

Community Funding Bulletin

December 2023 Edition



TAK£500+ Your Community, Your Voice, Your Choice!

What is TAK£500?

Tak£500+ is a Participatory Budgeting process which means that local people get to decide how public funds are used to address needs in their area. Community Planning Partners have pooled their resources to fund community projects.

Communities can apply for up to £1000 for a project they think will benefit their area – and best of all, it is the local residents who decide which projects should go ahead!

WHO CAN APPLY?

The fund is open to everyone from:

- Both constituted groups and non-constituted groups can apply for funding.
- There must be a minimum of three people per group.
- Each group can apply for one project per area (Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon).
- Children and young people aged eight and above can also form a group and apply for funding. If you are under 18, you will need an Adult Sponsor to support your application and to help develop and deliver your idea. You will also need a parent or guardian to sign your application form (More details on this below).
- If your group is not constituted, you will need to be sponsored by a constituted group or organisation.
- A maximum of two applications can be received from groups from any one organisation or umbrella group e.g., if a Local Sports Club has Junior or Senior Groups or a Primary or Secondary School has multiple year groupings. If we receive more than three applications, we will contact you and ask you to choose which applications you want to be considered.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

You can apply for up to £1000 to pay for things such as online activities, equipment, events, tutors, venue hire, transport for trips and other innovative ideas. *

All ideas must be based around the 'Take 5 Ways of Wellbeing'. These are five simple steps to help maintain and improve your wellbeing on a daily basis;

CONNECT

With the people around you, family, friends, colleagues and neighbours and spend time developing them.

Building these connections will support and enrich you every day.

BE ACTIVE

Go for a walk or run, cycle, play a game, garden or dance – even a short 10-minute walk can improve mental alertness and wellbeing.

TAKE NOTICE

Of the world around you, how you are feeling, what matters to you and reflect on your experiences.

KEEP LEARNING

Don't be afraid to try something new, rediscover an old hobby or sign up for a course. Learning new things will make you more confident, as well as being fun.

GIVE

Do something nice for a friend or stranger, thank someone, smile, volunteer your time or consider joining a community group.

A PB Working Group of Community planning partners will review your ideas against the following criteria:

- Safe
- Legal
- Feasible within budget and timeframe
- Will benefit people in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough
- In line with one or more of the Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing and in line with the overall ethos of Take 5.

Unfortunately, there are things we can't fund such as personal payments, alcohol, political activities and things you are already funded to deliver. If you are unsure, please contact us.

Applications open on Monday 4 December 2023 for six weeks and will close at midnight on Thursday 18 January 2024 - for more information and to apply, please visit [TAK£500+ - YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR SAY, YOUR WAY! - Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council \(armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk\)](#)



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Read about our Funding Support Services here [Funding support and advice for community groups in Northern Ireland. — Supporting Communities](#)



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

Benefact Trust is offering grants for Christian organisations across the UK and Ireland 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. For more information, please visit [New - Community Impact Grants | Benefact Trust](#)

Forestry Commission Launches £2.5m Tree Production Capital Grant

The Tree Production Capital Grant provides funding to help tree nurseries and suppliers invest in projects which improve, expand, automate or mechanise their operations. This will help improve the quantity, quality, diversity, and biosecurity of domestic tree supply.

The scheme is looking to support projects with outputs that will better equip nurseries to supply the trees required for new woodlands and urban planting projects.

Up to £2.5 million of funding is available, subject to sufficient high-quality bids being received. Successful projects will be awarded up to £175,000 in grant funding to cover up to 50% of costs. Projects must have a minimum total cost of £10,000 to be eligible.

Funding is available for the 2024-2025 financial year only.

The grant is open to tree seed and sapling suppliers of all sizes, as well as new entrants looking to diversify into the sector. Eligible organisations include private sector nurseries and seed suppliers, public sector organisations, environmental NGOs, and community tree nurseries. Applicants must be UK-based and will need to demonstrate how the grant will be used to increase English tree seed or sapling supply.

