How to apply

The application form and guidance notes for the Community Grant can be downloaded from the Voluntary Action Fund website: [www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk](http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk).

Please contact us if you have any queries about the fund or about making an application.

Application deadlines are **Monday 17 September 2012** and **Monday 14 January 2013**.

Feedback from applicants

“The application was simple and straightforward.”

“The grant has helped us to offer a service which is not necessarily restricted to our specific ‘target’ group.”

“It is a good amount which allows the organisation to develop but not too problematic to manage.”

About Voluntary Action Fund

**Providing grant funding and development support to organisations across Scotland that promote volunteering, social justice, equality and human rights.**

Voluntary Action Fund is an independent charity that awards grants throughout Scotland. It is governed by an independent Board of Charity Trustees with a wide range of experience in the voluntary sector. The Community Grant is managed by Voluntary Action Fund and funded by the Scottish Government.

Community Grant Programme 2012-13

Grants of **up to £1,000** now available to Scotland’s volunteer-led community groups.

Voluntary Action Fund

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Scottish Charity, SC035037. Company Limited By Guarantee, SC261186.
What is the Community Grant?
The grant is aimed at small, grassroots, volunteer-led community groups with an income of less than £25,000 per year. The grant’s focus is on supporting and building the capacity of Scotland’s smallest community and voluntary groups. Groups can apply for grants of up to £1,000 for a wide range of costs or activities that will help sustain or develop their activities for charitable purposes.

Priorities
Priority will be given to projects that can demonstrate the items or activities paid for by Voluntary Action Fund will help develop the skills and experience of committee members, staff or volunteers, or help develop the organisation, project or service.

A proportion of the fund is targeted at areas of deprivation to empower local communities and assist their regeneration. The six priority local authority areas are:
- Dundee City
- Glasgow City
- Inverclyde
- North Ayrshire
- North Lanarkshire
- West Dunbartonshire

Priority also goes to groups that work:
- With health or disability issues;
- For the benefit of equalities groups (BME, disability, gender or sexuality);
- With families and young people; and
- With older people.

What can groups apply for?
Groups can apply for funding for a wide variety of activities or operational costs, depending on their greatest need.

However, Voluntary Action Fund is particularly keen to fund activities that will help build and develop strong organisations. For example, your grant would pay for training for committee members and volunteers, visits to other organisations and conferences or professional support and consultancy.

You could also apply for the cost of equipment, costumes or uniforms, classes or training, counselling, furniture, toys, safety equipment, field trips, upgraded facilities, or venue hire.

Eligibility
To be eligible your group must have:
- A constitution and bank account;
- An annual income of less than £25,000;
- An independent referee; and
- Not received a VAF Community Grant or Community Chest Grant within the past 12 months.

Additional support
Voluntary Action Fund provides free, accessible workshops to all applicants on subjects of particular relevance to small groups, including how to make effective funding applications, managing your money, how to measure success, and understanding charity law. Once you submit your application we will get in touch with further details about how to sign up.