

FUNDING

Small grants guide for voluntary and community groups in the Hastings area October 2025

This funding guide has been produced to provide clear and up-to-date information about some of the most useful small grants (up to around £20,000) that are available for voluntary and community groups in Hastings and the surrounding area.

Before you can apply, many funders require you to have:

- a committee (or other decision-making group)
- a constitution (or other governing document)
- a bank or building society account
- a set of independently examined accounts (or a financial forecast for a new group)
- a child / vulnerable adult protection policy (if relevant)

If you need support with any aspect of setting up or running a voluntary or community group, Hastings Voluntary Action may be able to help.

This guide is part of a wider Funding Advice Service for Hastings groups, including:

- Reviewing funding applications and offering feedback
- Training courses on funding and fundraising issues
- Publicising funding sources in HVA newsletter and elsewhere
- Occasional e-bulletins with time-sensitive information for fundraisers
- Providing specific funding information and advice for organisations
- Loaning fundraising books and guides

For more information about the Funding Advice Service, contact **Peter Thorpe** (peter@hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk) or phone HVA on **01424 444010**.

Things sometimes change rapidly and the list is updated on a regular basis, but if you spot anything that is no longer correct then do let us know!

Also feedback is important – please tell us about your funding successes (and failures!). Your feedback could help us to continue the Funding Advice Service in the future.

Good luck in your fundraising!

****UPDATED** Awards for All**

Awards for All is the small grant programme of the National Lottery Community Fund. It aims to help to improve local communities and the lives of people most in need.

There are no deadlines, and groups can apply anything from £300 to £20,000 across 2 years. Grants can pay for a wide range of things such as equipment, one off projects, running costs, staff or volunteer costs. Decisions are currently taking 16 weeks.

Your project must meet at least one of the following aims:

- build strong relationships in and across communities
- improve the places and spaces that matter to communities
- help more people to reach their potential, by supporting them at the earliest possible stage.
- support people, communities and organisations that are facing increased demands and challenges as a direct result of the cost-of-living crisis.

You also need to show how you have or will involve your community in the design, development and delivery of the activities that you are planning.

Visit www.awardsforall.org.uk, or call their advice line on 0345 4102030.

Awards For All – Environment - ends 17th December 2025

www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/funding-programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all-england-environment

Grassroots Grants (Postcode Lottery / Groundwork)

Unrestricted grants of between £500 and £2,000 can be accessed by organisations whose income is under £25,000 in the last financial year.

www.groundwork.org.uk/grassroots-grants/

Comic Relief Community Fund

is offering grants of up to £5,000 for grassroots, community-led organisations in England that support people living in, or at risk of, poverty or hardship.

Funding is available for organisations with an annual income less than £250,000 and can be used for direct project costs or to support core running expenses, or a combination of both. **Closes 6th October**

www.groundwork.org.uk/comic-relief

Chalk Cliff Trust

Grants are available for a broad range of community initiatives in East Sussex. Grants vary in size but are typically £3000 to £5000. They only accept applications online, but it is a relatively simple application process. Visit www.chalkclifftrust.org

/more

****UPDATED** Sussex Community Foundation**

SCF's Main Grants OPEN

Sussex Community Foundation administers a wide range of different grants for voluntary organisations that are seeking to address social and economic disadvantage and deprivation across Sussex. Their **Main Grants** are usually up to £10,000, with an average of £5,000. Grants are assessed three times a year (with decisions typically 2-3 months later).

Applications will need to meet one of their four funding priorities:

- Tackling poverty: *Reducing poverty and disadvantage in our communities.*
- Improving health: *Helping people live longer, better lives.*
- Reaching potential: *Providing life-changing skills, education and training.*
- Acting on climate: *Taking local action for the climate*

For more information about any of their grants contact the **Sussex Community Foundation** on **01273 409440** or visit **www.sussexgiving.org.uk**

Arts Council England – Grants for the arts

Grants for the arts is for individuals, arts organisations and other people who use the arts in their work. Grants are for activities carried out over a set period and which engage people in arts activities, and help artists and arts organisations carry out their work. Grants range from £1000 to over £100,000. Requests under £30,000 will be decided in 8 weeks. For further information about both of these programmes, visit the Arts Council website at **www.artscouncil.org.uk** or phone their helpline 0161 934 4317.

