



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

## Research and Information Service Constituency Casework

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CG/02

19<sup>th</sup> March 2021

# Constituency Casework Guide: Sources of Funding for the Voluntary and Community Sector

The purpose of this constituency casework guide is to signpost MLAs and their staff to some of the different types of public, charitable and corporate funding opportunities that may be available to local voluntary and community sector organisations. An electronic copy of this leaflet is available on the [Research and Information Service \(RaISe\) page](#) of the Assembly Intranet (AssISt).

Whilst it is not possible to provide a definitive list, as there are hundreds of different sources of grant aid that change constantly, links are provided to key comprehensive funding databases such as NICVA's [GrantTracker](#) toolkit and the [Northern Ireland Government Funding Database](#) which are regularly updated with funding opportunities. While every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this guide is up-to-date, please bear in mind that funding schemes and webpages change frequently.

Local community and voluntary groups are advised to make the most of social media. The majority of funders use social media to post funding opportunities. Therefore it is an excellent source for up-to-date funding, advice and information.

## 1 NICVA's GrantTracker

[GrantTracker](#) is a website dedicated to sourcing grants and fundraising opportunities for charities, clubs and community groups in Northern Ireland. It is a subscription-based database maintained by the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA). An annual subscription to the database costs £145 (with a £45 discount for NICVA members) or a monthly subscription of £40. GrantTracker provides a [free to access weekly news bulletin](#) with a summary of funding initiatives.

The Northern Ireland Assembly Research and Information Service (RaISe) has a subscription to GrantTracker. MLAs and their staff may access this through the [RaISe pages on the Assembly intranet](#) (AssISt) – a password and username is available. If you experience any difficulties accessing this site, please contact the Library Enquiry Desk (028 905 21250)<sup>1</sup>.

### COVID-19 specific information and funding opportunities

NICVA has published a really useful guide on 'How to get the most out of GrantTracker during COVID-19 and beyond' – see <https://www.nicva.org/article/how-to-get-the-most-out-of-granttracker-during-covid-19-and-beyond>

NICVA as part of [Collaboration NI](#) has also produced a dedicated COVID-19 funding and fundraising hub that provides news and updates on COVID-19 funding from local and central government as well as funding from trusts and foundations. Voluntary and community organisations can sign up for COVID-19 email updates and newsletters. For further information see <https://collaborationni.nicva.org/covid19/funding-and-fundraising-covid19>



**COVID-19 related funding is particularly fast moving. Community and voluntary groups may wish to consider searching different websites and following various organisations social media regularly to keep up-to-date on potential funding opportunities.**

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that the usernames and passwords for Assembly Library electronic resources such as GrantTracker are only available for use by Assembly Members and their staff.



**Voluntary and community organisations may wish to follow NICVA Fundraising Advice on social media for up-to-date information:**



## 2 Volunteering Support

[Volunteer Now](#) is the lead organisation for supporting and promoting volunteering in Northern Ireland. It offers [advice and information](#) to organisations seeking to recruit volunteers and how to effectively integrate volunteers into the organisation. It also provides [training](#) on issues such as safeguarding and risk assessment and [webinars](#) on topics such as 'Involving Volunteers in Response to COVID-19'. Volunteer Now also publishes information funding opportunities in its '[Latest News](#)' section.



## 3 The Community Foundation Northern Ireland

The [Community Foundation](#) Northern Ireland are an independent grant making trust. The '[News](#)' section of the website and its Twitter feed provides information on its latest funding opportunities for voluntary and community groups. The website also provides useful advice and information on [applying for a grant](#).



## 4 Social Enterprises

The [Social Enterprise NI](#) website is a central meeting hub for social enterprises in Northern Ireland. The website and its social media contains a wealth of information, advice and training resources for social enterprises.



## 5 Funding from government departments and other public bodies

### The Government Funding Database

The [Grant Finder facility](#) on the Northern Ireland Government funding database can be used to locate available funding from government departments and local councils. The website also provides summary information on the financial support that has been awarded to each voluntary and community organisation.



To locate open funding grant programmes for each department, click on the link above, tick “Funding Source”, and this will provide a drop down menu for each department and Local Council.



**Voluntary and community organisations may wish to consider checking the database on a regular basis or upcoming department and council funding opportunities. It may also be useful to sign up for RSS alerts to departmental press releases as information on some grant funding opportunities is published via: [www.northernireland.gov.uk/press-releases](http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/press-releases)**

### Local Council Grant Schemes









Local councils across Northern Ireland offer a variety of grant funding packages for voluntary and community groups. Links to relevant council webpages are enclosed in the table below<sup>2</sup>:

<b>Belfast City Council</b>	See <a href="http://www.belfastcity-grants.com/">www.belfastcity-grants.com/</a> Social media  
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<sup>2</sup> These links are correct at the time of publication, but organisations should check the council website periodically for updates.

