Funding Guide

for Islington Children & Young People Charities and Community Groups

A plain-language guide to potential funders,
organised by category to help you find the right match.

Last updated: March 2026

How to Use This Guide

This guide lists potential funders for charities and community groups in Islington that support children and young people.

We have organised the funders into categories so you can quickly find the ones most likely to be right for you. You do not need to apply to all of them. Start with the category that fits your situation best.

The sections in this guide:

- **Start Here: Islington & London Funders** (12 funders)
- **Children & Young People Specialists** (10 funders)
- **Quick & Simple Applications** (10 funders)
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Tips Before You Start

- **Read carefully before applying.** Each funder has different rules. Check who can apply and what they fund before you spend time on an application
- **Start small.** If you have never applied for funding before, try a funder from the ‘Quick & Simple Applications’ section first.
- **Ask for help.** Many funders are happy to answer questions before you apply. If there is an email address listed, use it.
- **Keep records.** Write down which funders you have applied to, when, and what happened. This helps you plan for next time.
- **Do not be discouraged.** Many applications are unsuccessful. This is normal. Each application you write makes the next one easier.

Start Here: Islington & London Funders

These funders specifically want to support work in Islington or London more generally. They are often your best chance because they already want to fund local work like yours.

12 funders in this section

Cloudesley – Health Grants for Organisations

Cloudesley's current Health Grants to Organisations Programme runs from 2025 to 2029. It aims to reduce health inequalities in Islington by improving health outcomes for people who are living in poverty.

What can it pay for?	Running costs
Who can apply?	• Charities based in Islington
What they want to fund	Focus is on health inequalities
How to apply	Email first to introduce your project
Contact email	info@cloudesley.org.uk
Website	https://www.cloudesley.org.uk/

Tip: *You need to speak with someone from Cloudesley first to discuss your project.*

Cripplegate Foundation – Islington Council's Community Chest

A small, flexible and relational grants funding programme for Islington's voluntary and community sector.

How much?	Up to £5,000
What can it pay for?	Running costs or equipment/building work
Who can apply?	• Income under £100,000 per year (ideally under £50k) • Registered charity or CIC with bank account
What they want to fund	Something under one of these headings: • Empowering Lives • Greener, Healthier Islington • Community Wealth Building • Child-friendly Islington • A safe place to call home

Deadline	21 September 2026
How to apply	Online form to fill in and attach completed application form to, along with other requested files
Website	www.cripplegate.org

Tip: *Two funding rounds per year. Next deadline is 21 Sept. Requires a budget to be set out for spend*

Islington Giving – Make it Happen

A small grants scheme for Islington residents and groups which offers funding up to a maximum of £500 for people to act on things they care about locally. The purpose of the fund is to bring people together and do something that makes them feel proud of where they live.

How much?	Up to £500
What can it pay for?	Running costs or equipment/building work
Who can apply?	• Organisations must not have paid staff, and annual turnover under £50k • 3 months to begin spending your grant and 6 months to complete the project
What they want to fund	Must be under the theme of Healthy, Happy or Connected
Deadline	11th May 2026
How to apply	Email completed form to Sarah
Contact email	sarah.page@islingtongiving.org.uk
Website	https://islingtongiving.org.uk/

Tip: *More relevant for individuals applying than for a community group*

C&I Charity charitable fund

Grants that assist and support the mental health, wellbeing and recovery of Trust service users within the wider local communities of Camden Islington and Kingston by providing additional support and resources not normally available through statutory authorities.

How much?	Up to £2,000
What can it pay for?	Running costs or equipment/building work
What they want to fund	To build resilient communities which enables the sustainability of clinical care provided by the NHS

How to apply	Send completed application form to Dionne (the C & I Finance representative) - very detailed guidance online
Contact email	Dionne.Holness@candi.nhs.uk
Website	https://www.northlondonmentalhealth.nhs.uk/ci-charity-grants/

Tip: *You MUST have a sponsor from the Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust, graded as a Divisional Director or above. There is comprehensive scoring and guidance on applications which requires quite a lot of detail*

CSDS Foundation

Support organisations based in North London that deliver: amateur sport, education and sickness relief, with funding for capital projects.

How much?	Up to £40,000
What can it pay for?	Equipment or building work
Who can apply?	• Registered charity / CIO • Based in North London
What they want to fund	Amateur sport, education and sickness relief
How to apply	Email first to get application form
Contact email	catherinesmith45@gmail.com
Website	www.csdsfoundation.org

Tip: *You need to email Catherine to get an application form*

The Arsenal Foundation – Gunners Fund

Supports local projects and good causes in the boroughs of Islington, Camden and Hackney by offering smaller grants of up to £2,500 that can make a big difference to the community.

How much?	Up to £2,500
What can it pay for?	Running costs
Who can apply?	• Registered charity / CIO • Based in Islington, Camden or Hackney
What they want to fund	Local to the football club, wide range of charitable benefit

How to apply	Fill in the Application template and email it. Can also send a written version by post.
Contact email	ssingh@arsenal.co.uk
Website	https://www.arsenal.com/arsenalfoundation/local-giving/gunners-fund

Tip: *Simple word document to fill in*

Dame Alice Owen's Foundation – Educational projects in Islington

The principal objective of this support is to raise the academic performance of children in Islington. Proposals must contribute towards meeting a major need in the Borough. Funding can be for a maximum of three years.

