

Social Enterprise Funders offering Loans

November 2023

Introduction

There are funders who offer loans to organisations that identify as Social Enterprises or Community Interest Companies (CIC) depending on the aims of the project. The main issues around community projects are sustainability and ensuring that groups and organisations are inclusive and opportunities for participation are available to all. Funders prefer to support community led projects which maximise people's ability to strengthen community cohesion and build social capacity. If you are interested in any of the funding/loan opportunities below, where possible it is always best to call the funder to see if your project meets their criteria. Funders like to hear from potential applicants, it saves a lot of time and effort for both applicant and funder. In some circumstances the funder may be able to signpost you another fund which may be a better fit for your project.

Funding	Amount available	Deadline	Criteria	Key Outcomes
<p>Big Issue Invest - Social Impact Debt Fund IV Enquiries Tel: 020 7526 3200 E-Mail: investmentenquiries@bigissueinvest.com https://www.bigissue.com/invest/investments/fund-iv/</p>	Secured loans of between £1 million and £4 million are available	Applications may be submitted at any time	<p>The Social Impact Debt Fund IV is open to established socially impactful organisations that fulfil the following eligibility criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be legally registered in the UK as a company or a charity. The fund supports all forms of legally incorporated organisations, excluding sole trading businesses. • Be working in the sectors of site-based health and social care, affordable housing and homelessness, or social and community infrastructure. • Be an established organisation - ideally trading for more than five years, with three years of audited accounts. • Have a history of revenue generation, profitability and assets to support secured debt. • Be making and able to provide measurable positive social impact for prior trading periods 	The Social Impact Debt Fund IV was created to offer up to £4 million to established socially impactful organisations in the UK with a history of revenue generation, profitability, and assets to support the secured debt, to improve their financial sustainability and scale-up their existing impact
<p>CAF Bank Tel: 03000 123 456 E-Mail: cafbank@cafonline.org https://www.cafonline.org/loans</p>	Tailored loans of between £150,000 and £5 million, repayable over two to 25 years, are available	Applications may be submitted at any time	<p>Borrowers must be a UK-registered charity or not-for-profit organisation which has been operating for three years or more. Applicants can be from any charitable sector, cause area or project. Loans are subject to application and credit assessment. Security will be required.</p>	CAF Bank provides a range of business financial products including loans, current accounts and savings account. The CAF Bank loan is intended to assist charitable and not-for-profit organisations with cash flow, a new project or property purchase.
<p>CAF Venturesome Enquiries Tel: 03000 123 300 E-Mail: venturesome@cafonline.org https://www.cafonline.org/about-us/caf-venturesome</p>	Interest-free loans from £10,000 to £30,000	Applications may be submitted at any time	The SE-Assist Fund is available for social enterprises, as well as entrepreneurial charities, meeting a local social or environmental need	CAF Venturesome is the social investment arm of the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF). It offers affordable social investment loans of between £10,000 and £400,000 to charities and social enterprises to support them to grow and thrive



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<p>Charity Bank - Loan Finance Tel: 01732 441919 E-Mail: enquiries@charitybank.org https://www.charitybank.org/charity-loans</p>	<p>Loans of up to £4 million are available</p>	<p>Applications may be submitted at any time</p>	<p>Applications will be accepted from charities, social enterprises and organisations where their activities are compatible with Charity Bank and its values and social purpose.</p>	<p>The funding provided by Charity Bank is intended to help supported organisations in creating lasting social change within their communities.</p>
<p>Co-operative and Community Finance Enquiries Tel: 0800 464 7262 E-Mail: info@coopfinance.coop https://coopfinance.coop/</p>	<p>Loans from £10,000 to £75,000 are available, other funds under the sponsor's management are able to lend up to £150,000</p>	<p>Applications may be submitted at any time</p>	<p>Applications are welcome from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> those starting a social enterprise, co-operative or employee-owned business; those who are seeking to expand a social enterprise, co-operative or employee-owned business; those wishing to take over an existing business and convert it to a co-operative or social enterprise. This may be where a business would otherwise close, be sold to a third party, or become a privatised public utility. 	<p>ICOF's primary purpose is to enable people to own and democratically control the businesses in which they work, or which operate in their local community. This is achieved by the provision of finance and financial services, throughout the UK, to those enterprises which practice or support the principles of cooperation; common ownership; employee, community or social ownership; equal opportunity and workplace democracy; and sustainable development.</p>
<p>Co-operative Loan Fund Enquiries Tel: 0117 916 6750 E-Mail: info@coopfinance.coop https://loanfund.coop/#welcome</p>	<p>Loans of between £10,000 and £85,000</p>	<p>Applications may be submitted at any time</p>	<p>New or existing co-operatives based in the UK can apply. Loans will only be made to economically viable enterprises that are democratically owned and controlled organisations registered in the UK</p>	<p>The Fund aims to help communities develop co-operative, mutual or social enterprise solutions to face social or economic challenges. Loans are available for viable co-operative, mutual and social enterprises to assist with expansion or the set up of such an organisation.</p>
<p>DSL Business Finance Social Enterprise Loans Enquiries Tel: 0141 425 2930 E-Mail: info@dsl-businessfinance.co.uk https://dsl-businessfinance.co.uk/social-enterprise/</p>	<p>Loan amounts vary</p>	<p>Applications may be submitted at any time</p>	<p>This loan is intended for new and existing businesses and social enterprises that are located in Scotland.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of this scheme is to help businesses to grow and establish themselves via access to low cost finance options, with DSL offering support throughout the duration of the loan period.