<p><b>Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council</b></p>	<p>See <a href="https://antrimnewtownabbey.eformz.info/">https://antrimnewtownabbey.eformz.info/</a>. See also <a href="https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/residents/community-information/community-grants/">https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/residents/community-information/community-grants/</a></p> <p>Social media</p> <p> </p>
<p><b>Ards and North Down Borough Council</b></p>	<p>See <a href="http://www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/resident/grants/community-grants">www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/resident/grants/community-grants</a> The Council provides a grants funding timetable at <a href="http://www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/resident/grants/overview-of-grants-timetable">www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/resident/grants/overview-of-grants-timetable</a>.</p> <p>Social media</p> <p> </p>
<p><b>Armagh City, Banbridge &amp; Craigavon Borough Council</b></p>	<p>See <a href="https://abc-grants.decisiontime.online/">https://abc-grants.decisiontime.online/</a>. See also <a href="http://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/resident/community-grants/">www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/resident/community-grants/</a>.</p> <p>Social media</p> <p> </p>
<p><b>Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council</b></p>	<p>See <a href="https://causeway.eformz.info/">https://causeway.eformz.info/</a>. See also <a href="http://www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/grantsandfunding">www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/grantsandfunding</a>.</p> <p>Social media</p> <p> </p>
<p><b>Derry City and Strabane District Council</b></p>	<p>See <a href="http://www.derrystrabane.com/grantaid">www.derrystrabane.com/grantaid</a>. See also <a href="http://www.idoxopen4community.co.uk/derrystrabane.com">www.idoxopen4community.co.uk/derrystrabane.com</a>.</p> <p>Social media</p> <p> </p>

<p>Fermanagh and Omagh District Council</p>	<p>See <a href="https://fermanaghomagh.eformz.info/">https://fermanaghomagh.eformz.info/</a>. See also <a href="http://www.fermanaghomagh.com/services/funding-and-grants/">www.fermanaghomagh.com/services/funding-and-grants/</a>.</p> <p>Social media</p> <p> </p>
<p>Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council</p>	<p>See <a href="http://www.castlereaghcommunity.co.uk/grants/">www.castlereaghcommunity.co.uk/grants/</a>. They also provide dedicated advice and information for community groups or aspiring community groups</p> <p><a href="http://www.communityresource.castlereaghcommunity.co.uk/">http://www.communityresource.castlereaghcommunity.co.uk/</a>.</p> <p>Social media</p> <p> </p>
<p>Mid Ulster District Council</p>	<p><a href="http://www.midulstercouncil.org/resident/grants">www.midulstercouncil.org/resident/grants</a>.</p> <p>Social media</p> <p> </p>
<p>Newry, Mourne and Down District Council</p>	<p><a href="http://www.newrymouredown.org/residents-grants-and-funding">www.newrymouredown.org/residents-grants-and-funding</a>.</p> <p>Social media</p> <p> </p>



Local community and voluntary groups may wish to consider:

- regularly check council websites for information on upcoming funding schemes;
- keeping up-to-date with council funding information via council social media feeds; and
- attending any council organised funding roadshows or information session.

## 6 EU funding

### European Cohesion Policy Programmes (2014-2020)

The last round of European Cohesion Policy Programmes ran from 2014-2020. The [Department of Finance website](#) provides an overview of the number of European Structural and Investment Programmes that Northern Ireland has benefited from.

Further details can be found [online](#).

Please note that due to the UK leaving the EU, the UK [will not](#) be part of the next round of funding for the Rural Development Programme (2021-2027).

### PEACE PLUS (2021-2027)

[PEACE PLUS](#) is the successor programme to the [PEACE IV](#) and [INTTEREG](#) programmes that finished in 2020. PEACE PLUS will fund activities that promote peace and reconciliation and contribute to the cross-border economic and territorial development in Northern Ireland and the border region of the Republic of Ireland. The programme framework will include six guiding themes: Building peaceful and thriving communities; Delivering economic regeneration and transformation; Empowering and investing in young people; Healthy and inclusive communities; Supporting a sustainable future; Building and embedding partnership and collaboration.

The programme is currently at an advanced stage of preparation and will be managed by the [Special EU Programmes Body](#) (SEUPB)<sup>3</sup>.



**Voluntary and community organisations may wish to consider checking the SEUPB webpage and signing up to their [newsletter](#) for future funding opportunities.**

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<sup>3</sup> Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) [www.seupb.eu/](http://www.seupb.eu/)

## 7 Funding from charities and corporate organisations

In addition to public funding, a wide range of charities, philanthropic and corporate organisations provide grants for a variety of community projects. The NICVA [GrantTracker website](#) is dedicated to finding these fundraising and grant opportunities. This section provides an overview and links to some of the funding which may be accessed by local voluntary and community organisations. This is not intended to be fully comprehensive but rather provides examples of the variety of funding that may be available.