What can it pay for?	Running costs
Who can apply?	• Educational focus of work, with Islington students
What they want to fund	Preference is given to original ideas, which are not yet part of the regular educational activities; to projects that are either strategic, such as practical initiatives directed towards addressing the root causes of problems; or seminal, because they seek to have an impact across the wider educational community.
How to apply	Says it must be sent "in the form of a letter", it may be possible to send this as an email rather than by post.
Website	https://www.brewershall.co.uk/charity-education/dame-alice-owen-foundation

Tip: *Applications sent in the form of a letter. They are very selective but can also be quite generous. Focus is very much education and related to curriculum ideas and content.*

Richard Reeve's Foundation

Facilitating education and life opportunities for young people in Islington, Camden and the City of London

What can it pay for?	Running costs
Who can apply?	• Unclear
What they want to fund	Education
How to apply	Start with an enquiry email

Contact email	enquiries@richardreevesfoundation.org.uk
Website	www.richardreevesfoundation.org.uk

Tip: *Very selective about support - best to fill in their enquiry form or email to ask if likely they might fund your work.*

Clara E Burgess Charity (Ludlow Trust)

Relief of children and young persons, in particular by the provision of facilities and assistance to enhance the education, health and physical well- being of such children, in order that their conditions of life may be improved, but having particular regard to children under age of 10 and those who have lost either one or both parents.

What can it pay for?	Running costs or equipment/building work
What they want to fund	Education, health and physical well-being of children, with particular regard to children under age of 10 and those who have lost either one or both parents.
How to apply	Apply online, very short form, using the Ludlow Gateway, which you must sign up to: https://funding.ludlowtrust.com/
Website	https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-/charity-details/3952710/what-who-how-where

Tip: *Very specific focus so only apply if relevant. Relatively easy to apply on the Ludow Gateway*

City Bridge Foundation – Climate & Environmental Justice

Empowering the people most affected by climate change, environmental hazards and pollution, to organise and champion a fair, inclusive transition, as London works towards its net-zero goals.

What can it pay for?	Running costs
What they want to fund	Climate justice & engaging people most affected
How to apply	Online using their Application Portal, which you must sign up to
Website	https://www.citybridgefoundation.org.uk/

Tip: *This is a very specific funding programme, which considers involvement by young people and system change. If it sounds like you, then go for it, otherwise don't.*

City Bridge Foundation – Economic Justice

Ensuring a fair and equitable distribution of resources, opportunities, and economic benefits in society, so that all Londoners can thrive by tackling poverty, reducing income gaps and wealth inequalities.

What can it pay for?	Running costs
What they want to fund	Economic justice programmes
How to apply	Online using their Application Portal, which you must sign up to
Website	https://www.citybridgefoundation.org.uk/

Tip: *Details are still to be released. It may not be relevant to children and young people engagement.*

City Bridge Foundation – Racial Justice

Creating a society where inequalities based on race are not only addressed but also transformed. Focusing on collective action to address disparities across employment, housing, education, mental health, immigration and the criminal justice system.

What can it pay for?	Running costs
What they want to fund	Racial justice programmes
How to apply	Online using their Application Portal, which you must sign up to
Website	https://www.citybridgefoundation.org.uk/

Tip: *Details are still to be released. It may not be relevant to children and young people engagement.*

Children & Young People Specialists

These funders focus on children and young people. If your work supports under-25s, these are strong options to explore.

10 funders in this section

BBC Children in Need – Core

Our ambition is to create positive and lasting change across the UK for the children who need us most. We do this by investing in positive relationships that strengthen children's wellbeing and help them navigate the challenges in their lives.

How much?	£1,000 (per year for up to three years) to £40,000 (per year for up to three years)
What can it pay for?	Core running costs
Who can apply?	• A governing body and registration for funds over £15,000 • Excellent quality and commitment to safeguarding - you must work with children 18 and under • Check the detailed eligibility guidelines on their website
What they want to fund	Focus is on a wide range of positive outcomes for children (18 and under), which includes involving children in project design
How to apply	They suggest speaking with the team first through a pre-application advice session which can be booked online. If suitable, you would submit an EOI through their online portal, which you must sign up to. If successful, you will be invited to complete a full application.
Website	https://www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/grants/apply/core-costs/

Tip: *As long as you have robust safeguarding in place and can demonstrate commitment to supporting children, it's worth attending an information session and putting in an Expression of Interest*

BBC Children in Need – Project

Our ambition is to create positive and lasting change across the UK for the children who need us most. We do this by investing in positive relationships that strengthen children's wellbeing and help them navigate the challenges in their lives.

