

2025-2027

# RENFREWSHIRE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING FUND

## 2 YEAR FUNDING GUIDANCE

RENFREWSHIRE



COMMUNITY  
MENTAL HEALTH &  
WELLBEING FUND

Photo credit: Open Aye CIC

ENGAGE  
RENFREWSHIRE

[www.engagerenfrewshire.org](http://www.engagerenfrewshire.org)

# FUND BACKGROUND

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The Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for Adults (the Fund) was established in October 2021 and to date has distributed around £66 million to community initiatives supporting mental health and wellbeing across Scotland. In Renfrewshire the fund has seen over £2 million distributed to organisations, community groups and community projects.

The Fund has a strong focus on prevention and early intervention and aims to support grass roots community groups in tackling mental health inequalities and address priority issues of social isolation and loneliness, suicide prevention and tackling poverty and inequality. There will be a continued emphasis in years 5 and 6 on responding to the cost of living crisis and on those facing socio-economic disadvantage.

The opportunity to grant funding across two years has arisen as part of the Scottish Government's Fairer Funding pilot, as part of the government's commitment to deliver fairer funding for the third sector. 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.

non-clinical  
prevention  
early intervention  
person centred  
community based



Photo credit: RIG Arts

# OVERARCHING AIM

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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.

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## INTENDED OUTCOMES

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In line with Scottish Government's long term outcomes for mental health in communities, this Fund intends to provide investment for:

- 01** Develop a culture of mental wellbeing and prevention within local communities with improved awareness of how we can all stay well and help ourselves and others.
- 02** Fostering a strategic and preventative approach to improving community mental health
- 03** Supporting the resilience of communities and investing in their capacity to develop their own solutions, including through strong local partnerships
- 04** Tackling the social determinants of mental health by targeting resources and collaborating with other initiatives to tackle poverty and inequality.

The Fund directly contributes to Outcome 4 of the [Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#) published in June 2023:

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

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# WHO CAN APPLY

Groups do not have to have mental health and wellbeing as a main focus, but applications do have to clearly outline how a group and/or project will benefit the mental wellbeing of people in the community.

Applications will be accepted from a range of voluntary, 'not for profit' organisations, associations, groups and clubs or consortiums/partnerships which have a strong community focus for their activities.

The range of organisations that can 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 unconstituted groups cannot apply for multi-year funding, but can apply for single year funding of up to £2,000.

Please see separate guidance for single year funding.

\*Please note that parent councils 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 adults rather than their children.
- Any Parent Council applying to this fund must have a statutory duty to keep proper accounts.

grass roots  
community focussed  
new and existing



Photo credit: Create Paisley



Photo credit: RIG Arts

# WHAT CAN BE FUNDED

## WHAT WE CAN FUND

Equipment

One-off events

Hall hire for community spaces

Small capital spend up to £5,000  
(i.e. land or building projects)

Staff costs (that meet the conditions of  
Fair Work First policy)

Training costs

Transport

Utilities/running costs

Volunteer expenses

## WHAT WE CANNOT FUND

Contingency costs, loans, endowments or  
interest

Electricity generation and feed-in tariff payment

Political or religious campaigning

Profit-making/fundraising activities

VAT you can reclaim

Statutory activities

Overseas travel

Alcoholic beverages and other harmful  
substances (eg. tobacco)

The fund can support both new and existing work, including those funded in previous rounds. Previously funded work will need to demonstrate impacts and outline any development planned if successful.

# MULTI YEAR KEY DATES

## Summer 2025

*Note of interest and application period*

Groups must submit a note of interest before their application to be considered for multiyear funding. The application period will start from August 18th.

## January 2026

*First year of work commences*

Groups are able to commence work, they will be invited to join the Renfrewshire Wellbeing Network to share their work and learning



## January 2027

*Second year funding distributed*

Groups that have fulfilled the obligations set out in year one will receive their second year of funding and continue their work

Please note: groups that do not submit an interim report or do not meet the outcomes of year one may receive reduced or no funding in year two

## Autumn 2025

*Panel deliberations*

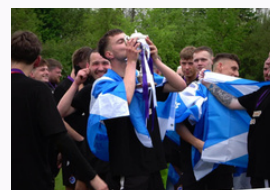
Application close 1<sup>st</sup> October. Panel deliberations will start and successful groups notified by Christmas



## November 2026

*Interim Reports Due*

All funded groups **must** submit an interim report outlining outcomes and expenditure to date



## December 2027

*End of project and final evaluation*

Evaluation of overall outcomes and impact of the work

# FAQs

- **How much can we apply for?**

We recommend groups apply in the region of £10,000 per year (£20,000 total). We anticipate that a small proportion of bids may be supported up to the maximum value of £15,000 per year (£30,000 total)

- **My organisation has an income over £1 million, can we apply?**

Organisations with an income over £1m may be eligible to apply if they can demonstrate that they are uniquely placed to support a specific community who would otherwise not benefit from the fund.

- **We work across multiple local authorities, can we apply?**

Similar to large organisations, groups not based within Renfrewshire may be eligible to apply but must show existing local impact and, if applying to multiple TSIs must state this in their application.

Guidance from Scottish Government is for this fund to support local, grass-roots where possible.

- **What support is available for groups applying?**

As TSI Engage Renfrewshire can support with application writing via 1:1 support and group information sessions. Engage staff cannot write funding applications on behalf of groups but can offer further guidance on the fund's aims and objectives and best practice generally with regards application writing.