**Voluntary and community groups may wish to check the websites of these organisations on a regular basis or follow their social media to keep up-to-date with funding opportunities.**

### The National Lottery Community Fund

The [National Lottery Community Fund](#) is the largest community funder in the UK. Each year millions of pounds of The National Lottery's good causes money is distributed to community and charitable projects.

Specific funding available for [Northern Ireland](#):

- [The National Lottery Awards for All Northern Ireland](#): offers grants of £300-£10,000 for projects that bring local people together to make positive changes in their community. Applications are welcomed from constituted voluntary or community organisations, schools, and statutory bodies. The funding is for projects that will run for 12 months or less.

Funds can be used for – Equipment, one-off events, small land or building projects, staff costs, training costs, transport, utilities/running costs, volunteer expenses

Deadline - Ongoing

- [People and Communities](#): offers grants of £10,000-£500,000 to support project ideas that “come from the community...making it stronger and ready for the future”. Applications are welcome from constituted voluntary and community organisations and social enterprises. The funding is designed for projects that will run for between 1-5 years.

Funds can be used for – Staff salaries, training, volunteer expenses, equipment, premises costs, evaluation, overheads

Deadline - Ongoing



- **Empowering Young People**: Offers grants of £10,000-£500,000 for projects that work with young people (between the ages of 8-25 years old). Young people must be involved in the planning and delivery of the project. Applications are welcomed from constituted voluntary or community organisations, and social enterprises. The funding is available for projects that will run for 1-5 years.

Funds can be used for – Staff salaries, training, volunteer expenses, equipment, premises costs, evaluation, overheads

Deadline - Ongoing

- **Dormant Accounts Fund**: Offers grants up to £100,000 to support the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector to be more resilient and prepared for the future by funding activity that increases capacity and sustainability. These funds are *not* derived National Lottery Activity. However, under Section 22 of the Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Act 2008, the National Lottery Community Fund will distribute funding, under the direction of the Department of Finance.

Funds can be used for – Will not fund capital refurbishment, building purchases, loan repayments or building works

Deadline - Ongoing

The National Lottery Community Fund (Northern Ireland) can be contacted on 028 4378 0003 or at [enquiries.ni@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk](mailto:enquiries.ni@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk).

#### **General UK funding:**

**Growing Great Ideas**: A new programme to support initiatives that focus on ecologies, platforms, ecosystems, assemblages, networks and constellations. The minimum grant size is £150,000 and the minimum length is two years (can fund for up to ten years in some circumstances).

Funds can be used for – Staff salaries, development work (includes training and upgrading equipment), transport, utilities/running costs, volunteer expenses, equipment, capital costs (if demonstrated to benefit longer term ecology)

Deadline - Ongoing

**Climate Action Fund – Round 2**: Offering two types of funding during round 2: Development funding - £150,000 maximum; Full awards - £1.5 million maximum. Funding is available for medium- and large-scale projects that address waste and consumption.

Funds can be used for – Staff costs, volunteer expenses, general project costs, engagement activities, learning and evaluation, utilities/running costs, organisational development, management costs, some capital costs (including

purchasing equipment, buying/leasing/refurbishing/developing land and building)

Deadline – proposals by 8<sup>th</sup> April 2021

The National Lottery provides help for [applying for funds](#) and offers a monthly [newsletter](#) that shares funding opportunities and funding application help.



## The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland

The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland is an independent, grant making trust which awards funding for a range of organisations across Northern Ireland including those which are involved in education, health, housing, the arts, social justice, employment, peace and reconciliation.

The Foundation manages a number of funds, and funding criteria for each varies. The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland provides information on [current funding opportunities](#), [advice on making a successful grant application](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland have a mailing list (sign-up form available at the bottom of their webpage), and the grants team can be contacted for support at [applications@communityfoundationni.org](mailto:applications@communityfoundationni.org).

Funds can be used for – Varied (see individual grant details)

Deadline – Varied (see individual grant details)



## Alec Dickson Trust

The Alec Dickson Trust provide grants for up to £500 for individuals aged 30 and under or from small groups of young people, to support volunteering or community services to those most marginalised by society. They provide information on [What We Fund](#), [Frequently Asked Questions](#) and [Top Tips](#). Online applications can be submitted [here](#).

Funds can be used for – Equipment, project costs

Deadline – Midday, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021



## ASDA Foundation

The ASDA foundation offers 3 grant schemes for good causes and community groups; Supporting Communities Grant (£250-£750), Transforming Communities and Improving lives grant, the Green Token Giving programme (£500 for winner, £200 runner-up). Further information is available [online](#).

Funds can be used for – Varied (see individual grant details)

Deadline – Currently closed to applications due to COVID-19



## AVIVA Community Fund

The AVIVA Community Fund provides funding up to £50,000 for projects on building community resilience and financial capability and inclusion. Applications are posted on Crowdfunder and reviewed quarterly. Further information including a step-by-step application guide and submission support are available [online](#).

