

# Funding, Events & Get Involved



## South

Aug. 2025

## Funding

- **Community and Coast Fund** – year 2 is definitely coming. Will be launched later in Sept., with applications to be open from the end of Sept.. Due to the timing ( Oct. holiday period ) , there will be a slightly longer window period.  
£10,000 maximum amount and it's for capital spend ie equipment  
Meantime , please keep an eye out on the website page, and we will let you know as soon as it's open.  
It's the same 6 pillars as last year.  
As well as being very focused on community growth, the Fund also has natural biodiversity, net zero targets and heritage as some of the key aims behind projects it looks to facilitate. Projects should be linked to at least one

### **Biodiversity**

Increasing local biodiversity and providing more opportunities for people both living and working in the area to enjoy the natural environment.

### **Jobs & Skills**

Prioritising and providing clear pathways for local people to access support training and jobs associated with the energy transition within the energy transition zone.

### **Net Zero**

Creating opportunities for shared learning with the community in terms of delivering net zero providing targeted support through education and action-based initiatives.

### **Wellbeing & Play**

Improving access to and facilities within recreational areas to provide a greater range of wellbeing and play opportunities for use by the community.

### **Young People**

Supporting local young people to thrive and creating opportunities for the next generation to engage meaningfully with the future of their community.

## Heritage & Place

Working with the community to improve facilities linkages interpretation and wayfinding to encourage local people and visitors to learn about and experience the rich history and culture of the area.

- Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund - Year 5 is now open !  
Please note that the application process has changed for year 5, so it's important that you read through the guidance notes BEFORE completing your application.

We are currently welcoming Expressions of Interest submissions for Level 2 ( £3001 - £15,000 ) from now until 5pm on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Please note that your organisation can only make **one** EOI , so it's important that it strongly aligns with the aims and priorities as detailed in the guidance.

Level 1 ( up to £3,000 ) will open on 1<sup>st</sup> Sept.

<https://acvo.org.uk/funding/cmhwfund/>

- Just Transition Participatory Budgeting Fund is back again too ! it's for up to £50,000 and closes on 29/9/25

**Get support for your green community project in Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire and Moray – apply for grants of up to £50,000 by 12noon on Monday 29th September 2025**

The Just Transition Participatory Budgeting Fund aims to empower the residents of Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen and Moray by giving you a crucial role in shaping our just transition to a net zero future in the North East of Scotland.

During the first three years of the fund, **£3.5million has been distributed to 144 eco-friendly projects across the region** which are currently making a positive difference within our local communities.

Once again for 2025, £1million has been made available (£333,333 for each region) to support local grassroots green projects from third sector organisations and community groups in the North East and Moray.

The Fund is an opportunity for communities to put forward projects that match local needs and priorities and will enable us to create a greener region. Residents are then invited to have the final say over which initiatives are funded through a public vote. ACVO TSI, Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action, tsiMORAY, NESCAN Hub and Money for Moray are working in partnership to deliver the fund. We will be actively engaging with communities in the region to enable you to play a crucial part in the just transition to net zero on a local level, sharing ideas and providing project development support and application assistance.

Join us on this transformative journey, and together, let's shape the path to a greener North East of Scotland.

<https://acvo.org.uk/funds/jtpb-fund/>

- Community Energy Generation Growth Fund up to £250,000 and closes 8/9/25

The Scottish Government's Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) will support community organisations to develop their own renewable energy projects, including wind and solar photovoltaic (PV) projects, through the Community Energy Generation Growth Fund, building on the success of last year's pilot fund. The Community Energy Generation Growth Fund can help community organisations with grant funding, advice, and loan funding to progress your renewable energy projects. Support can be at the feasibility, development or construction stages of a project.