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<p>DSL Secured Loans Enquiries Tel: 0141 425 2930 E-Mail: info@dsl-businessfinance.co.uk https://dsl-businessfinance.co.uk/dsl-loans/</p>	<p>Secured loans of between £1,000 and £50,000 are available</p>	<p>Applications may be submitted at any time</p>	<p>SMEs and social enterprises in Scotland can apply.</p>	<p>Secured Loans are available to support businesses in Scotland to achieve their goals.</p>
<p>Growth Impact Fund Enquiries Tel: 020 7526 3440 E-Mail: investmentenquiries@bigissueinvest.com https://growthimpactfund.org.uk/</p>	<p>Three flexible types of investment available: Equity - £50,000 to £500,000 for shares in the organisation. Revenue share - £50,000 to £750,000 for repayments based on the organisation's revenue performance. Patient debt - £500,000 to £1,500,000 for regular repayments set at an agreed interest rate over several years</p>	<p>Applications may be submitted at any time</p>	<p>To be eligible organisations must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be legally registered in the UK as a company or a charity. • Support all legal structures. • Have demonstrated proof of concept by generating some trading revenue already. • Be looking to significantly grow trading income and social impact. • Be interested in seeking funding as a repayable investment. • Be able to demonstrate that their focus is on tackling inequity for marginalised people in the UK. • Have more than 75% representation at board and at least 50% representation at senior leadership team of individuals who fall into one or more of the following categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic. • Disabled. • Women. • LGBTQIA+. • Lived experience of a social challenge. • Experience of socio-economic disadvantage. <p>Solo founders and organisations that demonstrate a clear commitment to improving diversity, equity and inclusion are also eligible to apply.</p>	<p>The Growth Impact Fund offers social-purpose organisations investment and supports entrepreneurs to grow their impact and sales. It provides tailored support packages including grant funding and expert advice to organisations with a social purpose that are focused on tackling inequity and have diverse representation at board and leadership level</p>

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<p>Heritage Impact Fund Andrew Hitches-Davies Tel: 020 7925 0199 E-Mail: andrew.hitches-davies@ahfund.org.uk https://ahfund.org.uk/loans/our-loan-funds/</p>	<p>Loans of £25,000 to £500,000 are available</p>	<p>Applications may be submitted at any time</p>	<p>Eligible applicants must be incorporated voluntary, community or social enterprise organisations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs). • Charitable Companies Limited by Guarantee. • Community Benefit Societies. • Not-for-private-profit Companies Limited by Guarantee. • Community Interest Companies (CICs) Limited by Guarantee. • Co-operatives. 	<p>The Fund offers tailored, flexible loans to support UK charities, social enterprises and community businesses that want to acquire, reuse or redevelop historic or architecturally important buildings. The Fund aims to help deliver projects that support the sustainability of historic buildings as well as support organisations with a clear social mission seeking to deliver demonstrable local economic and community impact.</p>
<p>Nesta Arts & Culture Impact Fund Enquiries Tel: 020 7438 2500 E-Mail: rachel.green@nesta.org.uk https://www.artsculturefinance.org/our-funds/arts-culture-impact-fund/</p>	<p>Repayable finance between £150,000 and £1,000,000 with a repayment term until May 2031.</p>	<p>Applications may be submitted at any time</p>	<p>Eligible organisations must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be registered and operating in the UK. Digital organisations will need to demonstrate their primary audiences are based in the UK. • Have core operations or primary activity in the arts, culture and heritage • Have a clear social mission, reflected in its structure and governance • Be able to demonstrate measurable social impact on individuals or communities in the UK. 	<p>The Arts & Culture Impact Fund sets out to achieve several objectives for the arts, cultural and heritage sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide organisations with appropriate and bespoke repayable finance • Develop the financial resilience of borrowers • Support organisations to better monitor, evaluate and communicate their social impact • Attract additional investment into the sector to help organisations thrive • Promote the wider positive impact the arts, culture and heritage have on society and support more organisations to benefit individuals and communities through their work.
<p>Scotland - Social Enterprise Net Zero Transition Fund Enquiries Tel: 0131 558 7706 E-Mail: hello@socialinvestmentscotland.com https://www.socialinvestmentscotland.com/learning-hub/social-enterprise-net-zero-transition-fund/</p>	<p>The fund provides loans from £10,000 to £1.5 million.</p>	<p>Applications may be submitted at any time</p>	<p>Social sector organisations (SSOs) based and operating in Scotland may apply.</p>	<p>The purpose of the fund is to support social sector organisations (SSO) in their journey to become carbon neutral, and to develop the circular economy. Through the fund Social Investment Scotland are interested in supporting activities that will reduce carbon footprint.</p>