How much?	£1,000 (per year for up to three years) to £40,000 (per year for up to three years)

What can it pay for?	A specific project
Who can apply?	• A governing body and registration for funds over £15,000 • Excellent quality and commitment to safeguarding - you must work with children 18 and under • Check the detailed eligibility guidelines on their website
What they want to fund	Focus is on a wide range of positive outcomes for children (18 and under), which includes involving children in project design
How to apply	They suggest speaking with the team first through a pre-application advice session which can be booked online. If suitable, you would submit an EOI through their online portal, which you must sign up to. If successful, you will be invited to complete a full application.
Website	https://www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/grants/apply/project-costs-funding-stream/

Tip: *As long as you have robust safeguarding in place and can demonstrate commitment to supporting children, it's worth attending an information session and putting in an Expression of Interest*

Blue Spark Foundation

Grants for educational, cultural, sporting and other projects supporting young people

How much?	Up to £5,000
What can it pay for?	Running costs
Who can apply?	• Registered charity • Grant requested must be crucial to project happening (i.e. project not cost a huge amount more than what you request)
What they want to fund	Small-scale projects under one or more of these themes: Encouraging independence, Developing teamworking skills, Increasing self confidence, Promoting creativity and individuality, Encouraging aspiration, Widening educational achievement
How to apply	Online through website. Application form can be downloaded in advance to prepare.
Contact email	contact@bluesparkfoundation.org.uk
Website	http://bluesparkfoundation.org.uk/

Tip: *This is ideal for smaller projects that will only happen if this funding is successful. It is quite competitive!*

George Oliver Foundation

Make grants to charities working to support children and young people, in memory of our son George

How much?	Up to £7,500
What can it pay for?	A specific project
Who can apply?	• Registered charity • Smaller charities (don't specify size)
What they want to fund	We believe that every child is born with the right to love, freedom and happiness. The George Oliver Foundation strives simply to raise funds to improve the lives of disadvantaged children in any way that we can. Applicants need to explain how any grant will meet this requirement.
Deadline	31 January each year
How to apply	Copy application form from webpage. Complete and email to them
Website	https://www.georgesfoundation.org/

Tip: *Only make 4-5 grants per year, so very competitive. Like to fund projects that are not already established.*

Linder Foundation

We seek to fund projects delivering early intervention and rehabilitation aiming to prevent re-offending and to divert young people from involvement in the youth or criminal justice system.

We are looking for innovative projects and targeted programmes with measurable outcomes. These are likely to intensive interventions over a period of time and a trauma informed approach provided by crime experienced mentors.

How much?	Up to £15,000
What can it pay for?	A specific project
Who can apply?	• Grant amount should cover at least 50% of the total project cost • Majority of those who benefit must have suffered from adverse childhood experiences or childhood trauma
What they want to fund	Only support specific projects that aim to improve outcomes for vulnerable young people (aged 12-24), who are likely to have

	suffered from adverse childhood experiences and childhood trauma.
Deadline	Feb, June and September
How to apply	Successfully completing the Eligibility Checker forms will allow you access to the Expression of Interest (EOI) Form. They will be in contact with you following an EOI submission.
Website	https://thelinderfoundation.org.uk/

Tip: *If your work aligns with their interests this would be an excellent funder to apply for. But only if it's eligible and relevant.*

Paul Hamlyn Foundation – Youth Fund

We want to fund organisations who work with young people (14–25) to drive change so that future generations of young people can thrive.

How much?	Up to £150,000 over 3 years
What can it pay for?	Running costs or a specific project
Who can apply?	• Your work must go beyond direct delivery to drive strategic and systemic change • Check more about eligibility on their webpage, which is very focused on how you work
What they want to fund	They fund organisations working with young people (14–25); who do targeted work with and for young people who face transitions in their lives which may be challenging or create barriers for example into or out of education, care settings, housing or the secure estate; and recognize young peoples' multiple and overlapping identities (for example race, gender, sexual orientation, class, faith, migration status, ability).
How to apply	Apply online using their system, which you must sign up to. This is a two stage process, so if your initial application is successful, they will ask you to attend an online interview.
Website	https://www.phf.org.uk/funding/youth-fund

Tip: *This is a very specific funding programme, which considers intersectionality of young people and their experiences, as well as systems change. If it sounds like you, then go for it, otherwise don't.*

Robert McAlpine Foundation

The Foundation was established by the family of Sir Robert McAlpine and gives grants to support small charities situated throughout the UK that fall within specific categories - namely children, youth, the elderly, social and medical research.

How much?	Up to £10,000
What can it pay for?	A specific project
Who can apply?	• Registered charity • Total income should be less than £1m per annum
What they want to fund	Our funding is focused on bespoke applications which aim to improve mental and physical wellbeing, within one of these categories: Children, youth, the elderly, social and medical research
Deadline	7 August 2026
How to apply	Write no more than 2 pages A4 and email along with copy of signed annual accounts
Website	https://www.robertmcalpinefoundation.org/

Tip: *If you have a project that aims to improve mental and physical wellbeing for children OR young people, it is worth applying*

Tweed Family Charitable Foundation

Our aim is to support causes that inspire socially disadvantaged young people to achieve their full potential.

What can it pay for?	Running costs or a specific project
Who can apply?	• Total income should be less than £1m per annum • Your work must only be with young people, not the wider community • There must not be any kind of fee for young people to take part in your services
What they want to fund	Registered charities or not for profit enterprises in England or Wales with an annual turnover of less than £1m. In practice we expect the majority of the organisations will have income under £0.5m pa. Support for community and educational projects that inspire socially disadvantaged young people to achieve their full potential, through mentoring, education and community activities. Will fund multi-year and core costs. Update Sep 21.