The **£30,000 and under** and **£30,001 to £100,000** strands of National Lottery Project Grants programme are both now open for applications. You can find all the information and guidance on how to make an application in our **[National Lottery Project Grants Guidance Library](#)**.

National Lottery Heritage Fund

The National Lottery Heritage Fund funds projects that connect people and communities to the national, regional and local heritage of the UK. It can be anything from the past that you value and want to pass on to future generations, for example: people's memories and experiences, cultural traditions, historic buildings, monuments and environments, or histories of people and communities or places and events. Their small grants programme is for £3000, to £10,000, with other programmes for larger grants.

For further information visit the National Lottery Heritage Fund website at **www.heritagefund.org.uk** or phone their helpline **020 7591 6000**.

Sport England- Small Grants Scheme

Sport England runs several grant programmes. Small Grants uses Lottery funding to make awards of between £300 and £10,000 to not-for-profit organisations to help more people play sport. You can only apply through the Sport England website **www.sportengland.org**

Sport England – Movement Fund

We offer up to £15,000 for physical activity projects in the community. The focus is on people who face barriers to activity and projects designed to help them join in.

www.sportengland.org/funding-and-campaigns/our-funding/movement-fund

Tesco Community Grants – Stronger Starts

Tesco Community Grants is open to schools, charities and community organisations to apply for a grant of up to £1,500, with priority given to projects that provide food and support to children and young people. Every three months, three local good causes are selected to be in the blue token customer vote in Tesco stores throughout the UK.

Tesco Community Grants

**** UPDATED** Henry Smith Charity**

<https://henrysmith.foundation/grants/>

Getting started – Supporting families to give their young children a strong start.

Building independence – Helping young people move into adulthood with confidence, skills and hope.

Safer futures – Supporting people to rebuild their lives after abuse, displacement or prison.

Sussex Police – Police Property Act Fund

The main aim of the fund is to support local projects undertaken by voluntary/charitable organisations that solely benefit the communities of Sussex with grants of up to £500.

Each application needs to be supported by a Sussex Police officer or member of staff who has knowledge of the charity or organisation.

Police Property Act Fund (PPAF) | Sussex Police

Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

Currently Closed

Safer in Sussex Community Fund – providing financial support (grant awards up to £5,000) for local community groups that help reduce or prevent crime in Sussex.

Applications are usually invited three times a year. More information on the schemes and how to apply is available on the PCC's website:

www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/apply-for-funding/

Foreshore Trust – small and event grants

Currently Closed; expected in late 2025

Grants of up to £6,000 available to support smaller voluntary and community groups to carry out activities that enhance the quality of local residents' lives and increase their involvement in the community; or to increase public enjoyment of the Foreshore Trust's land by encouraging a year-round programme of events.

Further details can be found at www.hastings.gov.uk/foreshoretrust

Local Funders

Some of these funders may not have an application form, and so you would need to write to them explaining who you are, what you plan to do, how much money you want, and what difference it would make.

Isabel Blackman Foundation

Emphasis on education and learning

Usual grant size: typically between £500 and £5000

How to apply: in writing

Address: Stonehenge, 13 Laton Road, Hastings TN34 2ES

Email: ibfoundation@uwclub.net

Phone: 01424 431756

Magdalen & Lasher Charity

Organisations that “deal directly with need, hardship and distress for the residents of the Borough of Hastings”.

Usual grant size: typically between £100 and £3000

How to apply: in writing

Marcia Woolf, Administrator,

Old Hastings House, 132 High Street, Hastings, TN34 3ET

Email: mlc@oldhastingshouse.co.uk

Phone: 01424 452646

Hastings Lions Club

Usual grant size: up to £2000 for one-off expenditure

Supports a broad spectrum of needs and ages – will not fund salaries

How to apply: by application form

Requests needed by the first Tuesday of each month.

