

PROGRAMMES FUNDING NEWSLETTER

August 2018

This month's newsletter contains 19 external funding opportunities totalling over

£98 million



Business



**Communities
& Culture**



Environment



**Health &
Wellbeing**



Housing



**Education &
Young People**



**Science &
Technology**



**Sports &
Leisure**



Transport

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Support for England's Artists and Creative Practitioners

[Press Ctrl and click here for more information](#)



This fund will allow creative practitioners the time and space to undertake ambitious research and development, helping to make a step-change in their practice.

The Arts Council will invest £3.6 million per year through the programme. Individuals will have the opportunity to apply for between £2,000 and £10,000.

Individual artists and/or creative practitioners in England may apply. The programme supports activities focused on a range of artforms and disciplines, including music; theatre; dance; visual arts; literature; combined arts; and museums practice. The term 'creative practitioners' includes dancers, choreographers, writers, translators, producers, publishers, editors, musicians, conductors, composers, actors, directors, designers, artists, craft makers, and curators.

Applicants must apply as an individual, or as a small group of practitioners who usually collaborate in their work.

Round two is currently open and the deadline for applications is 16th August, 2018.

£4.2m Fund Launched to Tackle the Disability Employment Gap

[Press Ctrl and click here for more information](#)



The Work and Health Unit (WHU), which is jointly managed by the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department of Health and Social Care, is providing a £4.2 million Challenge Fund to test new approaches that can help people experiencing mental health and/or musculoskeletal (MSK) issues stay in work.

WHU are looking to fund around twenty Initiatives which will improve their understanding of what works in one or more of the following areas:

- Helping people stay in work by increasing their ability to self-manage their conditions.
- Helping people access advice and support about what sort of work they might be capable of doing given their wider needs and circumstances.
- Developing new approaches to help employers and individuals develop workplace solutions, or ways of working that facilitate greater participation of people experiencing these conditions.
- Improving systems by joining up services to strengthen communication, liaison or joint action.

It is hoped that the evidence gathered through the Challenge Fund will enable the WHU to develop and deliver policies that enable

people with mental health and/or MSK conditions to stay in work, or reduce the incidence and average durations of long-term sickness absence from work.

There is a total grant fund of £4.2m available. Applications must be for sums of at least £50,000.

Applications are invited from local/public authorities, the private sector (including employers and service providers) and third sector organisations.

The deadline for applications is 17th August, 2018.

ICO Grants programme Invites Applications for Round 2

[Press Ctrl and click here for more information](#)



The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has launched the second round of funding from its grants programme to promote and support independent, innovative research and solutions focused on privacy and data protection issues.

In particular, ICO is seeking privacy by design or accountability solutions which focus on key privacy challenges, providing clear public benefit with outputs that are open source and re-usable.

Examples of areas of interest include:

- Artificial intelligence, big data and machine learning. In particular solutions that would enable effective transparency to individuals or verifiable audit trails.
- Biometric and facial recognition and data protection safeguards in public and private sector.
- Children's data, age verification and parental consent verification solutions.
- Data trusts and the safe sharing of personal information.
- Good practice, GDPR compliance and self-assessment tools for Small and Medium Organisations.
- Privacy enhancing applications of blockchain and distributed ledger technology that enhance privacy and accountability and minimise use of personal data.
- Online advertising, cross device tracking and tools that provide revocable consent and transparency.

Proposals do not need to be technology based but must have a practical application and provide real world solutions that are of clear public benefit to the people of the UK.

Academic institutions, civil society groups, trade and industry associations and organisations can apply for grants of between £20,000 and £100,000.

The deadline for applications is 17th August, 2018 (5pm).

Government Launches Integrated Communities Innovation Fund

[Press Ctrl and click here for more information](#)



The fund is intended to support 'trailblazing approaches' to building more integrated communities in England. It aims to 'help drive forward' the proposals to tackle the key causes of poor integration set out in the Government's Integrated Communities Strategy green paper published in March 2018.

The funding is for projects that use sport and physical activity to encourage the integration.

The total budget is £7 million.

