



Guide to Funding

January 2024

We know that charities and community groups are always thinking about how they adapt and sustain their services to provide help and support to those in need across County Durham.

It is our aim to support organisations with funding advice by promoting all funding opportunities as they arise through our website, news bulletins, social media channels and through the continued operation of our dedicated Information, Advice and Guidance service offer.

In this guide we will provide a short introduction to resilience and sustainability funders, helping you to choose which funds best meet your needs and the needs of those you are supporting.

This guide is not an exhaustive list, there are other funds available and new funds are regularly released.

We will endeavour to keep the information in this guide as accurate as possible and respond to updates from funders as quickly as possible.

What can I do now?

Scenario planning and risk management are useful activities that help trustee boards to plan for an unpredictable future by considering what needs to be put in place to build on existing services or help consider how to adapt the way you work to best meet the changing needs of your beneficiaries.

Financial planning is also important, and funders might ask to see your organisational budgets and so thorough preparation of actual and projected income and expenditure as you shape your funding strategy is key.

Our training and information sessions focusing on recovery and resilience are available online and more information can be found [here](#)

We have identified a list of funders below who regularly provide grants and other funding to voluntary and community organisations in our region. Please note these funds are constantly under review and we recommend checking the individual funders' websites regularly for the latest information and updates.

Arts Council England

Arts Council England invests in art and culture for a lasting return. They are looking for organisations, artists, events, initiatives, and others to apply for their funding and help them achieve their strategy

Asda Foundation

Asda Foundation supports small grassroots organisations in several ways throughout the year. Working with Asda's Community Champions in-store, they are able to work with a range of organisations and groups on a variety of local community projects.

BBC Children in Need

BBC Children in Need's vision is that children and young people in the UK have a safe, happy and secure childhood and the chance to reach their potential. They award funding across several different programmes.

Believe Housing

Believe Housing have a Community Grants Scheme which supports projects that make a real difference to people's lives and wellbeing. Funding is open to applications from projects within the areas Believe Housing operates in County Durham.

Bernard Sunley Foundation

Bernard Sunley Foundation is a family grant-making foundation which supports charities in England and Wales working to raise the quality of life and provide greater opportunities for the young, the elderly, the disabled and the disadvantaged. Their grants focus on capital projects.

Coalfields Regeneration Trust

Coalfields Regeneration Trust has a variety of programmes and funding opportunities in England focused on improving their three key themes: health and wellbeing, employment and skills. Their programmes and funding are delivered in their eligible coalfield areas which include some areas of County Durham.

Comic Relief

Comic Relief's vision is to create a just world free from poverty. They are doing this by funding and investing in amazing organisations across the UK and around the world. They fund diverse organisations, each one working to tackle the key issues of our time.

Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland

Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland award grants to support a wide range of causes in Tyne & Wear and Northumberland, and across North East England. The grants come from nearly 300 different funds set up by their donors. You can apply as an organisation or as an individual.

County Durham Community Foundation

County Durham Community Foundation is a local grant-making foundation that awards grants from the many funds established by their donors to try to make a lasting difference in local communities. They do this by matching your application wherever they can to the most appropriate fund available at the time. They provide grants for groups, individuals and families in need.

Durham County Council – Area Action Partnerships

Each of the 14 Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) in County Durham have a budget for local projects and investments, in addition to Neighbourhood Budgets which each county councillor has to use for local initiatives, informed by the AAPs.

Easyfundraising

Easyfundraising turns everyday online shopping into free donations for your cause. Start your online shopping first at easyfundraising then shop as normal. Retailers will then make a small donation to say thank you; there are over 7,000 brands involved in the scheme.

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation is one of the UK's largest independent funders. Their three main aims are to improve Our Natural World, secure A Fairer Future and nurture Creative, Confident Communities.

Garfield Weston Foundation

The Garfield Weston Foundation is a family founded grant-maker that gives money to support a wide range of charities across the UK that make a positive difference working in different sectors. These include welfare, youth, community, environment, education, health, arts, heritage and faith.

Foyle Foundation

The Foyle Foundation is an independent grant making trust that distributes grants to UK charities. It supports charities in three main areas: Main Grants scheme supporting charities whose core work covers Arts and Learning, the Foyle School Library Scheme and a Small Grants scheme supporting charities in all fields with a turnover of less than £150,000 per annum.

