applications is 30 September 2020.**
- Community Shares Booster Grants: further information to be announced.

Blaby District Council – Community Grants

The scheme supports the local voluntary and community sector to develop and strengthen community facilities and activities.

The following grants are available this year:

- Large Capital Grants - up to £4,000
- Small Capital Grants - up to £500
- Revenue Grants - up to £500
- Everyone Active - up to £500
- Youth Grants - up to £500

The remaining application deadlines are:

Friday 2nd October 2020 (priority given to Covid-19 related projects)

Wednesday 25th November 2020

Wednesday 24th February 2021

[The Fat Beehive Foundation – build your online presence](#)

The Foundation exists to offer funding to improve UK charities improve their digital presence, offering grants of up to £2,500 to charities with a turnover of less than 1million.

The foundation can only support a limited number of projects therefore their funding priorities over the next year are:

- Environmental protection or climate change mitigation
- Human rights
- International development
- Equality and Diversity
- Social justice / Refugees / Housing
- Education
- Art & culture
- Health and wellbeing
- Prisoner rehabilitation

General software or hardware procurement cannot be funded.

Applications are considered on a rolling basis at quarterly trustee meetings in April, July, October and January.

[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

[Plunkett Foundation - Community Pub Business Support Programme](#)

Community organisations in England that want to take control of their local pub for the benefit of the local community can apply now for a support package.

Funded by Power to Change and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and led by the national charity, the Plunkett Foundation, this new £2.2 million round of More than a Pub, makes a range of support and funding available until December 2020. The support includes allocated business development advisers, help with community consultations, advice on legal forms, business planning, community share offers and, bursary awards of up to £2,500. Groups can access the full range of support from the pre-venture stage, or just the elements they need, depending on how well their plans are developed.

When a group is ready to purchase a pub, they can access a combined finance package of up to £100,000, made up equally of a loan and a grant.

Applications will be considered from the following organisations:

- Community Benefit Society.
- Co-operative Society.
- Company Limited by Guarantee.
- Community Interest Company (large membership).

Regardless of legal structure, an asset lock, or other significant barrier, must be in place to ensure minimal private benefit (and notably the pub cannot be sold for the private benefit of those involved).

Applications will be accepted at any time and are assessed at Panel meetings on the second Thursday of every month. Applications must be submitted by the 28th of the previous month.

The programme will run from 19th August to December 2020

[British Cycling - Places to Ride](#) *

British Cycling is working closely with Sport England to develop a national network of new cycling facilities which meets local demand, making use of a £15 million investment programme called Places to Ride.

The funding is available to any organisation that is developing cycling activity in their community and can be used for anything from equipment packages to activate your local space, through to a brand-new cycling facility.

- Large scale grants (£50,000 - £500,000) are available, typically for new facilities or significant improvements to existing venues,
- Small scale grants (£1000 to £50,000) for equipment, cycle storage, small-scale facilities or venue improvements.
- Equipment packages are also available to activate your local space.

The programme is open until January 2021

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

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

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

No application deadline advertised

[DEFRA - Rural Community Energy Fund](#)

The Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF) is a £10 million programme which supports rural communities in England to develop renewable energy projects, which provide economic and social benefits to the community. RCEF provides support to rural communities in 2 stages:

- stage 1: grants of up to £40,000 for a feasibility study for a renewable energy project
- stage 2: grants of up to £100,000 for business development and planning of feasible schemes

RCEF is being run by 5 regional Local Energy Hubs. If you would like to register your interest for the scheme, or would like further information, please contact the relevant hub for your area. The hubs are split by Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) regions.

Leicester and Leicestershire contact: michael.gallagher@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

No application deadline advertised

Locality - Neighbourhood Planning Grant Funding

You can apply for three types of grant funding if you 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 no deadline 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 Jolob, Social Impact and Investment Adviser on Tel: 0116 222 5010, Email: n.jolob@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