Funds can be used for – Materials and equipment, volunteer expenses, training costs, activity costs

Deadline – Ongoing (applications reviewed quarterly, next deadline 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021)

## BBC Children in Need

BBC Children in Need provides a number of main grants and small grants as well as an emergency essentials programme that supports children and young people living in severe poverty. Further information is available for [eligibility criteria, application process and upcoming funding programmes](#). They also provide a guide to [project planning](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Funds can be used for – Varied (see individual grant details)

Deadline – Varied (see individual grant details)



## Comic Relief

Comic Relief provides funds registered charities that share their aspiration of a “just world free of poverty”. Grants are available to charities that have an annual turnover between £250,000-£10m. Smaller charities or start-up organisations are funded through local partners. Further information on eligibility, how to apply and funding opportunities are available [online](#).

Funds can be used for – Varied (see individual grant details)

Deadline – Varied (see individual grant details)



## Community Finance Ireland

Community Finance Ireland (formerly Ulster Community Investment Fund) is a social enterprise charity that operates across the island of Ireland. They provide loans to other third sector organisations to support sport, community and social enterprise projects. Loans range from £10,000-£600,000 with loan rates between 4%-8%. Information on previous and currently supported loans, loan information and the application process can be found [online](#).

Loans can be applied for – Purchase, construction or renovation of buildings, equipment purchasing, bridging funding gaps, restricting existing debt, working capital

Deadline – Ongoing



## Community Relations Council

The Community Relations Council is an arm's length body of the Northern Ireland Executive Office with the core aim of promoting a peaceful and shared society based on reconciliation and mutual trust. They offer a range of funding schemes including; Community relations/Cultural diversity, Core funding, Media grant, and Publication grant.

- Community relations/Cultural diversity: Offers grants of up to £10,000 for organisations to develop their capacity to engage in community relations work and to enhance community relations.
- Core funding: Provides support for organisations which are considered of strategic importance in promoting community relations in Northern Ireland. 2021-2022 funding allocation ~£700,000 (subject to the Executive Office approval)
- Media grant: Aims to commission media projects which focus on the engagement of civil society to underpin peace building and/or support the development of a more diverse society in-line with the [Together: Building a United Community Strategy](#). Total funding available £15,000, anticipates making individual awards between £3000-£5000.

- Publication grant: Aims to encourage the production and dissemination of publications that will contribute to greater understanding and better community relations in Northern Ireland.

Funds can be used for – Varied (see individual grant schemes)

Deadline – Currently closed (CR/CD due to re-open 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021)



## Co-op Local Community Fund

Funds for community projects are provided via 1% of what shoppers spend on selected own-brand products and services. The Co-op Local Community Fund will choose up to 3 projects to fund for up to 12 months. Applications are currently closed but will open again in Spring 2021. Further information including guidance and contact details are available [online](#).

Funds can be used for – Materials and equipment, activity costs

Deadline – Check website for announcement (Spring 2021)

## DPD Eco Fund

The DPD Eco Fund is funded by their circular economy initiatives. The scheme has been operating since January 2020. Anyone can apply for the DPD Eco Fund for grants of up to £2000 to support green projects, but schools and educational facilities are particularly encouraged to apply. Further information is available [online](#).

Funds can be used for – Green initiatives (previously has funded purchasing of equipment)

Deadline – Ongoing

## Enkalon Foundation

The Enkalon Foundation has an annual budget of around £200,000, part of which is used to support charities and community groups in Northern Ireland in meeting their core objects through the General Fund. The Enkalon Foundation is interested in the advancement of education, health, citizenship, community development, arts, culture, heritage, science, amateur sport, animal welfare as well as the relief of those disadvantaged in society. The Foundation do not normally offer grants to playgroups, PTA's, senior citizens groups or sporting groups outside the former Antrim borough area or to individuals or for medical research or for travel or projects outside Northern

Ireland. Grants of up to £6,000 are awarded (average £1000), with applications reviewed quarterly. For further information, including application deadlines, visit their [website](#).

Funds can be used for – No information provided

Deadline – Ongoing (Applications reviewed in March, June, September and December)

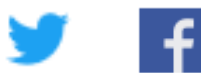


## The Fermanagh Trust

The Fermanagh Trust is an independent community based foundation that supports local communities and groups across County Fermanagh. The Trust aims to promote positive relationships across civil society, enhance people's lives and promote sustainability. They administer a wide range of grant programmes and funds, information on these can be found [online](#).

Funds can be used for – Varied (see individual grant schemes)

Deadline – Varied (see individual grant schemes)



## Garfield Weston Foundation

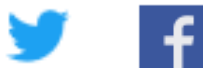
The Garfield Weston Foundation is a grant-giving charity that supports UK registered charities and organisations working within the UK in the areas of welfare, youth, community, arts, faith, environment, educations, health and museums and heritage. The foundation offers two grant programmes; Regular grants and Major grants.