Deadline	Opens again in 2027
How to apply	Online application will open again in early 2027
Website	http://www.tweedfamilycharitablefoundation.org.uk/

Tip: *Prefer organisations with less than £500k per annum. Could be a good fit, but you would need to go through their longer eligibility checklist to be sure.*

Youth Music – Trailblazer Fund

Funds projects that enable children and young people in England to make, learn or earn in music; engage children and young people who face barriers to music because of who they are, where they live, or what they're going through; and are co-designed with young people

How much?	£2,000 to £30,000 (£15,000 for organisations less than 1 year old)
What can it pay for?	Capital (20%) and Project
Who can apply?	• Constituted organisation (has a constitution), not a school or academy • Check their 'Guidelines' document, as they have some very specific expectations including around safeguarding and EDI • You must commit to raising at least 10% match funding, with a minimum of 5% in cash match funding.
What they want to fund	Must meet one of 6 themes: 1) Early years, 2) Disabled, d/Deaf and neurodivergent young people, 3) Youth justice system, 4) Young people facing barriers, 5) Young adults, 6) Organisations and the workforce
Deadline	10 April, 28 Aug, 20 Nov
How to apply	Rounds open for 4 weeks before the deadline date. Apply online using their grants portal, which you must sign up to
Website	https://youthmusic.org.uk/trailblazer-fund

Tip: *This is a very competitive fund with lots of detailed guidance and expectations around applying. Only go for it if your project meets the brief.*

Youth Music – Catalyser Fund

Youth Music Catalyser Fund offers grants to organisations who want to: Sustain work; Scale-up delivery; or Create change in sector practice.

How much?	£30,001 to £300,000

What can it pay for?	Capital (20%), Revenue and Project
Who can apply?	• Constituted organisation (has a constitution), not a school or academy • Check their 'Guidelines' document, as they have some very specific expectations including around safeguarding and EDI • You must commit to raising match funding - proportions in line with amount being requested
What they want to fund	Must meet one of 6 themes: 1) Early years, 2) Disabled, d/Deaf and neurodivergent young people, 3) Youth justice system, 4) Young people facing barriers, 5) Young adults, 6) Organisations and the workforce
Deadline	EOI deadline 20 March, full application deadline 29 May
How to apply	New applicants can have a 15 min phone call (book on the website). Expression Of Interest submitted through their online grants portal, which you must sign up to. If successful, you are invited to submit a full application
Website	https://www.youthmusic.org.uk/funding/i-need-funding/catalyser-fund

Tip: *This is a very competitive fund with lots of detailed guidance and expectations around applying. Only go for it if your project meets the brief.*

Quick & Simple Applications

These funders have shorter or simpler application forms. Good starting points if you are new to fundraising or short on time.

10 funders in this section

National Lottery Community Fund – Awards for All England

We fund projects in England that bring people together and improve communities.

How much?	£300 to £20,000
What can it pay for?	Running costs or a specific project
Who can apply?	• Must demonstrate that you have involved your community in your planning and delivery • Check more about eligibility on their webpage
What they want to fund	Projects must achieve at least one of these outcomes: 1) bring people together to build strong relationships in and across communities, 2) improve the places and spaces that matter to communities, 3) help more people to reach their potential, by supporting them at the earliest possible stage, 4) support people, communities and organisations facing more demands and challenges because of the cost-of-living crisis.
How to apply	Apply online using their system, which you must sign up to. There is an application form you can download to prepare.
Website	https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/funding-programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all-england

Tip: *As a slightly smaller Lottery fund, this is easier to apply for than the Reaching Communities one. Be sure to show you're meaningfully involving your community, this is a crucial part of how they assess applications.*

Annandale Charitable Trust (Ludlow Trust)

Supports wide range of causes

How much?	Up to £5,000
What can it pay for?	Running costs or equipment/building work
Who can apply?	• Registered charity

How to apply	Apply online, very short form, using the Ludlow Gateway, which you must sign up to: https://funding.ludlowtrust.com/
Contact email	charitabletrusts@ludlowtrust.com
Website	https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/en/charity-search/-/charity-details/1049193/charity-overview

Tip: *Unlikely to be successful, as this funder is open to lots of causes. But relatively easy to apply on the Ludow Gateway*

Ludlow Trusts Gateway

A Gateway to apply to the hundreds of funders managed by the Ludlow Trust

What can it pay for?	Running costs or equipment/building work
How to apply	Ludlow Gateway online portal, which you must sign up to
Website	https://funding.ludlowtrust.com/

Tip: *You can make a general appeal, available for any funder to see. You can also apply to specific Ludlow Trusts. Response rates are very low, but the process is relatively simple.*

Delamere Dairy Foundation

The Foundation is run by independent trustees and grant panel members who consider applications for funding in line with the Foundation's objects as set out in its Constitution and with the charitable support of Delamere Dairy.

How much?	£1,000 to £5,000
What they want to fund	Five priorities: 1) The advancement of agriculture and of environmental protection 2) The advancement in life of young people by developing their capabilities so that they may mature as contributory members of society 3) The relief of financial hardship 4) The advancement of education 5) The relief of sickness.
How to apply	Apply online using form on website
Website	https://delameredairyfoundation.org.uk/

Tip: *Open application process so likely to be very competitive*

Hobson Charity Limited – Project / capital

The trustees prefer to assist with funding for specific items or projects, ensuring that our support directly addresses the immediate needs of our beneficiaries. Typically, grants are settled once the specified item has been purchased and fully paid.