The deadline for applications is 30 January 2024 (23:55).

For more information, please visit [Tree Production Capital Grant - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Crighshane and Churchill Community Benefit Fund

This local community benefit fund was originally set up by Energia Renewables, and has now been taken over by Greencoat Capital.

The fund has been established to ensure that the Crighshane and Church Hill wind farms, whilst having obvious environmental benefits, also provide significant social and economic benefits to the local community.

Funding is available to local community projects that are planned and run for the benefit of the local population and are within 6km of the Wind Farms.

[Crighshane-Church Hill Map](#)

The fund will support projects addressing issues within the following theme areas:

- Energy efficiency and sustainability
- Social, cultural or sporting benefit for the local community

- Educational issues with a sustainability angle
- Environmental benefit or economic benefit
- Examples of who can apply:
- Constituted voluntary organisations and community groups
- Local youth groups

Funding available:

- Grants from £1,000 to £5,000

Closing date for applications is 12th January 2024 at 1pm. For more information and to apply, please visit [Crighshane and Churchill Community Benefit Fund - Community Foundation Northern Ireland \(communityfoundationni.org\)](#)

The 
Community
Foundation
Northern Ireland



The Telecommunity Fund

Priority will be given to applications from small groups, typically with an annual income of less than £200,000, as evidenced in most recent set of accounts:

- Projects must aim to directly support one of the following specific groups:
 - Young people
 - Older people
 - People with disabilities
- The Fund will not support projects targeting all ages.
- Priority will be given to projects that will benefit groups dealing with disadvantage (e.g. rural isolation, low income, social exclusion, reduced access to services), and projects that involve the beneficiaries in their development and delivery.
- In the event of oversubscription, priority will be given to lower income organisations

Examples of types of projects that may be supported within Fund themes:

- Community education and training opportunities
- Communication and leadership skills
- Local initiatives to improve resources and community facilities
- Creativity and self-expression through drama, music or a range of arts activities
- Inclusion and involvement of disadvantaged communities
- Out of school projects for young people

The Foundation will not fund organisations or activities which promote causes that are contrary to our purposes. Causes and activities that are contrary to our purposes include, but may not be limited to, those outlined in our investment policy. We will not therefore fund organisations or activities which we determine are linked to the promotion of armaments, alcohol, human rights abuses, tobacco or pornography.

The fund will also not support organisations who advance religion, including those who have purposes within their governance to advance religion, or who seek financial support for any projects aimed at advancing a particular religion.

Telecommunity Fund Application Guidance Top tips

Pre application:

- Read the guidance notes and ensure you are eligible to apply and your project meets the funding criteria
- Talk to the Grants Team – to confirm eligibility and iron out any queries you may have
- Think about the long term value of your project. The fund does not prioritise one off trips, or very short term projects. Ensure what you are applying for you would like to apply for is eligible
- Have your supporting documentation ready to upload (in one file rather than separate pages, per document) as part of your application, before the final closing date

During application:

- Check your budgets and ensure you can deliver on spend and project targets
- Keep answers concise and accurate, there is no need to go above 300 – 500 words
- Tell us about the project you are requesting funding for and clearly show the need, and link the identified need with the fund criteria
- Complete all questions on the application form accurately, e.g. committee details
- Submit the required documents as per the guidance notes, e.g. governing document

Post application:

- Keep a record of your application
- If you are unsuccessful, ask for feedback to help improve your chances of success for future projects
- If successful, ensure that you spend the money as agreed in your letter of offer and keep any receipts that you may have, and evidence of the numbers attending, and evaluations for events. This will help you complete your end of grant form when your project is complete
- Ensure you complete your end of grant monitoring form on time. If you are having any problems with your project, in particular spend, please contact the Grants Team as soon as you can to discuss
- Take photographs and ask those who participated in your project for quotations. This will help show the real value and impact that your project has had
- And finally, use the learning to think about how you might be able to develop the project further. Think about what other funds you might apply for, to further develop the project.