The funding is for revenue costs only. It is to be used for delivery of the agreed-upon project only and will cover costs such as payment to administrators supporting the projects and volunteer expenses, for example. It cannot be used for organisational salaries, PR, marketing and related events organised by the applicant.

Sports-based integration projects must not have started yet and:

- Be not-for-profit and address a need not met by the non-profit sector.
- Meet the requirements set out within 'A Code for Sports Governance' relevant to the level of investment.
- Be focused on sports which are recognised by Sport England and aligned with Sport England's strategic aims.

Costs for sport-based integration projects must be project specific and additional to existing expenditure. Equipment up to the value of £10,000 will be deemed revenue expenditure.

There is a two-stage application process.

The deadline for Expressions of Interest is 20th August, 2018 (23:45pm).

New Fund to Tackle Loneliness

[Press Ctrl and click here for more information](#)



The £11.5 million Building Connections Fund has been set up to support projects that are able to prevent or reduce loneliness.

Voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations in England can apply now for grants of between £30,000 and £100,000.

The funding is to be used to for projects which reach out to people of all ages who feel lonely or isolated, and encourage them to take part in activities, helping them to feel more connected.

This could include making the most of community spaces, improving access to transport, using digital technology, or joining up local services to have a bigger reach.

The funding must be spent on activities that will directly prevent or reduce loneliness and help to build connections between individuals and communities.

Revenue costs could include (but are not limited to):

- Staff salaries.
- Training and organisational development.
- Equipment to facilitate activities.
- Venue hire.
- Communications campaigns.
- Marketing.
- Project activities and other resources to help run the project or intervention.
- Resources to implement or develop the project.
- Costs for learning and evaluation (recognising that applicants will be working with an evaluator as part of their funding).

Capital costs – applications can be made for up to 30% of their funding of capital costs to buy, maintain or improve fixed assets that are linked to transport and travel.

The deadline for applications is 24th August, 2018 (12 noon).

Postcode Dream Fund

[Press Ctrl and click here for more information](#)

Charities in England, Scotland and Wales can apply for funding to deliver the project they have always dreamed of, but never had the opportunity to bring to life.

All applications must come from at least two charitable organisations that have joined forces to deliver an innovative project. The lead partner organisation must be a registered charity. The other partners can be registered charities, voluntary groups, community interest companies, universities or other not-for-profit organisations.

The funding pot for 2019 has been set at £3 million.

Grants of between £500,000 and £1 million are available to deliver a project that is 24 months in length between 2019 and 2021.

Projects must address at least one of this year's priorities, which are:

- Changing lives through early intervention.
- Ending loneliness and social isolation.
- Protecting Britain's biodiversity.
- Sustainable systems change.
- Transforming society through sport.

Applications must be innovative, creative and original, and present projects that are a genuine 'dream'.

Stage 1 applications will be accepted until 31st August, 2018 (5:30pm).



Skills and Opportunities Fund to Open for Final Round

[Press Ctrl and click here for more information](#)

This fund is making grants of up to £35,000 available to not-for-profit organisations (charities, social enterprises, community groups, schools and colleges) with a project or project idea focused on providing opportunities for people to develop their financial capability skills or the skills to start or develop a new business now or in the future in our local communities.



As a general guide, the funding has been awarded to projects that offer training, support, qualifications, work placements, employment, self-employment, career guidance and enterprise opportunities. Examples include, but are not limited to, projects that have supported women with low literacy and numeracy and no work experience, the homeless, unemployed people, disadvantaged young people, women in rural areas, students about to leave school, ex-offenders and those with a history of addiction.

A selection of organisations will be shortlisted, and voting will then be opened to the public to help decide the winners, who will be announced in December 2018.

The Fund opens for applications on 3rd September, 2018.

Small Grants to Support Inter Faith Week 2018

[Press Ctrl and click here for more information](#)

The Inter Faith Youth Trust is the only UK charitable trust solely to fund inter faith projects for young people.



Once a year, it offers small grants to organisations putting together projects or events arranged by young people in and around Inter Faith Week (including Scottish Inter Faith Week). This year it takes place from 11th to 18th November, 2018.