Who can apply?	• Registered charity • You must have a website
What they want to fund	Broad range of causes but must be for an item or project that hasn't yet been paid for
How to apply	Apply online using their system, which you must sign up to
Website	https://hobsoncharity.org.uk/

Tip: *Worth applying to for a specific thing. There is no stated max, but £5,000 is probably a good ballpark for maximum grant request.*

Dorothy Hay-Bolton Charitable Trust

Grants of up to £3,000 are available for UK registered charities providing services for children, young people and the elderly with sight and/or hearing disabilities.

How much?	Up to £3,000
What can it pay for?	Running costs or equipment/building work
Who can apply?	• Registered charity
What they want to fund	Children, young people and the elderly with sight and/or hearing disabilities.
How to apply	Apply in writing to the address on the Charity commission website.
Website	https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-details/?regid=1010438&subid=0

Tip: *Not likely to be successful, but relatively easy to apply.*

Rhododendron Trust

A grant-making charity focused mainly on the welfare of the disadvantaged in the UK and overseas, but also supporting arts and wildlife charities.

How much?	£1,000 to £2,000
Who can apply?	• Registered charity

What they want to fund	Funding priorities for UK charities: 1) Carers and Breaks 2) Disability and Mental Health 3) Deprivation 4) Prisoners and Refugees 5) Arts
How to apply	Write a simple summary of the project and what £1,000 will pay for, use the right email address from the website
Contact email	Different email address for each category of support
Website	https://www.rhododendron-trust.org.uk/

Tip: *Very competitive, especially for 'deprivation'.*

Wise Music Foundation

Providing financial support for people experiencing hardship, distress and illness, with a focus on children, the homeless and people living in poverty.

How much?	£500 to £5,000
What can it pay for?	Running costs or a specific project
Who can apply?	• Registered charity • generally support smaller charities with an annual turnover of up to £500,000
What they want to fund	The recipients of Wise Music Foundation donations are primarily – but not exclusively – children, the elderly and the disabled.
Deadline	End of February, End of May, End of August, End of November
How to apply	Online application process
Website	https://wisemusicfoundation.com/

Tip: *Tends to be quite competitive, but worth trying!*

Ashworth Charitable Trust

The Ashworth Charitable Trust (“the Trust”) is a small grant-making charity. It was created primarily to support humanitarian causes operating locally, nationally and internationally, as opposed to animal or utilitarian projects. For the most part, the Trust looks to fund projects and not core funding.

What can it pay for?	Running costs or equipment/building work
Who can apply?	• Registered charity • Turnover less than £500,000 per year • Project shortfall not more than £40,000

How to apply	Online through website. Application form can be downloaded in advance to prepare.
Website	https://ashworthtrust.org/funding/

Tip: *Unlikely to be successful, as this funder is open to lots of causes. Application form requires quite a lot of thought and detail.*

Charles S French Charitable Trust

Provide grant giving support to a wide range of charitable activities, primarily within Essex and North East London

How much?	£1,000 to £5,000
What can it pay for?	Running costs
Who can apply?	• Registered charity / CIO • Works in North East London
What they want to fund	Wide range of charitable causes
Deadline	13th April, 6th July, 13th October
How to apply	Fill in form and email along with signed accounts and current management accounts
Contact email	trustmanager@csfct.org.uk
Website	https://csfct.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant/

Tip: *Simple word document to fill in. Requires accounts to be shared, including current management accounts.*

Bigger Grants (More Work, but Worth It)

These funders offer larger amounts but the applications need more planning and detail. Allow extra time for these.

6 funders in this section

National Lottery Community Fund – Reaching Communities England

With this funding, we want to help strengthen communities and improve lives across England. Our funding is available to all communities. But our priority is the places, people and communities that need it most.

How much?	£20,000 to £500,000
What can it pay for?	Running costs, projects, or equipment/building work
Who can apply?	• Must demonstrate that you have involved your community in your planning and delivery • Check more about eligibility on their webpage • Focus is on communities experiencing greater disadvantage. Check their website for more details.
What they want to fund	Projects must meet one of these missions: 1) come together through inclusive places, spaces and activities (either physical or virtual), especially for communities where people are least able to come together, 2) help children and young people thrive by developing positive social and emotional skills, 3) be healthier by addressing health inequalities and helping prevent poor health, 4) be environmentally sustainable by engaging with climate issues, having a positive environmental impact, and improving access to quality natural spaces.
How to apply	Apply online using their system, which you must sign up to. There is an application form you can download to prepare. This is a two stage process, so if your initial application is successful, they will follow up with further questions.
Website	https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/funding-programmes/reaching-communities-england

Tip: *As this is for potentially very large grant funding, the work that goes into planning and writing the application will be proportionate. Be sure to show you're meaningfully involving your community, this is a crucial part of how they assess applications.*

Garfield Weston – Capital grants

'Capital' means building works or repairs, or equipment that is necessary for your organisation's work.

How much?	Up to 10-20% of total cost. And not more than £30k.
What can it pay for?	Equipment or building work
Who can apply?	• Registered charity / CIO • 50% funding secured for project already • At least 1 year accounts
What they want to fund	Wide range of charitable causes
How to apply	Write up a summary of your project using Garfield Weston's detailed guidelines. Upload onto their online Grants Portal, which you must sign up to
Website	https://garfieldweston.org/

Tip: *Garfield Weston expect a good level of detail around costs, fundraising, impact and policies. Needs quite a lot of thought in the planning and writing.*

Garfield Weston – Operating / core costs

Grants are made towards the general running costs of your organisation. This means they can be used to help pay your bills or rent and provide support towards your salaries.

