



Funding Opportunities For Individuals

There are numerous grant and funding opportunities available details of which can be found in dedicated directories and websites to help you with your search for grant funding; many of which are free to access.

Grant funding search websites

(not all sites are free though some do offer a free trial period):

Directory of Social Change	Funds On-Line	Foundation Scotland
Grant Finder	Grants Online	Heritage Fund Directory
J4bcommunity	National Lottery Funding Finder	SCVO Funding Portal
SRN Funding Search	Youth Links Scotland	

All Age Group Funding

Creative Scotland – Sustaining Creative Development

Creative Scotland is committed to ensuring that people are supported to develop excellence and experimentation in a wide range of arts and creative activity, reflecting Scotland's diverse and dynamic cultures. They want to ensure that the experience of the arts and creative activity benefits as many people as possible across Scotland's communities and places. They have a key role in ensuring that Scotland's creative workforce and businesses have opportunities to develop, evolve and flourish.

- Funding available for between £1k and £100k
- The fund aims to enable individuals and organisations to explore ways of working that will help them to adapt and respond to the current changing circumstances
- The overall budget for the Open Fund for Individuals and the Open Fund for Organisations totals £7.5m of National Lottery money
- There are separate funding strands for Individuals and Organisations, to ensure that individuals will not be in direct competition with organisations for funding.
- The fund is open all year round, with no deadlines and can support activity for up to 12 months.

See more about the fund on the [web site](#)

Highland Council Funding

[Sport Council Grants](#) grant funding for up to £500 for Equipment, Coaching, Event and Individuals Achieving Excellence.

Details of the Inverness Area Sport Council covering the area of Glen Urquhart and Strathglass can be found [here](#).

Adult Specific Funding

Energy Saving Trust

The UK is committed to achieving an 80 per cent reduction in carbon emissions by 2050. To address these challenges, we all need to reduce our energy consumption and accelerate a move to sustainable, low carbon lifestyles.

The Energy Saving Trust are a leading and trusted organisation helping people save energy every day. Their experts speak with millions of householders every year, deliver first class programmes for governments and provide consultancy to UK businesses and international companies. All that they do is underpinned by their pioneering world-renowned research.

They are independent and impartial so the advice they give is all about helping you. A selection of options are shown below but see the full list on the [Energy Saving Trust website](#).

[Domestic charge point funding](#) - the typical cost for a home charge point and installation is approximately £1000. As part of its Electric Vehicle Home charge scheme, OLEV currently offers applicants £500 towards this cost. Energy Saving Trust will provide up to £300 further funding on top of this. For the cost covered by OLEV you will not need to make any payment to your supplier, as they will receive this money from OLEV directly. For the costs above what OLEV cover, you will have to pay your supplier and Energy Saving Trust will then provide you with your (up to £300) reimbursement. Any remaining costs above the £500 provided by OLEV and the £300 provided by Energy Saving Trust you would need to pay for yourself.

[e-bike Loan](#) - If you are considering purchasing an ebike, an exciting funding opportunity is available in Scotland through Energy Saving Trust. We offer an interest-free loan per household, repayable over 4 years, that can be used for:

- 2 x ebikes capped at £3,000 each
- 1 x family cargo or ecargo bike capped at £6,000
- 1 x adaptive bike or ebike (value assessed on a case-by-case basis)

Firstport Social Entrepreneurs Fund

The Awards Programme offers two different levels of start-up awards – Start It and Build It, together with business support from a dedicated team of advisors to help you develop the skills and knowledge you'll need to succeed.

The Awards Programme is highly competitive, so you will need to be sure that your idea meets the specific funding criteria for each level. Of those applications that are eligible, we support the ideas that can provide the strongest evidence of their business potential, and their ability to create significant, lasting social impact.

START IT AWARDS - Our first level of funding is for individuals with an innovative business idea which addresses a social, environmental and/or community issue. You can apply for up to £5,000 start-up costs to pilot your idea.

BUILD IT AWARDS - The next level of funding is for individuals who have already piloted their social enterprise idea (either with or without support from our 'Start It' programme) and have proven that the concept works.

Funding of up to £20,000 is available to cover an individual's salary/living costs for one year, so that they can begin running the business full time. An additional £5,000 discretionary funding is available on top of this for other costs in certain cases. For more information see the [website](#).

Individual Training Accounts – (ITA)

Formerly known as Individual Learning Accounts, this grant is from Skills Development Scotland. There may be times when the grant is closed to new applicants due to numbers of requests. There are over 500 training providers across Scotland are registered to deliver ITA training. The training covers a whole range of skills from using Microsoft Excel to operating a forklift truck.

You could receive up to £200 towards a single course or training episode per year. ITA funding could be right for you if you're:

- Resident in Scotland and aged 16 or over
- Not in employment, education or involved in any other SDS funded programme
- Employed, earning less than £22,000 per year and looking to progress in or change your job

To find out more visit SDS [My World of Work website](#)

LEADER funding - Nairnshire & Rural Inverness

[LEADER](#) is part of the new Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP), aimed at promoting economic and community development within rural areas. LEADER is a grassroots method of delivering support for rural development through implementing Local Development Strategies. The fund is aimed primarily at rural, small and medium sized community driven projects that are pilot and innovative in nature.