Grants of up to £500 are available for the following:

- Learning by children and young people (11-25 years old) from different faiths about different faiths, through social action.
- Co-operation and understanding between faiths which preferably involve young people in planning, running, and evaluating; and which promote equal opportunities.
- Increasing understanding between people of faith and of no faith.

UK based organisations are eligible to apply. Priority will be given to non-statutory organisations.

The deadline for applications is 14th September, 2018.

£8m Fund for Children Affected by Domestic Abuse Fund

[Press Ctrl and click here for more information](#)



As part of the Government's commitment to tackling domestic abuse, the Home Office have launched a new £8 million fund which will support interventions designed to support children who are exposed to domestic abuse.

Applicants must be able to provide evidence of their ability to deliver suitable interventions to support children who are or have been exposed to domestic abuse. A child is defined as anyone under the age of 18.

Bids will be accepted from local commissioners, such as:

- PCCs
- Local authorities
- Health commissioners
- Or from any other suitable organisations across England and Wales.

A total of £8 million over the next two financial years (2018 - 2020) is available.

Organisations must bid for a minimum amount of £500,000. While there will not be a formal cap placed on the amount an organisation can bid for, it is expected all bids to be scalable.

The deadline for applications is 19th September, 2018.

UK Cinema Association Launches Fund to Improve Cinema Experience for those with Hearing Loss

[Press Ctrl and click here for more information](#)



The Technology Challenge Fund has been established to help catalyse innovation in technology that will allow people with hearing loss to have a more inclusive cinema experience.

Up to £75,000 is available to support innovative projects in this competition. This is initially divided across two phases:

- Phase 1 up to £25,000 available (to a limit of £5,000 per project)
- Phase 2 up to £50,000 available (to a limit of £25,000 per project)

In Phase 1, applicants will be expected to demonstrate the technical feasibility of their proposed innovation.

Phase 2 is only open to applicants that have completed Phase 1 and applicants will develop and test a working prototype in a 'real life' cinema.

The 'ideal solution' must:

- allow people to have an integrated cinema experience with the general public, ie people should be able to view subtitles without disturbing other viewers who do not want to view subtitles;
- be easy to use for both the venue and user;
- be financially viable for venues to install and use;
- be compatible with existing cinema infrastructure.

The Fund is open to all individuals and companies – both UK and international based. The funder is looking to support not just the cinema sector, but also those working in the wider technology and academic sectors.

The closing date for applications is Friday 28th September, 2018.

IUK Launches Open Grant Funding Competition : Round 2

[Press Ctrl and click here for more information](#)



IUK's vision is to help the UK economy grow over and above other nations by inspiring and supporting pioneering UK businesses to create the industries of the future. The Open Grant Funding Competition is designed to help businesses develop cutting-edge ideas for innovative new products and services that could have an economic impact on the UK economy.

This competition is open to the best ideas or concepts with a view to commercialisation. These can come from any area of technology, science or engineering, including arts, design, media or creative industries. Proposals can fit into, or be outside of, one or more of the [Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund areas](#).

Projects can focus on disruptive and game-changing ideas in any sector of the economy. They can be of various kinds, from small feasibility studies to longer industrial research or experimental development projects. Priority will be given to proposals that are likely to lead to sustainable gains in productivity or access to new overseas markets through export-led business growth.

IUK has allocated up to £20 million to fund innovation projects through grants in this Open competition. IUK expects projects to range in size between £25,000 and £2 million and for them to last between 6 and 36 months.

The competition is now open with a deadline for applications of midday on 12th September, 2018.

Funding Doubled for New Early Intervention Youth Fund

[Press Ctrl and click here for more information](#)



The new £22 million Early Intervention Youth Fund will support communities in tackling serious violence by engaging in early intervention and prevention programmes with young people.

The Fund, which is part of the Serious Violence Strategy, will provide support for early intervention programmes with young people (under 18s) at risk of criminal involvement, as victims and/or perpetrators through:

- Delivering services to support and prevent young people from getting involved in crime by supporting positive activities
- Delivering positive outcomes for young people, focused on addressing risk factors which are linked to serious violence
- Building on, and developing, our understanding of what works in practice for tackling these risks factors
- Driving improved local, multi-agency partnership working
- Reducing the levels of serious violence and crime.

Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) in England and Wales are eligible to apply as lead bidders. PCCs must work with Community Safety Partnerships (or similar local partnerships) to bid for funding to support.

£22 million (originally £11 million) of funding will be made available over two years with £11 million available in 2018/19 and £11 million in 2019/20.

The Home Office are looking for bids of a maximum amount of up to £700,000 across the two financial years (up to £350,000 each financial year) but they will also consider more, for example, for consortia bids.

The deadline for applications is 14th September, 2018.

IUK Launches £12.5m Competition to Increase Productivity, Performance and Quality in UK Construction

[Press Ctrl and click here for more information](#)



IUK is investing in innovative projects to transform the UK construction sector through the 'Increase Productivity, Performance and Quality in UK Construction' Competition.

The aim of the competition is to invest in solutions to improve productivity, quality and performance of the UK construction sector. IUK is specifically looking for projects to improve the three core stages of the construction lifecycle:

1. Designing and managing buildings through digitally-enabled performance management.
2. Constructing quality buildings using a manufacturing approach.
3. Powering buildings with active energy components and improving build quality.

The results should lead to a streamlined process that saves costs, reduces delays and improves collaborations, productivity and outputs.

IUK is looking to fund a portfolio of technology, business model and supply chain integration innovations. These may include feasibility studies, industrial research projects or experimental development projects.

Proposals must be led by a UK based for-profit business of any size. IUK encourages applicants to involve users or testbed providers. The business should collaborate with other businesses, academic organisations, research and technology organisations, public sector or third sector organisations.

IUK has allocated up to £12.5 million to fund innovation projects in this competition..

The competition is now open with a deadline for applications to be submitted of midday on 19th September, 2018.

Fund Open for Digital Projects Benefiting Housing Association Residents

[Press Ctrl and click here for more information](#)



This fund is open to a wide range of not-for-profit organisations for projects that will encourage residents to get online and use the internet safely and confidently.

Grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 are awarded for projects and activities aimed to support:

- Residents who have never used the internet before.
- Residents who may have previously used some online facilities but who may not be aware of the full potential to use the internet in their everyday lives (eg. they may use Facebook but may not be aware of how the internet can be used in the workplace, for online learning, or for information on their hobbies for example).
- Residents with limited internet skills.

The fund is able to cover costs associated with running activities including but not limited to:

- Connectivity (mobile and fixed).
- Training resources.

- Venue hire.
- Insurance.
- Event costs.
- Volunteer expenses.
- Refreshments for participants.
- Staffing costs.
- Publicity materials.
- Consumables.

The next deadline for applications is 26th September, 2018.

COSME Public Procurement Of Innovation Open for SME's

[Press Ctrl and click here for more information](#)



COSME is the EU programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs). It runs from 2014 to 2020 with a planned budget of €2.3 billion.

The specific objective of this Call is to improve their access to markets inside the Union. Access to public procurement remains difficult for SMEs, who are only awarded 45% of the value of public contracts above EU public procurement threshold.

This Call for Proposals has three main objectives.

1. The first objective is to encourage cooperation between public buyers to promote the use of public procurement to contribute to the development of innovation.
2. The second objective is to use public procurement as a mechanism to pilot innovation in areas of strong public interest such as, for instance, clean energy (contributing to Paris targets for fighting climate change) or healthcare. This will in turn encouraging innovative EU companies, in particular SMEs, to develop new solutions to address societal challenges.
3. The third objective is to link and establish synergies with research and innovation projects funded by the EU (via Horizon 2020, COSME or EU funding programmes) whenever possible.

The total budget for the Call is €4 million. EASME expects to grant projects co-financing between €800,000 and €1.5 million.

Applicant consortia must be composed of a minimum of two public buyers from two different eligible countries.

Consortia are encouraged to include a limited number of public buyers (ie no more than six or seven), since more extensive and complex partnerships have in the past tended to produce lower levels of engagement of individual partners and narrower areas of mutual interest. Other organisations who are not public buyers and meet the eligibility criteria may join a consortium as the partners see fit.