#### **Who can apply?**

The following types of organisations are eligible to apply for support:

- Scottish registered and incorporated non-profit distributing organisations.
  - Community groups interested in developing, owning, and operating renewable electricity generation projects.
  - Established and constituted community groups, for example Development Trusts and constituted Community Energy/Climate Action Groups.
  - Charities including Arms Length External Organisations (ALEOs).
- Please note that all funding applications need to be completed by you, not an installer or contractor acting on your behalf. If we receive such an application, it will be rejected.

#### **What funding is available?**

Feasibility and development support will be provided through grant funding or support via CARES framework contractors. Later stage funding for installation and construction will be supported by grants and loans.

#### **What's the application process?**

Full details of how to apply are on the [Local Energy Scotland website](#).

Applicants must read the full funding guidance to find out if their project is eligible before submitting an application.

- New dementia funding available – see flyer. Encouraging and Supporting Grassroots Activity Fund. Grants of between £5,000 - £20,000. Closes Fri 5<sup>th</sup> Sept.



ESGA leaflet.pdf

I've only listed a couple of funds here, however there are so many more on our website – of all shapes, sizes and closing dates. So please, please do take some time to look at our Funding Page - link below

- Volant Charitable Trust - Large Grants Programme

This is in response to the current cost of living crisis, for the foreseeable future VCT is prioritising the focus of its awards on charities and organisations who are particularly addressing poverty and deprivation, helping to support vulnerable groups who are most affected, **with an emphasis on women, children and young people.**

Purpose of this fund

Your project must meet **at least one** of the specific themes below , ensuring you read the corresponding list.

Project areas of interest, in order of priority, include:

**1. Poverty and deprivation (with an emphasis on women, children and young people):**

- Support for vulnerable families facing extreme poverty
- Food provision and promotion of healthy eating in areas of extreme deprivation
- Mental health projects for vulnerable groups living in poverty.

**2. Women:**

- Support for isolated and lone mothers
- Community integration support for black and minority ethnic women and children and asylum seekers
- Support services for women prisoners and their families
- Support for victims of sexual abuse, rape, domestic violence, and those working in the sex industry
- Provision of antenatal and postnatal care for young mothers or those affected by postnatal depression.

**3. Children and Young people:**

- Counselling for vulnerable children
- Support services and outreach projects for those who are disadvantaged or deemed to be 'at risk' through neglect, emotional and physical abuse, alcohol, or drug misuse.

Additional criteria

There is an income cap of £1 million as reflected in your most recent annual accounts (this an update to the criteria as of October 2023).

You cannot apply to both the small and large Volant grants programme at the same time. You cannot apply for a large Volant grant, if you are a current recipient of a Volant small grant.

This is just a sample of the funding currently available – please do take some time and have a look at what else is available on our website.

**Direct link to ACVO Funding Page:**

<https://acvo.org.uk/funding/>

**Support with funding applications**

There are various sources of assistance and support available from

- Claire Shaw , ACVO's Funding Officer email : [Claire.shaw@acvo.org.uk](mailto:Claire.shaw@acvo.org.uk)
- Aberdeen City Council's External Funding Team - [externalfunding@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:externalfunding@aberdeencity.gov.uk)
- Locality Planning Team - [localityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:localityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

## Events

- **Aberdeen Mela – One World Day 7<sup>th</sup> Sept. 12-6pm**  
Union Terrace Gardens . “ Cuisine, crafts and clothes “ This festival will celebrate cultural diversity across the North East of Scotland and beyond. With world music, dance, children's activities and food stalls, there is something for everyone to enjoy at this vibrant and **free-to attend** festival of multiculturalism.
- **World Suicide Prevention Day 10th September**



WSP Day  
community City.pdf

This is SAMHs call to action to encourage more people in the community to get involved in the run up to and beyond World Suicide Prevention Day. This has

already gone out through our mailing lists but would be useful if people could share with their networks too.

### **Wave After Wave training**

Providing a compassionate response following suicide bereavement. These sessions are aimed at staff, volunteers or peer supporters, living or working in Aberdeen City or Moray who may come into contact with those bereaved by suicide.