Local Development Strategies include actions that will allow individuals, communities and businesses to:

- drive community action on climate change
- enhance rural services and facilities, including transport initiatives
- enhance natural/cultural heritage, tourism and leisure
- support food and drink initiatives (for example short supply chains, community food)
- build co-operation with other LAGs in Scotland, UK and Europe
- exchange learning and knowledge with each other, realise their potential, build opportunities for all

More details on funding criteria and process on the [Rural Network webpage](#).

New Enterprise Allowance – Gov.uk

You may be eligible for [New Enterprise Allowance](#) if you're over 18 and you can show that you have a business idea that could work. You need to be getting either [Jobseeker's Allowance](#) (or your partner does) [Employment and Support Allowance](#) (or your partner does) or [Income Support](#), if you're a lone parent, or you're sick or disabled.

You may also be eligible if you get [Universal Credit](#), including if you're already self-employed.

If you're starting a new business, you'll be given a business mentor, who will provide advice and support on [becoming self-employed](#) and [setting up your business](#)

Once you've made a [business plan](#) and it's been approved, you can get a weekly allowance worth up to £1,274 over 26 weeks and a loan to help with start-up costs

Extra support

You may be able to get extra support through an [Access to Work](#) grant if you have a disability, health or mental health condition and you're getting New Enterprise Allowance.

The Life Changes Trust

We provide a range of funding opportunities for organisations that are committed to supporting the empowerment and rights of young people with care experience, people living with dementia, and the unpaid carers of those with dementia. Details of support on the [web site](#)

Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS)

SAAS are an agency of the Scottish Government giving financial support to eligible students doing a course of **higher education** in the UK. They receive over 150,000 applications annually from undergraduate and postgraduate students as well as applications for Disabled Student Allowance, the NHS Bursary Scheme and the Part-time Fee Grant. [The website](#) provides information on all types of student funding available and allows you to apply for your financial support.

If you are studying a full-time course in Scotland and you meet our eligibility conditions, we will pay your fees each year.

They will normally fund you for the minimum number of years you need to complete your programme of study. They will allow you one extra year of funding to cover certain situations, such as a repeat year. You should always contact them about your funding if you are thinking about changing course, including progressing from an HN course to a degree.

The amount of funding available depends on a number of factors, and amounts may change each year, so you are advised to check the website for current details on the [forms and guides page](#).

Please note SASS funding is only for Higher Education courses. If you are attending college for a further education course – e.g. an access course or national certificate, there may be separate support from your college. For Inverness College contact the [funding team](#) or see the website [Inverness College](#)

Young Person/Child Specific Funding

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) and Activity Agreements

An activity agreement is a plan of learning and activity which an advisor will help a young person put together, so when they are ready, they can move on from this to further education, training or employment. It can include volunteering, short courses, supported learning and practical experiences. Each agreement is individually tailored to the person.

Young people on activity agreements may be eligible for [Education Maintenance Allowance](#).

Contact your local Skills Development Scotland Office – details through [Hi-Hopes Directory](#)

ILF Scotland Transition Fund

Are you aged 16-21, and living with a disability in Scotland? You could be eligible for up to £7,500 in funding, for 1 year, from the Transition Fund! They can support you to try new activities and experiences that will enhance your independence, confidence and help you to spend more time with other people. Funds can be used for a many activities, including art lessons; music lessons; purchasing a device or piece of technology; joining a class; taking driving lessons and many more.

For more details and to apply on-line visit the [website](#).

SportsAid

SportsAid aims to support the right athletes, at the right time, with the right support. The financial challenge of trying to reach the top of their sport is one of their greatest barriers to success.

SportsAid athletes are supported at the beginning of the talent pathway before hopefully progressing onto National Lottery funding. Every athlete who receives the charity's help is nominated by an NGB. NGBs are typically independent, self-appointed organisations which govern the sport they preside over.

The typical value of a SportsAid award is £1,000. For more details see the [website](#)

Princes Youth Trust

These Development Awards can cover the cost of course fees, tools or equipment to help you achieve your goals. To be eligible, you must be:

- Aged 16 to 30 and living in the UK
- Studying less than 14 hours a week or not in compulsory education
- Unemployed or working less than 16 hours a week

Development Awards can support:

- Accredited course fees up to Level 3 (A-level equivalent)
- Tools, equipment or uniforms for a job or qualification
- Job licence fees
- Transport to a new job until your first pay slip

For more information and how to apply visit the [website](#).

The Highland Children's Trust

[The Highland Children's Trust](#) offers grants to children, under 25, resident in Highland for school trips, family holidays, attendance at feis. We may also offer grants for educational equipment if you have special educational needs.

The Trust also helps university or college students in financial hardship and contributes to expedition costs for young people.

We may also be able to help you with getting a job, setting you up in business, or finding you a home after your full-time education or apprenticeship is completed.

Grants will only be awarded if the application shows financial need. Assistance is only provided to young people in low income families, and not to clubs or associations.