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<p>SME Loan Fund Enquiries Tel: 0808 808 2268 https://businessenergyscotland.org/SMELoan/</p>	<p>Energy Saving Scotland provides loans of £1,000 to £100,000 at 0% fixed interest.</p>	<p>Applications may be submitted at any time</p>	<p>Applications will be considered from Scottish businesses that fall within the EC definition of Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (SME), private sector landlords, not-for-profit organisations and charities.</p>	<p>Funding is available to help businesses install measures that reduce energy consumption or to install renewable energy technologies. The aim is to support businesses to reduce costs by making resource efficiencies in energy, raw materials, water and waste management. Businesses that are looking to replace old and inefficient technology will be supported</p>
<p>Social Investment Scotland All Purpose Loan Fund Enquiries Tel: 0131 558 7706 E-Mail: hello@socialinvestmentscotland.com https://www.socialinvestmentscotland.com/investment/looking-for-investment/</p>	<p>Loan amounts will vary according to demonstrated need.</p>	<p>Applications may be submitted at any time</p>	<p>Social Investment Scotland seeks to encourage enquiries from social economy not-for-profit organisations, including social enterprises, community and voluntary groups, and the trading operations of charitable bodies, community businesses, cooperatives, Community Development Finance Initiatives (CDFIs) and housing associations</p>	<p>SIS's mission is to make a positive and measurable contribution to the development of the social economy in Scotland through encouraging enterprise and wealth creation in under-invested communities. The objective is to stimulate the demand for loan funding within Scotland's most progressive not-for-profit social economy organisations that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are unable to raise funding, either in total or in part, from normal commercial sources such as banks. • Have a clear social purpose which will make a real difference to the communities in which they operate. • Can demonstrate that the social impact is likely to be long-lasting
<p>The Catalyst Fund Enquiries Tel: 0131 220 0511 E-Mail: info@firstport.org.uk https://www.firstport.org.uk/social-investment/the-catalyst-fund/</p>	<p>Loans starting at £50,000 are available</p>	<p>Applications may be submitted at any time</p>	<p>Social enterprises that have the potential to deliver significant social impact but are unable to access existing social investment products can apply. For example, start-ups with significant set-up or scale-up costs that need more time to generate income before paying back their loans</p>	<p>This fund aims to support social enterprises looking for investment to help them start and grow their business. Funding will support social entrepreneurs who require significant investment to grow but whose revenue streams may take time to develop or become reliable.</p>



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Communities and Partnership Team have a number of resources designed to help groups find their way through the funding maze to assist Social enterprise and the Third Sector in identifying funding streams with which to develop their projects and organisations. You can get help to develop your project, information on sources of funding, links to sites that will give you tips on funding and free software, and the monthly funding bulletin. We can offer support in finding information and resources to help with compiling your funding application, and get links to organisations that offer support in taking your project ideas forward **Community Support**

GRANTnet is a straightforward free to use service from Idox provided by Argyll & Bute Council as a tool for community and voluntary groups, sports and other clubs, schools, social enterprises and small businesses to search across a huge range of funding sources to identify suitable funding for their activity or project.

Funding Alert is a free monthly update of funding streams which are open for applications and available in your area. It is a fully interactive document and criteria, contacts and the application process can be accessed simply by clicking on the links. You can download the latest copy here **Funding Alert** or submit a **Note of Interest** or **thirdsectorenquiries@argyll-bute.gov.uk** and we will add your contact details to our distribution list for the monthly bulletin. You can **unsubscribe** from Funding Alert at any time.

Bespoke funding searches and funding plans are for specific project using information and criteria which you have given us. Bespoke searches and funding plans can be requested at any time by contacting us at **thirdsectorenquiries@argyll-bute.gov.uk** or **communitydevelopment@argyll-bute.gov.uk**

We post helpful funding searches on our **Topic and Information sheet** web page for group to access

Note of Interest forms allow you to request information on a number of topics.



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<http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/.../grants-and-funding>

<http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/community-support>

<https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/asset-transfer>