Talk to the Grants Team for advice!

Examples of previously funded projects:

- A 6 week programme of music therapy for children with autism.
- A creative arts and crafts programme for older people.
- The provision of an afterschool homework club in conjunction with a youth club.
- A 12 month drama therapy programme for adults with learning disabilities.
- A six week youth programme to design and produce outside art in the playground.

This round of the Telecommunity Fund will close for applications at 1:00pm on Tuesday 30 January 2024.

It is recommended that you read our [Grant FAQs](#) before starting your grant application. Should you have any further questions please contact the Grants Team on 028 9024 5927.

For more information, please visit [The Telecommunity Fund - Community Foundation Northern Ireland \(communityfoundationni.org\)](#)



2024/25 Central Good Relations Fund

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Open for online applications from Monday 11 December 2023 at 4pm

The 2024/25 Central Good Relations Fund (CGRF) will open for applications on Monday 11th December 2023 at 4pm, for groups who wish to apply online for a project funding grant (for projects over £1,500).

Applications must be submitted online by:

Monday 22 January 2024 at 4:00pm

To access the online application portal, you must first register your organisation. However, if you have previously registered, you do not need to register again. Please follow the link below and enter your username and password in the 'Local Account Login' section to log in to the application portal.

[Already Registered? Login to apply for a 2024/25 CGRF grant](#)

If you have not already registered, please use the link below to register your organisation. Please note, you must register your organisation by 4.00pm on Friday 19 January 2024 to enable access to the online application portal. Any registrations submitted after that time will not be accepted.

[Register to be able to apply for a 2024/25 CGRF grant](#)



You should read the 2024/25 CGRF Guidance notes which include a step-by-step guide to registration and a step-by-step guide to the application form before you start.

Register

To register (if you have not already done so), you will need:

- Your contact information;
- Details of your organisation, including address and organisation type; and
- A copy of your organisation's constitution (WORD or PDF).

Online Application

To apply online you will need:

- Your online sign in details (username and password);
- Details of your proposed project including proposed activities and costings; and
- Copies of job descriptions, if applicable (for any salary(s) being claimed).

Got questions?

Contact our team using the e-mail below:

GoodRelationsFund@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk

Ageism Action Day

Centre for Ageing Better has announced this new Ageism Action Day which is a chance for everyone to do something to change the narrative about ageing. It's an annual day for individuals and communities, workplaces, friends and families to learn, take action and improve lives. The Action Day is on 20th March 2024, and will happen every year around the same time.

How much is available?

Grants of up to £500 are available, with an additional up to £150 to cover anything needed to make the event or activity more accessible. The lower limit for applications is £75.

What can the micro-grant cover?

Groups can choose to mark the day as they would like, using the theme "see and be seen" as inspiration, which is all about improving the way ageing is represented in society and challenging negative portrayals and associations. It could be supporting art exhibitions, poetry competitions, fashion shows, film viewings, events which bring generations together, sharing stories of ageing or creating opportunities to discuss ageism at a coffee morning or pub quiz. The options are endless!

What is the deadline?

The deadline for applications is 10th January 2024 but we may have to close early if we receive a high level of demand so we encourage you to submit as early as possible.

Drop in sessions and questions

We encourage everyone interested in making an application to join an online information session on Friday 8th December between 10am and 11am or Thursday 14 December between 1pm and 2pm. Alternatively, you can email grants@ageing-better.org.uk with your specific questions and we will aim to respond.

For more information or to apply click: <https://ageing-better.org.uk/ageism-action-day-micro-grants-age-friendly-communities>



MSE Charity Announces Funding Theme for January 2024 Round

A small number of grants for not-for-profit organisations in the UK for projects that relate to the delivery of financial skills to different defined groups.

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.

For more information, please visit [Home \(msecharity.com\)](https://msecharity.com)