How much?	Up to 10-20% of organisation's total budget
What can it pay for?	Running costs
Who can apply?	• Registered charity / CIO • At least 1 year accounts
What they want to fund	Wide range of charitable causes
How to apply	Write up a summary of your request using Garfield Weston's detailed guidelines. Upload onto their online Grants Portal, which you must sign up to
Website	https://garfieldweston.org/

Tip: *Garfield Weston expect a good level of detail around costs, fundraising, impact and policies. Needs quite a lot of thought in the planning and writing.*

Garfield Weston – Project

These grants are for a specific project or area of your work. It will have a defined scope of work and timetable.

How much?	Up to 10-20% of project cost.
What can it pay for?	A specific project
Who can apply?	• Registered charity / CIO • 50% funding secured for project already • At least 1 year accounts
What they want to fund	Wide range of charitable causes
How to apply	Write up a summary of your project using Garfield Weston's detailed guidelines. Upload onto their online Grants Portal, which you must sign up to
Website	https://garfieldweston.org/

Tip: *Garfield Weston expect a good level of detail around costs, fundraising, impact and policies. Needs quite a lot of thought in the planning and writing.*

Drapers' Charitable Fund

Grants from the Drapers' Charitable Fund improve the quality of life and aspirations of people and communities, particularly those who are socially excluded or disadvantaged. We give most of our grants to charities in Greater London, where we have our historical roots, for projects in education and social welfare.

How much?	Up to £25,000
What can it pay for?	Running costs
Who can apply?	• Registered charity • Annual income must be less than £5 million • Must work with disadvantaged people in Greater London
What they want to fund	Relatively broad range: Education & young people, Social welfare (including Disability, Welfare and Homelessness) and Textiles & Heritage
How to apply	All completed documents emailed to them
Contact email	charities@thedrapers.co.uk
Website	https://thedrapers.co.uk/drapers-charitable-fund/

Tip: *Detailed instructions on the website, including need for a budget. Must be written up as an application plus an Application Summary Sheet*

Esmee Fairburn Foundation – A Fairer Future - Children's and Young People's Rights

Fewer young people, particularly those with SEND and/or experiencing racial inequity, in contact with the youth justice system, and excluded from school
Children's rights are better met, with specialist legal support and better protection for marginalised groups
Young people (aged 14-25) with experience of injustice create and lead positive lives.

How much?	From £30,000
What can it pay for?	Running costs
What they want to fund	Children's justice
How to apply	First submit an Expression of Interest on their online portal, which you must sign up to
Website	https://esmeefairbairn.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant/

Tip: *It is very difficult to get funding from Esmee Fairburn. However if what you do is about systemic fairness and justice then it is worth putting in an Expression of Interest to see what might happen.*

Specialist Funders (Check If You Fit)

These funders support specific types of work. Only apply if your project clearly matches what they are looking for.

5 funders in this section

Backstage Trust

Tends to fund one of: 1) consultant advice to help with the professional development of small scale arts organisations, 2) assisting live arts projects involving disadvantaged children and young people, 3) feasibility studies for capital projects and 4) consultant advice on fundraising/case for support/recruiting development staff

What can it pay for?	Running costs
Who can apply?	• Work involves live performing arts
What they want to fund	Primary focus are projects in live performing arts, mainly theatre in England and Wales.
How to apply	Says to do so in writing. May be worth emailing to confirm if this is by email or post.
Contact email	INFO@BACKSTAGETRUST.ORG.UK
Website	https://fundingforall.org.uk/funds/backstage-trust/

Tip: *This is quite a specific funder. Read through their Information Pack to decide whether it is worth applying and relevant to your work.*

CLA Charitable Trust

Helping those who are disabled or disadvantaged to visit and participate in learning experiences about the countryside

How much?	Up to £5,000
What can it pay for?	Running costs
Who can apply?	• Registered charity / CIC • Must be related to countryside access and activities
What they want to fund	Access to, recreational and educational opportunities within and about the countryside. Promote and encourage education in sustainable farming, food production and rural land management.

How to apply	Complete an Expression of Interest form online, which you must sign up to. If successful, you will be contacted about making a full application.
Website	https://www.cla.org.uk/news/apply-for-clact-funding/

Tip: *This is a very specific funder - if you're not doing something related to the countryside, there's no point considering them.*

Clarion Housing - Community & Digital Grants – Clarion Futures Digital Grants

The Fund is designed to support Clarion residents of all ages to get and stay online and to use the internet as an everyday tool, safely and confidently.

How much?	Up to £5,000
What can it pay for?	Running costs
Who can apply?	• Must engage Clarion Housing residents
What they want to fund	Projects must aim to support individuals to improve their digital skills to safely and confidently access online services on a regular basis.
Deadline	10 June 2026
How to apply	Applications must be submitted via the Clarion Futures online grants portal, which you must sign up to,=.
Website	https://clarionfutures.flexigrant.com/

Tip: *You must be focused on benefiting Clarion Housing residents first, before any wider community engagement.*

Merriman Charitable Foundation

A small, UK-based family foundation providing grants to organisations working within our key focus areas. We aim to make as big a difference as we can with limited resources, and no paid staff—keeping admin light and impact high.

