

Funding opportunities **Rural Newsletter January 2024**

Boots Charitable Trust Extends Grants Programme to Support Local Communities across the UK

Boots Charitable Trust is an independent registered charity wholly funded by Boots UK Limited. The Trust recently expanded its grants programme from its home base of Nottinghamshire to across the UK. Registered charities working in the areas of health, lifelong learning, community development and social care can apply four times a year for grants of between £100 and £10,000. Grants of up to £5,000 are available for smaller voluntary organisations whose income and expenditure is less than £5,000 per year and who are not yet required to register with the Charity Commission. To be eligible, projects must meet at least one of Trust's four funding priorities:

Health: Community healthcare, such as homecare or support for sufferers of medical conditions, and health education and prevention.

Lifelong learning: Local literacy and numeracy projects.

Community development: For example, supporting councils in providing voluntary services.

• Social care: Personal, social or community activities or schemes.

Additionally, a particular focus within each of these priorities is how the projects demonstrate a commitment to improving diversity, equality and inclusion within the community. There is particular interest in projects with the capacity to deliver significant impact and which reach the greatest number of people. The funding can be used for most expenditure items, including salary and running costs. Large building or construction projects will not be funded, although minor structural improvements and refurbishments would be considered. There are four application windows per year and applications will only be accepted during the quarterly windows. **Applications will next be accepted from 1 to 28 February 2024.** Full details [can be found here.](#)

Greene King IPA Reopens Proud to Pitch In Fund for 2024

Grants of up to £4,000 are available for registered charities, community groups, social enterprises, community amateur sports clubs, and other organisations across the UK to deliver grassroots sports activities that positively impact local communities. Examples of projects that have previously received funding include:

Renovations of a club's facilities to make them more inclusive and accessible, Coaching qualifications and referee courses, New equipment and kit.

Priority will be given to organisations that can demonstrate how their sports club or project benefits members of the local community, and projects that will have a long-term impact. Funded projects should be delivered by 31 December 2024. The deadline for applications is 1 November 2024. More details [can be found here.](#)

Youth Music Trailblazer Fund

Grants of up to £30,000 are available to constituted UK based organisations to run projects in England for children and young people (aged 25 or under) to make music activity more inclusive and foster learning, creation, and employment opportunities. The funding aims to support young people who want to change their lives through music but cannot because of who they are, where they are from or what they are going through. The grants are for organisations who want to trial work

for the first time, test a new way of working, or disrupt the status quo. The total project budget should include at least 10% match funding (which can be a mix of cash and in-kind). The next application deadline is 30 August 2024. Full details [can be found here](#).

LandAid's Routes Out of Homelessness Programme

LandAid is a charity established by the UK property industry that has been working for 30 years to end youth homelessness across the UK. The Routes out of Homelessness grants programme aims to create new bedspaces for young people (16-25 years) who are homeless or have experienced homelessness. There are three funding streams available to charitable organisations:

- Safe Spaces Programme: to create new/additional hosting bedspaces, generally bedspaces in the homes of individuals or families who may be volunteers or paid. These bedspaces would generally be used for emergency housing, or as a form of supported housing. There are no funding limits, but bedspaces are expected to cost anywhere between £1,000 and £3,500.
- Capital Grants Programme with awards between £20,000 and £100,000: to create bedspaces in properties owned by, or on a long-term lease to, charitable organisations. These bedspaces could be used for emergency, supported or move-on accommodation.
- Move-on Grants Programme: To unlock bedspaces in the private, or social, rental sector. These bedspaces will be for move-on accommodation. These grants would be for charities working with young people who are ready and wanting to move forward into independent living, but face barriers in accessing rental accommodation. It is anticipated that the average move-on bedspace in the private sector will generally cost £1,000 to £2,000 to unlock. There is a two-stage application process. Full details [can be found here](#).

Comic Relief Announces New UK Fund for the UK's Migration Sector to Open in February

Comic Relief has given advanced notice that it ['expects to launch a new funding opportunity in February'](#) for organisations that are supporting refugees and asylum seekers in the UK and/or who are doing influencing work for safer routes and improved outcomes for people affected. This will be for organisations that are already working in this area.' 'Further funding criteria is being developed. More information about the funding and the application process will be made available in February 2024.' This will be the first grant scheme under Comic Relief's new funding strategy, which is focused on the following:

- Effects of Poverty programme fund works that enables people who bear the brunt of poverty to build community-led solutions and overcome the many problems they face.
- Tackling Injustices programme funds organisations and movements that strive for fairness and equity, in order to end the injustices that cause and keep people, in poverty.
- Climate Justice programme will work in places and with people who are already vulnerable and dealing with the effects of climate change.