The deadline for submissions is 11th December, 2018.

New Social Investment Funding for Heritage Projects that Benefit Local Communities

[Press Ctrl and click here for more information](#)



The Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) is an independent charity established to promote the conservation and sustainable re-use of historic buildings for the benefit of communities across the UK.

The AHF's Heritage Projects Fund makes short-term loans of between £15,000 and £1 million to support projects that involve a change of ownership and/or bring about the beneficial re-use of historically important buildings. The funding can be used for the acquisition of a historic building, or to provide working capital throughout a restoration project.

Priority will be given to projects that:

- Have the potential to make a significant positive social impact, particularly (but not exclusively) in disadvantaged areas, such as urban communities experiencing structural economic decline or isolated rural areas with poor access to services.
- Show evidence of active community engagement (eg the building may be listed as an Asset of Community Value or the applicant could be planning a Community Share issue).

Alongside this Fund, the AHF have launched its new Community Heritage Projects Fund, which offers blended social investments – in the form of loans and community shares - of between £15,000 and £50,000 to support specific heritage building projects as well as the activities and sustainability of community enterprises working with or within buildings of heritage significance, to enable them to thrive. Eligible organisations are expected to be able to demonstrate that their work brings positive impacts upon their respective communities and the whole of society.

All social investments made by AHF are expected to contribute towards its overall strategic objectives.

Applications may be submitted at any time.

Department for Education Launches Adoption Support Fund

[Press Ctrl and click here for more information](#)



The Department for Education (DfE) has launched the adoption support fund (ASF) which provides funds to local authorities (LAs) and regional adoption agencies (RAAs) to pay for essential therapeutic services for eligible adoptive and special guardianship order (SGO) families.

All LAs and RAAs in England are eligible to apply

Families apply to the relevant LA or RAA, which will assess their needs.

LAs and RAAs will:

- Assess the family and consider if therapeutic support is needed
- Decide on the type required and if it is eligible for payments from the ASF
- Apply directly to the ASF
- Purchase the support from their own list of approved suppliers when the ASF.

Until the end of the financial year 2019 to 2020 the ASF will have two fair access limits:

- £2,500 per child per year for specialist assessment
- £5,000 per child per year for therapy.

First Steps Enterprise Fund

[Press Ctrl and click here for more information](#)

The First Steps Enterprise Fund is a £300,000 pilot fund managed by Social Investment Business (SIB) on behalf of the Asda Foundation.

The Fund offers loan-grant packages of up to £30,000 to charities and social enterprises working to improve lives in communities in England to help them grow their services and become more sustainable.

Organisations must be able to demonstrate that they address the needs of, and are of benefit to, their local community.

Preference is given to organisations that work in the following areas:

- Older people.
- Health and wellbeing.
- Employment for young people.

Packages comprise 90% loan and 10% grant, with the loan element of the package charged at 5% (fixed) to be repaid over a period of four years with an optional capital holiday for the first year.

The first step in the application process is to send an email to SIB to arrange a telephone conversation.



Barclays Launches £100,000 Unsecured Lending with 'Faster Finance' for SME's

[Press Ctrl and click here for more information](#)



Barclays has launched £100,000 of unsecured lending – doubling its maximum for unsecured business loans for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from £50,000 to £100,000.

The move is expected to help SMEs get faster access to finance and seize opportunities they might otherwise miss out on if lending decisions are not made quickly enough. It also means business owners will not have to use their business premises or home as security.

The expansion of unsecured lending adds to Barclays' unsecured lending offering, whereby 250,000 Barclays SME clients can see pre-assessed lending limits of up to £25,000 via mobile and online banking, which they can apply for digitally, often receiving the cash on the same day.

In addition, Barclays is increasing the maximum unsecured overdraft for business lending from £25,000 to £50,000, helping firms take on larger projects or deal with unexpected increases in business, for example.

Small and medium-sized businesses in the UK may be eligible to apply.

Applicants may apply for Barclays unsecured lending at any time and may be able to get a decision within 24 hours.