How much?	Up to £5,000 for small grants scheme £20,000 for large grants scheme
Who can apply?	• Registered charity / CIC and community group only eligible for small grants scheme • Must have less than £10 million annual income

What they want to fund	Young people & employability (also International Development and Environment & conservation) - We support initiatives that expand educational experience for young people.
Deadline	15 May, 15 Aug, 15 Nov
How to apply	Apply online using form on website
Website	https://sites.google.com/view/merrimancharity/home

Tip: *A good one to apply for if you are explicitly working to support youth employability and education.*

Whirlwind Charitable Trust

The Whirlwind Trust exists to provide life-enhancing experiences to disadvantaged young people and those with disabilities. This is principally (but not exclusively) through the challenge and stimulation of maritime and outdoor pursuits including funding for sailing charities. We want to encourage those we support to grow in confidence.

How much?	£1,000 to £10,000
What can it pay for?	Running costs or a specific project
Who can apply?	• Registered charity / CIC / Community groups • Check their 'Guidelines' page on the website, as they have some very specific expectations
What they want to fund	They look more favourably on applications with involvement in maritime or outdoor pursuits with a level of challenge appropriate to the circumstances of the individuals involved.
Deadline	01 April 2026
How to apply	Online application portal, which you must sign up to
Contact email	applications@whirlwindcharitabletrust.org.uk
Website	https://www.whirlwind.org.uk/

Tip: *A very specific type of funder. If it aligns with your work then definitely apply, otherwise don't.*

Worth an Enquiry Email

For these funders, the first step is to send a short email introducing your organisation and asking how to apply. Many are small trusts without a public application form. They may never reply!

16 funders in this section

C J Thomas Trust

Supports wide range of causes

What can it pay for?	Running costs
Who can apply?	• Smaller organisation (no detail on this)
Website	https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/en/charity-search/-/charity-details/1036285/charity-overview

Tip: *You would need to phone them first to introduce yourself and learn more about applying.*

Celia Blakey Charitable Trust

Supports wide range of causes

What can it pay for?	Running costs
Website	https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/en/charity-search/-/charity-details/263482/charity-overview

Tip: *You would need to phone them first to introduce yourself and learn more about applying.*

Charlotte Heber-Percy Charitable Trust

Supports wide range of causes

How much?	From £200
What can it pay for?	Running costs
Contact email	rtccharities@rathbones.com
Website	https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-/charity-details/284387/charity-overview

Tip: *You would need to email them first to introduce yourself and learn more about applying.*

Fairstead Trust

Supports wide range of causes

Contact email	charities@nqpltd.com
Website	https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-/charity-details/3998612/charity-overview

Tip: *You would need to email them first to introduce yourself and learn more about applying.*

Hillier Trust

Supports wide range of causes, usually Christian organisations.

What they want to fund	Broad range of causes - focus on Christian initiatives.
Contact email	tonyhillier@zen.co.uk
Website	https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/en/charity-search/-/charity-details/5028819/charity-overview

Tip: *You will need to email the charity to introduce yourselves and ask about likelihood of funding / next steps*

Keith Combs Trust

Making donations to various charities from funds raised from companies and individuals

Contact email	christineingram@suplc.co.uk
Website	https://www.totalgiving.co.uk/charity/the-keith-coombs-trust

Tip: *You would need to email them first to introduce yourself and learn more about applying.*

Langdale Trust

The Trustees make grants to various charitable institutions.

Deadline	Around May each year
Contact email	LangdaleTrust@VWV.CO.UK
Website	https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-/charity-details/215317/charity-overview

Tip: *You would need to email them first to introduce yourself and learn more about applying.*

Lennox and Hannay Charitable Trusts

The Charity's objects are to promote and support such charitable purpose or purposes and such charitable organisation or organisations, being purposes and organisations which are exclusively charitable according to the law of England and Wales, as the trustees shall from time to time decide.

How much?	Up to £3,000
Contact email	charities@rftrustee.com
Website	https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/en/charity-search/-/charity-details/3970779/charity-overview

Tip: *You would need to email them first to introduce yourself and learn more about applying.*

Lord Barnby's Charitable Foundation

Makes grants as decided by the trustees.

How much?	Up to £5,000
Contact email	lordbarnbyfoundation@gmail.com
Website	https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-/charity-details/251016/charity-overview

Tip: *You would need to email them first to introduce yourself and learn more about applying.*

Mackintosh Foundation

Grants to promote and develop theatrical, musical and dramatic arts; relieve suffering from and promote research into the causes & treatment of AIDS/Cancer; provide for medical research generally and relief of sickness; relief for the homeless and poverty stricken; promotion of the conservation, protection & enhancement in the UK of nature & the environment.

What they want to fund	Most relevant of the list is likely to promote and develop theatrical, musical and dramatic arts.
Contact email	info@camack.co.uk
Website	https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-details/?subid=0&regid=327751

Tip: *You would need to email them first to introduce yourself and learn more about applying.*

Miss Kathleen Beryl Sleigh Charitable Trust

General grant making.

