

1. Research

There are thousands of funders in the UK, and to ensure that you optimise your chances of securing funding it is important to identify those most likely to fund your project. This may involve looking at well-known large funders, smaller local and regional funders, and issue-specific grants.

2. Check eligibility

Always read the eligibility criteria of the grant and check for any exclusions.

3. Contact the funder

If you have any questions about the grant or want to check eligibility get in touch with the funder. It is a good way of introducing the project to them, and to get some insights about how to write your application successfully.

4. Tailor your application

Take time to prepare and write your application, and do not use unexplained jargon. Try to make your application unique and compelling so that it stands out to funders. Write in short, persuasive, and hard-hitting emotive sentences. Use a story-telling approach (backed up with statistics if available and relevant) or case studies. Highlight previous project successes and good practices to show the organisation is credible and capable of delivering the project. Mention any partnerships and include any referees or quotes.

When describing your project remember to be clear about its aims, its reach, the outputs and outcomes you are trying to achieve, why the project is needed, how much funding is being requested, and who will benefit. Match the priorities of the funder to what you want to do. Read the values, and objectives of the funding body and tailor your application accordingly. Include a breakdown of all costs you are applying for, including full cost recovery where appropriate.

5. Answer all the questions and include all required documents

Ensure you have provided all the necessary information, and that any requested up-to-date documents are included, and they are well-presented and readable. Failure to do this may jeopardise or slow your application. Get someone to review your draft application form before sending it away.

6. Reporting, feedback, and review

Ensure you submit any reports requested following a successful award, send a thank you to the funder, and acknowledge them in any publicity. Ask for feedback if your application was unsuccessful and see if you can learn from this to improve any subsequent applications you write. Sometimes funds are simply over-subscribed and why applications are unsuccessful.

7. Funding Resources

[Funding Scotland](#) is a service provided by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) to provide access to up to date information on funding opportunities that is vital to the Third Sector in Scotland.

[Foundation Scotland](#) offers a diverse range of funding programmes for organisations working to benefit a range of communities across Scotland. Some of these programmes are Scotland wide and some are restricted to particular sectors and/or geographies.

[Grants Online](#) is the UK's most comprehensive and up to date UK grant funding information service. Updated daily, Grants Online informs you of grant funding opportunities from the European Union, UK Government Agencies, the Lottery as well as Grant Making Trusts & Foundations.

[YouthLink Scotland](#) Funding Directory has hundreds of opportunities for youth groups, voluntary organisations and community projects. You'll find information on everything from small local grants to national funding schemes. You'll also find information and guidance on their national funding partnerships here, including [CashBack for Communities](#) and the [National Voluntary Youth Organisation Support Fund](#).

Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action

We are funded by the Scottish Government and Aberdeenshire's Health and Social Care Partnership to support third sector organisations who are delivering a service within Aberdeenshire in the following ways:

- Development: Further information on any of the subjects within this document is available from your local Development Officer. To find out how to contact the relevant person, please visit our website by [clicking here](#).
- Funding Search: Our dedicated Funding Officer regularly updates our funding webpage with information to help fund your group. You can find out more by [clicking here](#).
- Office Services: We support organisations by offering services such as independent examination of accounts, payroll provision and PVG services. Further details can be found by [clicking here](#).
- Member Services: You can join us and become a member: Information can be found by [clicking here](#).

We are Aberdeenshire's Third Sector Interface



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