Armed Forces Day Events Grant

Grants of up to £10,000 are available to help organisations and individuals to host an Armed Forces Day event which can take place within two weeks of Armed Forces Day. Match funding of 50% is required. Local councils, voluntary and community organisations, schools, ex-service organisations, and individuals are eligible to apply. The deadline is 1 March 2024. Full details [can be found here](#).

MSE Charity Announces Funding Theme for January 2024 Round

Money Saving Expert (MSE) Charity has announced the theme for its January 2024 grant round is 'Living with Long Term Challenges'. This grant round will offer grants of up to £8,000 to support projects focused on improving and delivering personal financial life skills to people living with Long Term Challenges, such as: Dementia, Autism, Learning Difficulties, Disabilities, Caring Responsibilities, Mental illness, Brain injury / stroke

Small to medium-sized non-profit organisations with a constitution can apply, including UK registered charities, community interest companies, social enterprises, and credit unions. To be eligible, applicants must be based in the UK, looking for funding for UK based activities, have an annual income of less than £750,000 and unrestricted reserves that are less than six months of their running costs. Applications are usually invited twice a year: in winter and autumn. Please note that each grant round is limited to the first 40 accepted applications. Previous rounds have closed within a couple of weeks of opening. **Applications are expected to open on 15 January 2024 and close on 16 February 2024** and full details will be [published here](#) in due course.

VCSE Energy Efficiency Scheme Coming Soon

A new funding scheme will soon be opening to help voluntary, community, and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations in England improve their energy efficiency. The VCSE Energy Efficiency Scheme will have two elements:

- eligible organisations will be able to apply for the cost and delivery of an independent energy assessment. This will help them identify how to reduce their bills and where to get further support
- organisations with an energy assessment may then be eligible to apply for a capital grant to install recommended energy efficiency measures in their premises

Full eligibility criteria will be published when the scheme opens, but organisations must be based in England, be a VCSE, deliver frontline services and not be suitable for blended finance or loan support through other schemes. Priority will be given to organisations for whom energy is the biggest concern and those directly supporting individuals and communities with critical needs, particularly those related to the rising cost of living. Applications for free independent energy assessments will open in December. Applications for the installation of energy efficiency measures will open in January 2024. Practical support will be available to help organisations manage capital installation projects. All measures will need to be installed and paid for by March 2025. Interested groups [can register here](#) to be alerted when the scheme goes live.

Warburtons Community Giving

Grants of up to £400 are available for local projects, activities, and organisations. The aim of these small community grants is to support projects, activities and organisations that will be of real direct benefit to families and have a direct and tangible social impact on people's lives. Applications are considered quarterly. The next round closes 5 February 2024 for decisions by 15 March 2024. Full details [can be found here](#).

Jordan Sinnott Foundation Trust

Grants are available to encourage vulnerable and underprivileged children and young adults to get active and enjoy taking part in sport with the main objective being the relief of those who are in need, particularly children and young people, by reason of sickness or disability, financial hardship, or social and economic circumstances, including by the provision of grants to fund items such as sports equipment, club membership or training facilities for those who cannot afford them. Individual grants of up to £2,000, grants for clubs/groups or teams of up to £5,000. There is a rolling deadline. More details [can be found here](#).

Yorkshire Building Society Charitable Foundation - Small Change Big Difference Fund

The Charitable Foundation makes donations to registered charities recommended by the Building Society's members and colleagues. It has two priority areas: alleviating poverty and improving health/saving lives with particular focus on children, those seriously ill, the elderly, homeless and disabled people. Between £250 up to £2,500 is available. The next funding round closes on 31st March 2024. More details [can be found here](#).

Asda Foundation

The Asda Foundation supports small, grass roots organisations throughout the year on a range of local community projects. The following are currently open to applications from local groups:

- U18 Better Starts Grants to support a broad range of activities for children under the age of 18 which contribute towards transforming communities and improving children's lives, as well as funding to strengthen their volunteering.
- Empowering Local Communities Grants to support a broad range of activities which contribute towards transforming communities and improving lives, as well as funding to strengthen their volunteering.
- Cost of Living Grants to support the increased running costs group are facing as a result of the crisis, such as rent, utility and essential costs, as well as funding to strengthen volunteering.

Grants are for up to a maximum of £1,600. The current application window closes 1 March 2024. More details [can be found here](#).