Photo credit: Open Aye CIC



# FAQs cont'd

Photo credit: Renfrew CC



- Can we use AI to help with our application?

We understand many groups use AI writing tools in creating applications, particularly as an accessibility tool. The content of applications will be judged on merit regardless of whether AI is used, but applications must remain authentic and accurate to an organisation's ambitions.

We would also encourage groups to consider the environmental impact of using AI and to limit usage appropriately.

- What are the monitoring requirements for the fund?

Successful organisations must submit an interim report 11 months in to the delivery period. This interim report will cover actions, learning, challenges and expenditure so far.

Groups that do not submit an interim report will contravene their agreement and second year funding will not be issued.

An end of project report will also be expected in December 2027.

A participant survey, collated by Scottish Government, will also be issued twice annually to capture the impact on individuals.

# APPLICATION PROCESS

To be considered for multiyear funding all applicants must submit a note of interest form outlining the two years of funding. This will be used to ensure your project and organisation structure meet with the criteria of the fund.

Groups that are ineligible will not be invited to submit an application.

Notes of interest and applications should be submitted to **info@engagerenfrewshire.com** by 5pm on the closing date.

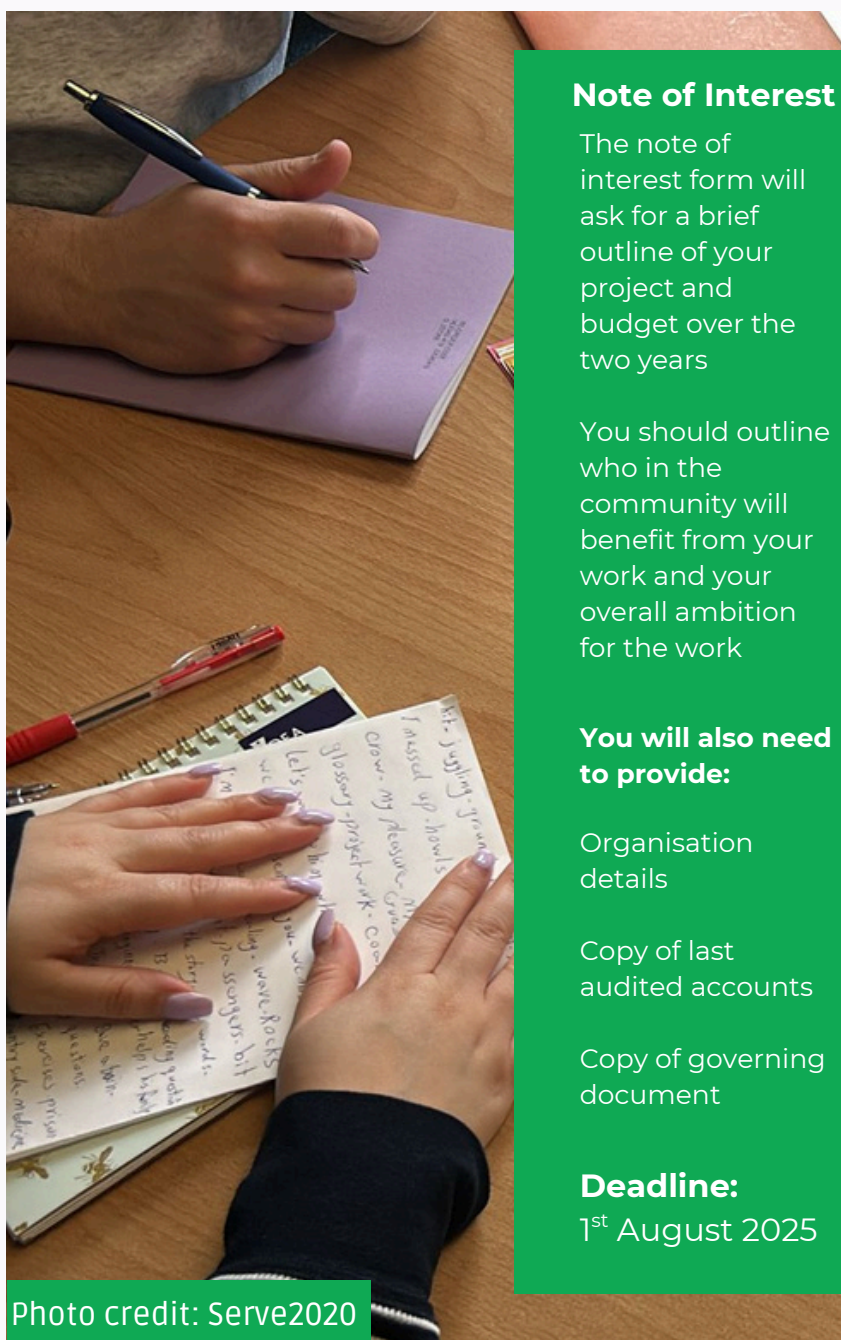


Photo credit: Serve2020

## Note of Interest

The note of interest form will ask for a brief outline of your project and budget over the two years

You should outline who in the community will benefit from your work and your overall ambition for the work

### You will also need to provide:

Organisation details

Copy of last audited accounts

Copy of governing document

### Deadline:

1<sup>st</sup> August 2025

## Application Form

The application form will ask for more indepth information on your project plan

You will need to evidence the need for the project, and show how your community has informed the plan

You should provide a more detailed budget outline of the two year spend

### You will also need to provide:

Banking details and evidence of the account

### Deadline:

1<sup>st</sup> October 2025