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| **COMMUNITIES MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING FUND FOR ADULTS 2025** |
| **Third Sector Interface Western Isles** |
| **Year 5 Local Fund Guidance**  |

**This is the first time Third Sector Interfaces will receive a multi-year grant award for the Communities Fund. The opportunity to grant fund across two years has arisen as part of the Scottish Government’s Fairer Funding pilot. The pilot has been set up to provide more certainty and allow for longer-term planning, aiming to improve stability and cost-efficiency for organisations and services.**

1. **Fund Aims and Outcomes**

The fund aims to support community-based initiatives that promote and develop good mental health and wellbeing and/or mitigate and protect against the impact of distress and mental ill health within the adult population (aged 16 or over), with a particular focus on prevention and early intervention**.**

Specifically, it aims to:

1. Tackle **mental health inequalities** through supporting a range of ‘at risk groups (as outlined in the Equalities section).
2. Address priority issues of **social isolation and loneliness, suicide prevention and poverty and inequality** with a particular emphasis on responding to the cost-of-~ living crisis and support to those facing socio-economic disadvantage.
3. Support **small ‘grass roots’ community groups** and organisations to deliver such activities.
4. Provide **opportunities for people to connect** with each other, build trusted relationships and revitalise communities.

The Fund directly contributes to Outcome 4 of the Scottish Government’s [Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy](https://www.gov.scot/publications/mental-health-wellbeing-strategy/) published in June 2023:

*“better equipped communities to support people’s mental health and wellbeing and provide opportunities to connect with others”*

It also clearly supports the three key areas of focus in the Strategy:

* **Promote** positive mental health and wellbeing for the whole population, improving understanding and tackling stigma, inequality and discrimination;
* **Prevent** mental health issues occurring or escalating and tackle underlying causes, adversities and inequalities wherever possible; and
* **Provide** mental health and wellbeing support and care, ensuring people and communities can access the right information, skills, services and opportunities in the right place at the right time, using a person-centred approach.

The Fund aims to contribute to the following national outcomes from the National Performance Framework:

* We are **healthy and active.**
* We will live in **communities** that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe.
* We **tackle poverty** by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally.

The intended outcomes of the Fund remain the same as in Years 1-4 which are to:

* Develop a **culture of mental wellbeing and prevention** within local communities and across Scotland with improved awareness of how we can all stay well and help ourselves and others.
* Foster a **strategic and preventative approach** to improving community mental health.
* Support the **resilience of communities** and investing in their capacity to develop their own solutions, including through strong local partnerships.
* Tackle the **social determinants of mental health** by targeting resources and collaborating with other initiatives to tackle poverty and inequality.
1. **Who can apply?**

Funded organisations do not need to have to have mental health and wellbeing as their sole focus, but, as this is the purpose of this Fund, their application does have to **clearly outline how it benefits the mental health and wellbeing of people** in their community. Third Sector Interface Western Isles welcomes and encourages partnership approaches. Partnership applications will be viewed positively.

The range of **organisations eligible to apply are**:

* Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations (SCIO)
* Unincorporated Associations
* Companies Limited by Guarantee
* Trusts
* Not-for-profit company or asset locked company or Community Interest Companies (CIC)
* Cooperative and Community Benefit Societies
* Community councils
* Parent councils

**Please note that parent councils[[1]](#footnote-1)are eligible to apply**, subject to the following conditions:

* The funded activities must meet the aims of the Fund and specifically must focus on supporting young people aged 16 or over or supporting adults rather than their children.
* Any Parent Council applying to this fund must have a statutory duty to keep proper accounts, for which there may already be legal and regulatory requirements for them to do so depending on the status of the Parent Council, for example, some parent councils are registered with OSCR as a charity.

Please also note that TSI organisations involved in distributing the Fund and supporting the wider third sector **are not** eligible to apply to the Fund.

1. **What can, and cannot, be funded?**

The focus of the Fund is on prevention and early intervention and we would expect all funded projects to focus on one or both of these themes. The fund is to support the adult population, which is considered to be members of the population aged 16 and over. The Fund is primarily aimed at a range of preventative community supports, however counselling and other therapeutic treatments are not excluded from the Fund, but will be considered on a case-by-case basis

The Fund can support both **existing and new** projects. Previously funded projects are are eligible to apply again but should clearly show how they will develop and improve in Year 5 and where possible, they should demonstrate impacts from previous years.