Dates for face to face in Moray, Aberdeen City and online options can be viewed and booked by following this link:-

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/wave-after-wave-4485313>

Justine Dunbar, Suicide Prevention Community Engagement Officer,  
NE Suicide Prevention Team

- **Challenge Poverty Week Aberdeen:** film and presentation event

Venue: Cowdray Hall, Aberdeen, AB10 1JQ

Date: Friday, 10th October, 2025

Time: 10:00am-12.30pm

Fairer Aberdeen Fund partners invite you to a special event to mark Challenge Poverty Week (6th - 12th October 2025). The event is aimed at raising awareness of the lived experience of poverty and inequality of Aberdeen's communities, as well as creating a space to share, consider and discuss opportunities and ideas that will help us make the shift towards a fairer and more equitable society. The event will include a combination of short films, presentations, panel Q&A, and discussion groups - a detailed programme will be shared nearer the time.

Teas, coffees and biscuits will be provided.

This is an open event, and everyone is welcome. Please feel free to share this invitation with your contacts. Join us in making a difference and taking a stand against poverty.

To register, visit [the Eventbrite page](#)

**Link to ACVO Events Calendar:** <https://acvo.org.uk/opportunities/events/> *Remember you can add your own events to this calendar!*

# Get Involved

- **Introducing NESCAT – the North East Scotland Coastal Trust**

We'd like to let you know about NESCAT – a new charity (SCIO No. SC054156) focused on protecting, enhancing and celebrating the coastline of Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire. We're still in the early stages - a website is in progress - but are beginning to connect with local groups, community councils and individuals across the region who have an interest in the coast, its future, and the many opportunities it offers.

Our main ambition is to help realise a long-held goal for the region: a continuous coastal trail – with the working title *The Doric Way* (which we'd welcome feedback on) – stretching around 140 miles between Cullen and St Cyrus. The aim is to link existing paths, restore or improve sections that need attention, and create new connections where gaps remain. We'd like the trail to connect with inland loops and other networks, forming part of a continuous route around the UK coast and, in time, become one of Scotland's Great Trails.

We believe the trail can bring a wide range of local benefits – including supporting small businesses and encouraging sustainable tourism, improving access to the outdoors and promoting health, and enhancing wellbeing and environmental awareness. We're equally keen to help share and preserve the unique stories, history and natural heritage that make this coastline so special.

We're aware there's already lots of great work happening across the region – including path-building and habitat restoration to local history projects – and we'd like to support, complement and connect with that where we can.

If you're involved with a path group, heritage or environmental project, or if your community is developing anything related to local access, the coast, or its surroundings, or have any feedback on the current working name '*The Doric Way*' we'd be really keen to hear from you.

NESCAT is led by a group of nine trustees from across Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire, all with strong local knowledge and experience in heritage, access and community development.

We're happy to meet online or in person to introduce the project and discuss how we might work together. Please feel free to get in touch with our Project Officer, Luke Robertson, at [luke.robertson@nescat.org.uk](mailto:luke.robertson@nescat.org.uk).

- **Cash First – stories**

Following on from Amy's event last month, this collection of personal accounts showcase the impact of the Cash First Flexible Crisis Fund. And are well worth having a listen to – see cards !

- If you also wish to feature or share any news from your organisation in a future edition please contact ACVO's Communication Officer Andrew at [andrew.davidson@acvo.org.uk](mailto:andrew.davidson@acvo.org.uk) or ACVO's Digital Media Assistant Emily at [emily.shepherd@acvo.org.uk](mailto:emily.shepherd@acvo.org.uk) who are always delighted to highlight all the fantastic work and volunteering in Aberdeen.

To hear about what's going on in the Third and other sectors , there's ACVO News. It's always packed full of all the latest volunteering, ACVO, Third Sector, community updates, events and much more <https://acvo.org.uk/news/>

For other opportunities to get involved in your community, visit the Community Planning Website: [Get Involved - Community Planning Aberdeen](#)