Black and Racially Minoritised-Led Groups in England Can Apply Now for Flexible Finance

The Flexible Finance Fund is a partnership between Social Investment Business, The Ubele Initiative and Create Equity. It will provide £4 million of funding and

support to 15-25 Black and Racially Minoritised charities and social enterprises based in England who are improving people's lives, or the environment they live in. The package of funding and support is meant to help them to grow or take on assets and become more resilient. Flexible Finance works through providing a flexible grant and support alongside a loan from the Government's Recovery Loan Fund alongside direct support from The Ubele Initiative or Create Equity through the funding application process. Black and Racially Minoritised-led, legally constituted registered charities or social enterprises operating for at least two years with a minimum turnover of £200,000 in the last financial year may apply for a blended loan and grant:

- Loans are £50,000 to £1.5 million with a term of one to six years.
- Unrestricted grants of £50,000 to £200,000 (ranges from 50% to 100% of the loan amount capped at £200,000).

Funding can be used for anything that benefits the community the organisation operates in. It is an unrestricted fund, so the funding could be used to take on more staff, undertake building work or increase capacity through new projects for example. The Black and Racially Minoritised grouping covers everyone outside the category 'White British' (i.e., White English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish). Groups classified as Black and Racially Minoritised include people identifying as Asian / Asian British; Black / African / Caribbean / Black British; White Irish or Gypsy, Traveller or Irish Traveller; mixed or multiple ethnic groups; Arab or Latinx; or any other 'non-White' British category. There are no deadlines. Applications can be made at any time. More details [can be found here](#).

Naturewatch Foundation Launches New Pet Rescue Grant for UK

The Pet Rescue Grant is a new fund provided and administered by Naturewatch Foundation, a registered animal welfare charity whose mission is to end animal cruelty and advance animal welfare standards. The Foundation is offering £5,000 to help frontline animal welfare services in the UK to provide a second chance to pets who have been exploited for profit. UK registered charities and Community Interest Companies (CICs) registered with the Companies House can apply. Priority will be given to projects by smaller organisations that may not have the time or resources to apply to larger funding bodies. At least £5,000 will be made available each year. One or more organisations may be selected to receive a grant each year. The grant can be used for things such as:

- Veterinary care.
- Behavioural support.
- Specialist facilities or equipment.
- Training for personnel

The 2024 application window opens on 24 January and closes on 21 February 2024. Full details [can be found here](#).

Thomas Wall Trust Accepting UK Applications for Summer 2024 Meeting

Grants of up to £5,000 are available for UK registered charities for specific projects that improve communication skills for disadvantaged adults and supports NEET people into employment. The Trust views communication skills as critical capabilities for people who want to improve their employment prospects, self-confidence,

resilience, and life chances. The funding is for registered UK registered charities with an annual turnover of between £25,000 and £500,000. Beneficiaries must gain at least one accredited vocational qualification during delivery. As an inclusive charity, the Trust welcomes proposals which target people experiencing multiple deprivation or other groups demonstrably facing major hurdles to employment, especially women, people with physical, mental, or learning disabilities, and refugees. Priority will be given to match funded projects and self-sustainable projects, with a view to becoming less reliant on grants in the future. There is a two-stage application process. The next deadline to submit a first stage application is 29 April 2024 for assessment at the July 2024 meeting. Full details [can be found here](#).

Volunteering for Health Programme Funding

CW+, in partnership with NHS Charities Together and NHS England, is offering approximately 15 grants of between £150,000 and £500,000 over three years for partnerships of NHS and VCSE organisations to build capability and capability through the development of volunteering infrastructure to improve the experience and outcomes of people using health and care systems. Through the Volunteering for Health Programme, Funding is for projects that aim to achieve one or more of the following programme outcomes:

- Better integration of volunteering into decision-making at a ‘place-based’ and ICB level.
- Health and care priorities are better supported by volunteering.
- Better volunteer experiences.
- Innovative approaches to recruiting, supporting, or deploying volunteers are shared.

Funding is for partnerships of organisations that involve, or have a strategic interest in, health and care, such as NHS trusts, NHS Foundation trusts, ICBs, VCSE organisations such as registered charities and community interest companies, and local authorities. Eligible costs include new or existing staff salaries, leadership, and organisational development (coaching, facilitation, consultancy etc), running costs such as room hire for partnership activities, and resources to support the gathering and sharing of learning. There is a multi-phased application process wherein partnership organisations must first complete a Phase One application. Successful applicants will then receive an initial development grant, as well as a funded and supported design and development process to complete a Phase Two proposal for further funding for the remaining period of the programme. The deadline to submit a Phase One application is 23 February 2024. Full details [can be found here](#).