- Regular grants: Offers grants below £100,000.
- Major grants: Offers grants of £100,000 or more. Major grant applications are reviewed during board meetings (meet eight times in a year). If you are considering a major grant application, you need to send a one page summary to the grant assistant ([cmolloy@garfieldweston.org](mailto:cmolloy@garfieldweston.org)) outlining what the grant is for, the total cost and fundraising target. It is expected that those applying for major grants, have an annual or project income in excess of £1m.

The Garfield Weston Foundation provides [application guidelines](#), [frequently asked questions](#) and an [eligibility quiz](#). Further information and [how to apply](#) can be found [online](#).

Funds can be used for – Capital, revenue and project work

Deadline – Ongoing

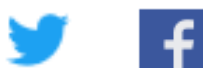


## Groundwork

Groundwork is a federation of charities that enable practical community action on poverty and the environment across the UK. Groundwork has dedicated Northern Ireland team who work with communities to enhance their “lives, places and prospects, from the ground up”. Groundworks Northern Ireland provides grant management to national and local governments, public sector agencies, corporate partners and charitable trusts. Further information on Groundwork Northern Ireland can be found [here](#), and available grant information can be found [here](#).

Funds can be used for – Varied (see individual grant schemes)

Deadline – Varied (see individual grant schemes)



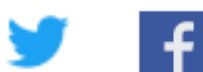
## Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland

The Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland is one of four independent grant making trusts covering England & Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands. The trusts are shareholders in Lloyds Banking Group and together receive 0.5% of the Group’s pre-tax profits. The Halifax Group for Northern Ireland maintains that it is committed to supporting underfunded, grassroots charities that enable people, especially disabled and disadvantaged people, to play a fuller role in society. Funding applications are accepted from organisations with recognised charitable status. The Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland currently operate a [Small Community Grant Programme](#) that funds projects that either support [social and community needs or education and training](#). The average grant for 2020 was £3,925.

[Further guidance](#) for applications is available online and you can contact them via email on [grants@halifaxfoundationni.org](mailto:grants@halifaxfoundationni.org).

Funds can be used for – Materials and equipment, salary contributions, overheads, transport costs, volunteer expenses, training costs, activity costs, refurbishments, disability access

Deadline – Ongoing



## Henry Smith Charity

The Henry Smith charity is an independent grant making trust that offers support to people and communities to bring about positive change. There are two grant schemes open to Northern Ireland; Improving Lives and Strengthening Communities.

- [Improving Lives](#): Offers grants of between £20,000-£60,000 to small and medium sized organisations in the UK. Grant lengths should be between 1-3 years.
- [Strengthening Communities](#): Offers grants of between £20,000-£60,000 to small community based organisations that are working in the most deprived areas of the UK (15% most deprived for Northern Ireland). Grant lengths should be between 1-3 years.

Further information can be found [online](#).

Funds can be used for – Varied (see individual grant schemes)

Deadline – Ongoing

## The Honourable Irish Society

The Honourable Irish Society is a self-funded, cross-community charitable organisation that works for the benefit of County Derry/Londonderry. The society typically makes around 100 small grants a year to organisations or individuals in the voluntary sector. They are particularly interested in funding projects that address; alcohol and substance misuse, disabled people, disadvantaged young people, domestic and sexual violence, the elderly, homelessness, prisoners and ex-offenders and the visually impaired. The society currently has two funding schemes; County Derry/Londonderry and Northern Ireland.

- County Derry/Londonderry: Offers grants of up to £1000 to organisations or up to £250 to individuals for projects within County Derry/Londonderry.
- Northern Ireland: Offers grants of between £1000-£2000 to organisations for projects in Northern Ireland (excluding County Derry/Londonderry)

For further information, including application deadlines, visit their [website](#).

Funds can be used for – Specific projects or items of equipment, particularly of a more permanent nature.

Deadline – Ongoing (Grants are allocated in February, April, June and October)





## The Ireland Funds

The Ireland Funds is a global philanthropic network that promotes and supports peace, culture, education and community development across the island of Ireland and among the Irish communities globally. The Ireland Funds offer two grant schemes; Small Grants and Flagship Awards.

- Small Grants: Offers grants up to €10,000 for projects that encompass at least one key programme area; Community development, Education, Arts and Culture, Peace and Reconciliation.
- Flagship Awards: Offers grants for core funding, capacity building or programme costs within at least one of the key programme areas; Community development, Education, Arts and Culture, Peace and Reconciliation.

Further information is available [online](#).

Funds can be used for – Varied (see individual grant details)

Deadline – Currently closed



## John Moores Foundation

The John Moores Foundation provides funding to local community organisations to carry out charitable work in Northern Ireland and Merseyside. The Foundation aims to improve the social conditions and quality of life to people facing barriers. The Foundation priorities small, grassroots and volunteer-driven organisations. The average grant awarded during 2019-2020 was £5000. To gain access to the application, you must first contact the foundation. Further information can be found [online](#).