Email: grants@hastingslions.org.uk

[Hastings Lions Club organise the annual Half Marathon]

Hastings Round Table

Usual grant size: average £2000 (will not fund salaries)

How to apply: in writing

Download a form <http://www.hastingsroundtable.co.uk/donation-request-form>

Their monthly meeting is every 3rd Tuesday.

[Hastings Round Table organise the annual Beer & Music Festival]

****UPDATED** Muffin Club**

The Muffin Club raises funds and distributes this money to worthy causes, deserving charities and individuals in need in the Borough of Hastings.

Usual grant size: less than £500

How to apply: email muffinrequests@outlook.com

Winkle Club

Usual grant size: less than £500

Decisions are made in January?

How to apply: in writing

27 All Saints Street, Hastings, TN34 3BT

Rotary Club of Hastings

Usual grant size: less than £500

How to apply: by phone/email

Gayle Benet, Club Secretary – 01424 751642

Or email gayle.benet@tiscali.co.uk

Rotary Club of St Leonards-on-Sea

Usual grant size: less than £500

How to apply: in writing

Ian Butters, Sloane Cottage, Forewood Lane, Crowhurst, TN33 9AB

Hastings Old Town Carnival Association

Usual size of grant: less than £500

How to apply: in writing

Grants are made once a year in the autumn. Requests should be submitted by the end of August to be sure of being included in the list for consideration.

Visit <https://www.oldtowncarnivalweek.co.uk/contact/>

Hastings Youth Trust

Provision of facilities for leisure or religious and social education and training

Beneficiaries must be under the age of 25 and reside within the Borough of Hastings or five miles from it.

Please apply by writing to the Clerk to the Trustees, Hastings Youth Trust

151 Old Roar Road, St Leonards, TN37 7HH

Mrs A Lacy Tate Trust

General, education, animal welfare – covers East Sussex

Usual grant size: less than £500

How to apply: by letter

Heringtons, 39 Gildredge Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN21 4RY

01323 411020

The Roy Hudson Trust

General – covers Eastbourne & Hastings

Usual grant size: less than £500

How to apply: by letter

Heringtons, 39 Gildredge Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN21 4RY

01323 411020

Other ideas ...

- Housing Associations
- Mayor's Charity
- Sussex Police lost property fund
- Collections at events (e.g. bonfires)
- Sussex Masons
- Heart FM – Have a Heart
- Crowdfunding

Funds that are currently closed ...

Co-op Local Community Fund Postcode Community Trust
ESCC - Community Wellbeing Fund & Crowdfund East Sussex

Funding Advisors in neighbouring areas

Hastings	Peter Thorpe	HVA	peter@hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk	01424 444010
Rother		RVA	www.rva.uk.com	01424 217259
Eastbourne & Wealden		3VA	www.3VA.org.uk	0300 124 6810
Lewes District		SCDA	www.sussexcommunity.org.uk	01273 517250
Countywide	Emma Dean	ESCC	Emma.Dean@eastsussex.gov.uk	01273 336616
Arts	Sally Staples	ESCC	Sally.Staples@eastsussex.gov.uk	

Other sources of help

You can use **East Sussex County Council's "Funding News"** and their **East Sussex 4 Community** resource to identify other possible funders.

Web: www.eastsussex.gov.uk/community/funding

Get Funding News reminders every month via this ESCC website

Funding Central – a funding search tool, free for organisations under £100,000 turnover
www.fundingcentral.org.uk

Funding for individuals:

Unltd has awards of practical and financial support (£500- £20,000) for people who want to make a difference, activists and social entrepreneurs, including Star People. Visit www.unltd.org.uk or call 0207 566 1100.

Turn2us (www.turn2us.org.uk) lists many grants and benefits that individuals can access