Smart Energy GB in Communities Fund Reopens for 2024 Funding

As part of their ongoing campaign to inform and inspire people across Great Britain about the benefits of smart meters, Smart Energy GB working with National Energy Action (NEA) is offering grants of up to £25,000 to regionally based voluntary and public sector organisations. The funding is available to organisations that can help engage people and communities, through direct and indirect activities, with information about how to get and use smart meters. Applications will be considered from regionally based organisations preferably with local networks that can deliver support to people in one of the target groups. This includes charities, housing associations and local authorities. Projects need to address the fund’s objectives,

which are to support those who might find it difficult to engage with the smart meter rollout. This year, the funding is aimed at partners who can evidence reaching people with a number of these characteristics, including:

- Aged 75+.
- Have at least one disability or impairment
- From lower socioeconomic groups.
- Lower literacy.

Depending on the target, applications can be made for grants of between £7,500 – £15,000 or £15,001 – £25,000. All projects must start by 1 April 2024 and finish by 4 December 2024. The deadline for funding applications is 9 February 2024 (12noon). Full details [can be found here](#).

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Grants are for up to a maximum of £1,600. The current application window closes 1 March 2024. More details [can be found here](#).

Funding to Promote Visual and Performance Arts Across the UK

Jerwood Foundation is offering grants to support organisations that focus on making art available for public benefit and promoting emerging talent in the arts. Up to £2 million is available per year to support a variety of projects and activities that promote the arts for public benefit. Funding is for projects starting more than three months, but less than 12 months, from the funding round closing date. The next deadline for applications is 1 March 2024. More details [can be found here](#).

Trusthouse Charitable Foundation

Grants of up to £100,000 are available for small and medium sized local charities and not-for-profit organisations in the UK with a track record of success working to address local issues in communities of extreme urban deprivation or deprived rural areas. The Trust seeks to identify and support charitable initiatives that:

- Strengthen local communities - by empowering local people, bridging divides, building neighbourhood connection, encouraging community participation, and fostering inclusion.
- Address causes of deprivation.
- Create opportunity for disadvantaged individuals.

- Champion small to medium-sized charities - by supporting grassroots, community-based charities and voluntary organisations in the UK, with frontline experience of service delivery for vulnerable individuals.

Applications can be submitted at any time. Full details [can be found here](#).

Community Funding for Christian Charities and Organisations Across the UK and Ireland

Benefact Trust is offering grants for Christian organisations to deliver a range of projects and activities that will make a positive and transformative impact in lives and communities. Through the Community Impact Grants Programme, funding is available for projects that fall under the following programme areas:

- Growing congregations and Christian communities.
- Addressing social challenges facing communities.
- Enabling wider community use of church buildings.
- Empowering Christian Education.

Multi-year grants covering up to three years are available. Funding can be used to cover direct capital and revenue costs that are directly related to the proposed project. Applications can be submitted at any time. Full details [can be found here](#).

Henry Smith Charity - Holiday Grants for Children open for 2024

Grants of up to £2,750 are available for schools, youth groups, not-for-profit organisations, and charities to provide access to recreational trips or holidays in 2024 for groups of children aged 13 years and younger who experience disadvantage or disability and live in an area of high deprivation. Applications are accepted:

- 27 November 2023 to 19 March 2024 (for trips taking place 15 January to 30 April 2024).
- 13 March to 22 July 2024 (for trips taking place 1 May to 31 August 2024).
- 12 July to 19 November 2024 (for trips taking place 12 July to 19 November 2024).

Priority will be given to projects that will benefit disadvantaged and disabled children in areas that fall within the bottom 20% according to the National Indices of Deprivation. For groups of children with disabilities, more flexibility will be given regarding the level of deprivation. Full details [can be found here](#).

Support For Families with Disabled Children

Support for Families with Disabled Children is Funded by the Department for Education and managed by Family Fund, the SFDC programme provides a wide range of grant items to families in England with a low-income, who are raising a disabled or seriously ill child or young person. Help if you're on a low income-You may be able to get a Family Fund grant if you're raising a disabled or seriously ill child or young person. This can help pay for things like: furniture and household products clothing and toys family breaks and days out Family Fund will assess your finances to see if you're eligible. You can find more information about grants on the Family Fund website. <https://www.familyfund.org.uk/grants/schemes/sfdc>

Funding organisation Department for Education

Who can apply Personal/Individual
How much you can get From £1 to £400
Total size of grant scheme £12.31 million
Opening date 1 October 2023, 12:01am
Closing date 31 March 2024, 11:59pm