Funds can be used for – Core running costs, volunteer expenses, education and training costs, venue and travel costs, one-off project costs, materials and equipment

Deadline – Ongoing



## Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust

Provides grant funding for projects working in five areas – peace and security; power and accountability; rights and justice; sustainable future; and Northern Ireland. While trustees are open to funding a range of different organisations, it generally funds work that is “about addressing the root causes of problems rather than delivering services or alleviating immediate needs”. They provide a step-by-step application [guide](#), the next

application deadline is August 2021. You can contact the trust on 01904 627810 or [enquiries@jrct.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@jrct.org.uk).

Funds can be used for – Offers unrestricted (core) grants and project restricted grants

Deadline – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021



## Kellogg's Breakfast Club Grants Programme

Kellogg's in association with Forever Manchester are providing grants up to £1000 to school breakfast clubs, to provide breakfast to those children who need it most.

Applications can be received at any time, but if the fund becomes oversubscribed it may close. Further information is available [online](#).

Funds can be used for – Materials and equipment

Deadline – Ongoing

## Kelly Family Charitable Trust

The Kelly Family Charitable Trust funds charities whose activities involve all or most family members, in initiatives that seek to tackle problems facing one or more of its members. Previous funding has included early intervention, mediation, prison services and services for families affected by sexual abuse, physical abuse and domestic violence. Funding for up to £5,000 is offered (but trustees will consider requests for higher amounts). Further information is available [online](#).

Funds can be used for – Capital and revenue

Deadline – Ongoing (next deadline 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021)

## NFU Mutual Charitable Trust

The NFU Mutual Charitable Trust provides funding up to £50,000 to initiatives which will have a significant impact on the rural community. The NFU Mutual trustees are particularly interested in initiatives in the areas of education of young people in rural areas and relief of poverty within rural areas. Further information is available [online](#).

Funds can be used for – Running costs to deliver projects and services

Deadline – Ongoing (next deadline 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021)



## NI Electricity Networks Charities Fund

The fund is financed from NIE staff salaries and pensions. Applications are reviewed quarterly by a committee. Funding awards typically range £200-£1000, although higher awards will be considered. Further information can be found [online](#).

Funds can be used for – Materials and equipment, education, activities

Deadline – Ongoing

## Ocado Foundation For Good

The Ocado Foundation is the charitable arm of Ocado Group. They offer grants up to £1000 to help registered charities and community groups to address health and well-being, education, work, inequalities and climate action. Further information can be found [online](#).

Funds can be used for – No information provided

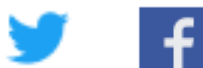
Deadline – Ongoing

## The Prince's Countryside Fund

The Prince's Countryside Fund has grants of up to £10,000 available for projects which are working to create resilient rural communities. Application guidelines and further information can be found [online](#).

Funds can be used for – Materials and equipment, salary contributions, transport costs, volunteer expenses, training costs, activity costs, refurbishments

Deadline – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021



## Santander Foundation

The Foundation recently undertook a review of its grant programmes and will be launching its new grant programme in 2021, supporting organisations delivering skills to help people become digitally and financially empowered. Community and voluntary organisations may wish to periodically check the Foundation's [website](#) for information on the new grant programme.

Funds can be used for – Check website for announcement

Deadline – Check website for announcement

## SSE Airtricity Community Fund

Provides funding to support communities living around its 28 windfarms across Northern Ireland (Counties Derry/Londonderry; Tyrone, Fermanagh). The annual fund is distributed to local activities and projects with a focus on energy efficiency, safety, and social and environmental sustainability. Information on eligibility and how to apply is available [online](#).

Funds can be used for – Materials and equipment (new, repairs and upgrades), education, environmental improvements

Deadline – Information not currently available for 2021

## St Stephen's Green Trust

St. Stephen's Green Trust is a charitable foundation which respects human dignity and is committed to helping create a society where the dignity of all can be realised through social justice and inclusive, nurturing communities. The 2018-2022 strategic plan details their five strategic goals, and will be offering various funding opportunities to

help achieve the goals. Funding opportunities are regularly updated on their [website](#) and posted on NICVA's [GrantTracker](#).

Funds can be used for – Varied (see individual grant details)

Deadline – Varied (see individual grant details)



## Tesco Community Grants

Bags of Help is Tesco's community grant scheme, and it is administered by Groundwork. Three projects are voted on by customers in Tesco stores, with projects changing every three months. Bags of Help fund projects that bring benefits to their communities such as improving building and outdoor spaces, buying new equipment, training coaches or volunteers, or hosting community events. Further information including guidance notes and an eligibility quiz can be found [online](#).

Funds can be used for – Materials and equipment, environmental improvements, activity costs

Deadline – Ongoing (due to COVID-19 the scheme is currently paused, but applications are still open. The best applications will be considered for a £1000 award.)