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| **What can be funded**  | **What cannot be funded**  |
| Equipment | Contingency costs, loans, endowments or interest |
| One-off events | Electricity generation and feed-in tariff payment |
| Hall hire for community spaces.  | Political or religious campaigning *(please note that faith-based organisations are eligible to apply with the exclusion of any religious campaigning activities or activities restricted only to members of the faith-based organisation.*  |
| Staff costs (these should be one off or fixed term)  | Profit-making/fundraising activities |
| Training costs | VAT you can reclaim  |
| Transport  | Statutory activities |
| Utilities/running costs  | Overseas travel |
| Volunteer expenses | Alcohol |
| Small capital spend up to £5,000.*Local partnerships can allow applicants to request funding for capital expenditure such as the construction, refurbishment and/or purchase of buildings, amenities or vehicles. The benefits of the capital expenditure must demonstrably contribute to the Fund outcomes. Applicants must be awarded no more than £5,000 for such capital expenditure. This limitation does not apply to the purchase of small items of equipment.* |

The Scottish Government’s [Fair Work First Guidance](https://www.gov.scot/publications/fair-work-first-guidance-2/)  requires all grant recipients awarded a public sector grant on or after 1 July 2023 to pay at least the real Living Wage.

1. **EQUALITIES ‘at risk’ groups**

### Women particularly women experiencing gender-based violence

### people with a long-term health condition or disability

### people from a Minority Ethnic background;

### refugees and those with no recourse to public funds

### people facing socio-economic disadvantage

### people experiencing severe and multiple disadvantage

### people with diagnosed mental illness

### people affected by psychological trauma (including adverse childhood experiences)

### people who have experienced bereavement or loss

### people disadvantaged by geographical location (particularly remote and rural areas)

### older people (aged 50 and above)

### People with neurological conditions or learning disabilities, and from neurodiverse communities

### Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) communities

### Young People Young people aged 16-24

1. **How much organisations can apply for?**

**£97,127.00** has been allocated to projects across the Western Isles. We would not expect organisations to receive more than 10% of the overall fund in each year.

1. **When organisations can apply?**

The Fund opens on **Monday 25th August 2025**. The closing date for applications is **Friday 31st October 2025**. The fund assessment will take place in January 2026. All applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application. Funds will be transferred to successful applicants before 31st March 2026.

1. **Capacity Building**

Applicants are offered bespoke capacity building support and/or advice until 23rd October by contacting info@ucvo.org.uk to arrange a suitable time for a Teams meeting.

In addition, each island area is running a drop-in session in their premises on the following dates:

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| Island Area | Date and time | Address |
| Barra  | Wednesday 15th October 10.00am to 2.00pm | VABV Offices Castlebay |
| Uist | Wednesday 8th October 10.00am to 2.00pm | UCVO Office 41 Airport Road Balivanich |
| Harris | Thursday 25th September 10.00 am to 2.00pm | Council Offices Tarbert |
| Lewis | Tuesday 30th September 10.00 am to 12.30pm and 2.00pm to 4.30pm | Third Sector Hebrides Offices 30 Francis Street Stornoway |

**Note that these engagements do not guarantee that your application will be successful.**

TSI-Western Isles appreciates that unsuccessful applicants will be disappointed. There will be an opportunity, if the applicant wishes, to discuss the decision with your local TSI-WI partner.

1. **Application packs**

Application packs are available on the TSI Western Isles website [TSI Western Isles | Support and Advice for the Third Sector (tsiwi.org.uk)](https://tsiwi.org/) or by e-mailing info@ucvo.org.uk from 25th August 2025.

**PRIMARY CONTACT**

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1. For information, parent councils’ functions are around: collaborating with the school in supporting children’s schooling and learning; representing the views of parents; promoting and supporting contact between the school, parents, pupils, providers of nursery education and the community, and communicating or reporting to the Parent Forum. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)