Greggs Foundation

Greggs Foundation is a grant-making charity which aims to build stronger, healthier communities in the areas where Greggs operates. Their intention is to provide grant funding where it can do most good by focusing on addressing issues of poverty and inequality, ensuring food is at the heart of communities and supporting local community organisations to make a real difference.

Hadrian Trust

Hadrian Trust aims to improve the lives of people living and working in the North East of England. Their main grant donations are in the fields of social welfare, youth, disability, the elderly, women, ethnic minorities education, arts, and the environment.

Henry Smith Charity

The Henry Smith Charity is an independent grant making trust who aim to use their resources to help people and communities at a time of need and to bring about positive change. They have a range of grant programmes available.

Karbon Homes – Community Funding

Karbon Homes have a Community Investment Fund and welcome applications from not-for-profit organisations and schools. The grants aim to support projects that make a real difference to people's lives and wellbeing within the communities in which they work.

Key Fund

Key Fund offer loans and grants to people and enterprises that make a big impact, tackling social and environmental issues in the heart of their communities.

Livin

Livin are a Housing Provider which have Community Funding for projects that will help tenants and the communities they live in. They are particularly interested in projects that will help with financial inclusion and making your community safer, greener and more sustainable.

Lloyds TSB Foundation

Lloyds TSB Foundation fund small and local charities, investing in their work helping people overcome complex social issues across England and Wales.

National Lottery Community Fund

The National Lottery Community Fund awards money raised by National Lottery players to fund great ideas that help communities to thrive. They have a range of funding programmes and offer different amounts of funding depending upon your project.

National Lottery Heritage Fund

The National Lottery Heritage Fund provide different levels of funding to heritage of all shapes and sizes. Their grants range from £3,000 up to millions of pounds.

Northstar Ventures

Northstar Ventures provide early-stage venture capital and impact investments to entrepreneurs with big ideas. They have a range of funds and programmes available.

Sir James Knott Trust

Sir James Knott Trust support charitable activity in Tyne & Wear, Northumberland, County Durham and Hartlepool by making grants to organisations. They operate on a rolling programme.

Sport England

Sport England invest National Lottery and public money to help people play sport and take part in physical activity. They have a range of funding programmes available.

Tesco Community Grants

Tesco Community Grants fund thousands of local community projects across the UK, helping to fight holiday hunger, tackle mental health, support young people, host community events and much more.

The Clothworkers Foundation

The Clothworkers' Foundation improves the lives of people and communities – particularly those facing disadvantage and marginalization – through grant-making. The Foundation awards capital grants to charities registered in the UK or not-for-profit organisations working across their nine areas of priority defined in its Main and Small Grants programmes.

Virgin Money Foundation

The Virgin Money Foundation designs grant making programmes aimed to support people to create positive change in their local community. They have a range of funding programmes – some are open to applications; others are by invitation only.

Training and Events

Durham Community Action offer a range of fully funded online training workshops including a 'Completing a Funding Application – Bring your Project to Life session which covers understanding the basics of applying for grant funding and how to link your project to a funder's criterion. Visit our [Training](#) webpage to find out more.

Funding Searches

Durham County Council manage a funding portal called [Durham4Community](#) for community groups which you can sign up to for free. It allows you to search for funding schemes available to your group, apply for funding and get advice on producing your funding application.

Durham Community Action Funding Top Tips

Before starting your application, please read through our 'top tips' to make sure that you have all of the information you need and that you have a plan before you contact them.

1. **Always check the funder's exclusions list**
2. **Make sure you meet the funder's priorities/criteria**
3. **Be clear and concise**
4. **Only provide information you have been asked for** Most funders will ask for your governing document and bank account details
5. **Be clear about why your project is needed and who will benefit from it**
6. **Know your outcomes and what difference your project will make**
7. **Provide an accurate budget**
8. **Complete application forms fully and accurately**
9. **Get someone else to read your application before you send it**
10. **Meet funders deadlines and timescales**

How Durham Community Action can help

Durham Community Action will support in any way we can in order to help organisations access the funding and advice they need. We are happy to talk through funding opportunities and help shape applications alongside our usual funding advice which includes our 'Critical Friend' service where we will read through your application before you submit it to make sure it is clear and concise.

Further Support Available

Our friendly staff at Durham Community are here to provide information, advice and guidance so don't hesitate to get in touch!

Email: info@durhamcommunityaction.org.uk

Website: www.durhamcommunityaction.org.uk