## Trusthouse Charitable Foundation

Trusthouse Charitable Foundation offers grants to small and medium sized local organisations to address local issues in communities of extreme urban or rural deprivation. It provides funding for community services, community centres, alternative education for young people, counselling, family support services, youth clubs and substance abuse. Trusthouse offer two grant programmes; Small Grants and Major Grants.

- Small Grants: Offers single year grants between £2000-£10,000 for projects and organisations located in an urban area in the bottom 15% most deprived areas or in a rural area located in the bottom 50% (<https://deprivation.nisra.gov.uk/>).
- Major Grants: Offers 1) single year grants between £10,000-£100,000; or 2) multi-year grants (maximum 3 years) up to £100,000. Projects and organisations must be focused on family support and either be located in an urban area in the bottom 15% most deprived areas or in a rural area located in the bottom 50% (<https://deprivation.nisra.gov.uk/>).

Further information on eligibility and how to apply can be found [online](#).

Funds can be used for – Equipment and material, education, activities, transport costs, salary costs, operation costs

Deadline – Ongoing

## The Tudor Trust

The Tudor Trust is an independent grant-making trust that supports voluntary and community groups in the UK. They are particularly interested in helping smaller, community-led organisations that work with those at the margins of society. The trust have grants available for core funding, projects grants and capital grants. There is no minimum or maximum grant but typically award grants exceeding £10,000 for up to 3 years. Further information on grants and eligibility can be found [online](#).

Funds can be used for – Varied (see individual grant details)

Deadline – Ongoing



## Ulster Garden Villages Limited

Ulster Garden Villages Limited aims to make real and lasting difference to the lives of people in Northern Ireland. The Common Fund offers grants to projects that focusing on; health, disadvantaged sections of society, young people, culture and heritage and the environment. Further information, including an eligibility quiz is available [online](#).

Funds can be used for – Core running costs, equipment, project overheads, and capital

Deadline – Ongoing



## The Victoria Homes Trust

The Victoria Homes Trust funds grants for registered charities in the UK, but the benefit of the project must be within Northern Ireland. The main objectives of the trust is to help and educate young people under 21. They are particularly interested in projects that address alcohol and drug abuse, homelessness and counselling. Grant awards range between £500-£5000. Further information is available [online](#).

Funds can be used for – Varied (see individual grant details)

Deadline – Twice a year (30<sup>th</sup> April and 30<sup>th</sup> November)

## 8 Funding for sports and sports clubs



**Voluntary and community groups may wish to check the websites of these organisations on a regular basis or follow their social media to keep up-to-date with funding opportunities.**

### Sport Northern Ireland

Sport Northern Ireland is a public body for the development of sport in Northern Ireland. Sport NI is distributes funds on behalf of the Exchequer and the National Lottery. Sport Ni provides funding through numerous schemes including;

- [Facility Fund](#): Announced a new plan to invest £17.5m of it National Lottery funding into sports facility projects over the next five years. Investments can be for single, multi or performance facilities.
- [Sports Hardship Fund](#): Sport NI in partnership with the Department for Communities offered grants to help clubs maintain facilities, most recently phase 3 offered grants for aid during the lockdown.
- [Supporting Sport to Build Back Better](#): Long term strategic response to the impact of COVID-19 on sport across Northern Ireland. The programme will provide a multi-strand approach to support the sporting system, and will include open grant schemes (many launched January 2021).
- [Athlete Award Programme](#) – Contribution towards the essential personal living costs of an athlete, to enable them to train in order to maximise their potential.

Funds can be used for – Varied (see individual grant schemes)

Deadline – Currently closed



## Sport Relief

The [money raised from Sport Relief is used to tackle major issues](#) such as homelessness, domestic abuse, child poverty, mental health and more. Sporting groups and clubs may wish to check the website periodically for [funding opportunities](#).

Funds can be used for – Varied (see individual grant schemes)

Deadline – Varied (see individual grant schemes)



## Cash4Clubs

Cash4Clubs is a sports funding scheme that gives clubs the opportunity to apply for grants to improve facilities, purchase new equipment, gain qualifications and invest in club sustainability. Cash4Clubs is funded by Flutter Entertainment PLC (Bookmaking holding company). Cash4Clubs has combined with the charity [Made By Sport](#) to offer grants of £2021 in unrestricted support, through the 'Clubs in Crisis' fund in response to COVID-19. The Clubs in Crisis fund was set up to help directly support grassroots community sports clubs and organisations that work with young people. The funds will be made available for Northern Ireland through the [Community Foundation Northern Ireland](#). Further information can be found online [here](#) and [here](#).

Funds can be used for – Unrestricted

Deadline – Fund to open in March 2021

## Lidl Community Works Sports for Good

Lidl Community Works was launched in 2014 and states that it is committed to providing support and resources to local communities in Northern Ireland. Previously Lidl Community Works has donated funds, vouchers and sporting equipment to local community groups. Further investment and activity is planned for 2021.