How much?	Up to £20,000
Who can apply?	• Registered charity
Contact email	jonathan.picken@williamsturges.co.uk
Website	https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/en/charity-search/-/charity-details/3970774/charity-overview

Tip: *You would need to email them first to introduce yourself and learn more about applying.*

Monica Rabagliati Charitable Trust

Grant making Trust

Who can apply?	• Prioritise small/medium organisations
Contact email	bradley.walden@kleinworthambros.com
Website	https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/en/charity-search/-/charity-details/3977584

Tip: *You would need to email them first to introduce yourself and learn more about applying.*

Persula Foundation

The main objective of the Foundation is to create positive social change. The Trustees aim to achieve this by helping create original charities for which it feels there is a need and supporting existing charities with grant funding to undertake original projects, as well as lending its commercial expertise and experience as and when required.

What can it pay for?	A specific project
Who can apply?	• Project needs to be original (i.e. new) and committed to positive social change
What they want to fund	Wide range of priorities, with Children and Fair Society highest in terms of number of organisations supported last year.
Contact email	info@persula.org

Website	https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-/charity-details/5183187/what-who-how-where

Tip: *Only approach if you have an original project. You would need to email them first to introduce yourself and learn more about applying.*

Susanna Peake Charitable Trust

The aims of the charity are to apply, at the discretion of the trustees, grants to organisations in furtherance of the charity's objectives.

How much?	Up to £5,000
Who can apply?	• Registered charity
How to apply	Send a summary of your request by post to the address on their Charity Commission page
Contact email	rtccharities@rathbones.com
Website	https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/en/charity-search/-/charity-details/283462/charity-overview

Tip: *You could email them first to introduce yourself and learn more about applying*

The Shoftim Charitable Trust

Smaller trust that gives at trustees' discretion. Only supports Jewish charities.

What can it pay for?	Running costs
Who can apply?	• Registered charity / CIO • Jewish educational, social, religious and scientific charities
What they want to fund	Jewish educational, social, religious and scientific charities
Contact email	decicurel@judges.uk.com
Website	https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/en/charity-search/-/charity-details/265409/

Tip: *You will need to email the charity to introduce yourselves and ask about likelihood of funding / next steps*

Tresanton Trust

Supports worthy causes agreed by trustees.

What they want to fund	Children's Welfare, Wildlife & the Environment, and Social Justice & Issues impacting the poor. Tend to support the same charities over several years.
Contact email	info@tresantontrust.com
Website	https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/en/charity-search/-/charity-details/4006881/charity-overview

Tip: *You would need to email them first to introduce yourself to learn more about applying.*

Coming Soon / Not Yet Open

These funders do not currently have open funding rounds but may open later in 2026. Keep checking their websites.

6 funders in this section

Health Lottery Foundation

Grant funding from Health Lottery proceeds. Focus for 2026 TBC

Who can apply?	• TBC
What they want to fund	6 areas of focus: 1) Chronic disease 2) Disability inequity 3) Healthcare IT 4) Health disparity 5) Preventative care 6) Young people
Website	https://www.thehealthlotteryfoundation.org.uk/

Henry Smith Charity – TBC

We back organisations and their leaders with bold ideas dedicated to making social change now. Grant funding rounds are currently closed.

Website	https://henrysmith.foundation/grants/

Islington Council – Local Initiatives Fund

Local Councillors supporting applications that deliver benefit to the residents of their ward.

How much?	From £350
What can it pay for?	Running costs or equipment/building work
Who can apply?	• Project based in an Islington ward
What they want to fund	Very local, ward-based focus. Application to be discussed with local ward councillor
How to apply	Contact your local Ward Councillor in the first instance
Contact email	LocalInitiativesFund@islington.gov.uk
Website	https://www.islington.gov.uk/advice/voluntary-and-community-sector/funding-support/local-initiatives-fund/local-initiatives-fund-application-guidance

London Community Foundation – TBC

We exist to improve the lives of the most disadvantaged people in London by working with donors to invest in small, local charities and community groups.

What they want to fund	Don't currently have any open funds for Islington and/or London-wide children and young people.
Website	https://londoncf.org.uk/

Portal Trust – TBC

New Grants Strategy launching 'Spring' 2026

Website	https://portaltrust.org/

Social Investment Business – TBC

No relevant grants currently available

Website	https://www.sibgroup.org.uk/funding/?_funding_type=grant

Helpful Words

Some words used in this guide and in funding applications that you might not know.

Revenue funding – Money to help pay for your day-to-day running costs, like staff, rent, or bills.

Project funding – Money for a specific piece of work with a clear start and end date.

Capital funding – Money to buy equipment, furniture, or pay for building work.

Core costs – The basic costs of running your organisation (rent, utilities, insurance, key staff).

Expression of Interest (EOI) – A short first application. If the funder likes it, they will invite you to apply in full.

Match funding – Money you need to raise from other sources alongside the grant. For example, if a funder asks for 10% match funding on a £10,000 grant, you need to find £1,000 elsewhere.

Registered charity – An organisation registered with the Charity Commission. You will have a charity number.

CIO – Charitable Incorporated Organisation. A type of charity structure.

CIC – Community Interest Company. A type of social enterprise.

Constituted group – A community group that has a written set of rules (a constitution) about how it is run.

Safeguarding – Policies and practices to protect children and vulnerable people from harm.

Annual accounts – A summary of your organisation's income and spending over a year, usually checked by an accountant.

Turnover / annual income – The total amount of money your organisation receives in a year.