Funds can be used for – Varied (see individual grant schemes)

Deadline – Currently closed



**Sports groups should be encouraged to 'think outside of the box'. These groups can also apply for funding opportunities that are linked to for example; health and wellbeing, tackling social deprivation, or providing opportunities for people with disabilities.**



## 9 Funding for arts and culture



**Voluntary and community groups may wish to check the websites of these organisations on a regular basis or follow their social media to keep up-to-date with funding opportunities.**

### Arts Council of Northern Ireland

The Arts Council Northern Ireland is the funding and development agency for the arts in Northern Ireland. The Arts Council NI distributes funds on behalf of the Exchequer and the National Lottery and provides a range of funding programmes for both [individuals](#) and [organisations](#).

Funds can be used for – Varied (see individual grant schemes)

Deadline – Varied (see individual grant schemes)



### Arts Council Ireland

The Arts Council Ireland is the Irish Government's development agency for the arts. The Arts Council Ireland distributes funds on behalf of the Exchequer and provides a range of funding programmes for groups, individuals, local authorities and organisations. Further information can be found [online](#).

Funds can be used for – Varied (see individual grant schemes)

Deadline – Varied (see individual grant schemes)



### Theatres Trust Improvement Scheme

The Theatres Trust in association with the Wolfson Foundation offers capital funding for theatres. The theme for this round of funding is improving environmental sustainability. Operators can apply for grants of up to £20,000 and will run until 2023. Further information can be found [online](#).

Funds can be used for – Capital

Deadline – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021





**Arts and culture groups should be encouraged to ‘think outside of the box’. These groups can also apply for funding opportunities that are linked to for example; health and wellbeing, tackling social deprivation, or providing opportunities for people with disabilities.**

## **10 Funding for community environmental projects**

### **Live Here Love Here**

Live Here Love Here is a campaign focused on improving the local environment and building a sense of pride in local communities. The campaign has Small Grants Scheme that provides funds of between £500-£5000 to support volunteer and community groups, schools and third level education organisations, youth groups and sports clubs in Northern Ireland. Projects should; improve the health and wellbeing of communities, improve and/or maintain public spaces, reduce littering and dog fouling, improve the local environment, contribute to the development of civic pride. Further information can be found [online](#).

Funds can be used for – No information provided

Deadline – Currently closed (re-open April 2021)



## 11 Advice and guidance on making a funding application



Writing a funding application may seem daunting, particularly for smaller organisations and groups, but there is an abundance of advice and guidance available. Some examples are set out below:

- **NICVA** provides the voluntary and community sector with [help, support and training on maximising fundraising opportunities](#). See also [‘Writing successful funding applications’](#) and NICVA’s [webinars](#).
- **NCVO** provides the voluntary and community sector with a guide to grants [‘All about grants’](#) See also NCVO’s knowhow videos on [‘writing winning funding bids’](#)
- **Funding For All** [‘Top Tips for Bid Writing’](#)
- **Third Sector** [‘The top 10 funding application errors’](#)
- **Grantwork** [‘How to write a great application for community grant funding – checklist’](#)
- **Community Impact Bucks** [‘Top ten tips for funding applications’](#)



### Tips for finding funding opportunities

1. Contact [NICVA for advice and information](#) on funding opportunities.
2. Search for funding opportunities via [GrantTracker](#) (access for MLAs and constituency staff only is provided on the Assembly Intranet).
3. Consider encouraging voluntary and community groups to sign up to the social media of potential funders such as public bodies, charities and corporate bodies – in this way they can gain instant access to information on the latest funding opportunities.
4. Contact your local council or check your local council website for information on council funding opportunities. Ask your local council if they are providing funding workshops or sessions.
5. Encourage community and voluntary organisations to ‘think outside the box’. For examples, sports clubs primarily apply for funding specifically for sports but could also be encouraged to apply for funding opportunities that are linked to e.g. health and wellbeing, tackling social deprivation, or providing opportunities for people with disabilities etc.

6. Local community groups could consider how they can work with other groups as part of a network in order to attract funding and/or could contact other groups who have been successful at attracting funding in order to gain insights into making a successful funding bid.
7. Support your grant applications with statistics on need within your local areas – the Northern Ireland Assembly Research and Information Service publish [statistical profiles for each constituency](#). The [Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency](#) (NISRA) provides [filtered statistical information](#) on a range of issues and geographic area.

This information is provided to MLAs in support of their Assembly duties and is not intended to address the specific circumstances of any particular individual or organisation. Whilst we strive to ensure that the information provided here is up to date, the information provided by external websites referred to may change frequently. This leaflet should not be relied upon as providing legal or professional advice, nor as a substitute for it. A suitably qualified professional should be consulted if specific advice or information is required.

The Research and Information Service is available to discuss the content of this briefing with Members and their staff, but not with the general public.