**FUNDING INFORMATION and support**

There is currently a range of national funding opportunities available to help businesses, communities and third sector organisations to continue to operate during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Business Support Summary**

For up to date information please refer to the Business Support Summary which can be found at the top of the [Coronavirus Business support](https://www.shetland.gov.uk/economic_development/CoronaFinancialAssistance.asp) webpage. This includes details about:

* Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme
* Self Employed Income Support Scheme
* Newly Self-Employed Hardship fund
* Business Support Fund
* Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund
* VAT deferral
* Non-domestic rates relief
* And various others forms of financial support and loan schemes

Shetland businesses can also access advice from the [Business Gateway](https://www.bgateway.com/local-offices/shetland/local-support) service.

For help, support or general enquiries contact the Council’s Economic Development Service at:

Tel 01595 744940

Email [economicdevelopment@shetland.gov.uk](mailto:economicdevelopment@shetland.gov.uk)

**Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO)**

The SCVO has created the [Coronavirus Third Sector Information Hub](https://scvo.org.uk/support/coronavirus). This web page is designed to help mitigate the impact of Corona Virus for community groups, charities, social enterprises and third sector organisations. Community groups and voluntary organisations can also sign up for the SCVO [e-bulletins](https://scvo.org.uk/support/coronavirus/what-scvo-is-doing/bulletin) to receive regular updates.

**Coronavirus support for communities**

Community groups and voluntary organisations seeking support should refer to Shetland Islands Council’s [grants and funding](https://www.shetland.gov.uk/communityplanning/grantsfunding.asp) pages. This website includes a range of support, help and web links to national funding sources and other information.

**Grants Unit**

The Council’s Grants Unit provides free advice and assistance to community groups and voluntary organisations seeking to identify potential funding opportunities for their service or project. The Grants Unit also has an external funding mailing list and sends out regular funding updates.

Information on existing community grant aid schemes can be accessed online [here](https://www.shetland.gov.uk/grants/about_grant_aid.asp)

Community groups and voluntary organisations can also register to the Council’s funding search engine. [Funding Shetland](https://shetland.fundingscotland.com/) is a free resource and can be used to look for funding and set up alerts.

**Funding searches**

Community groups needing help to search for funding can contact the Grants Unit. The Grants Unit also has a funding mailing list. Contact details below:

Email [grants.unit@shetland.gov.uk](mailto:grants.unit@shetland.gov.uk)

Tel 01595 743828 or 01595 743827

**Funding opportunities**

Links to a range of national external funding bodies can be found below.

[Third Sector Resilience Fund](https://scvo.org.uk/support/coronavirus/funding/scottish-government/third-sector-resilience-fund/) - This fund provides emergency grants of between £5,000 and £75,000 to help stabilise and manage cashflows during the coronavirus pandemic.

[Community Response, Recovery & Resilience Fund](https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/coronavirus-appeal/apply-for-funds/) - This fund provides immediate support to community and grassroot organisations responding to the coronavirus pandemic in their local community.  Grants of £1,000 to £5,000 are available.

[Wellbeing Fund](https://scvo.org.uk/support/coronavirus/funding/scottish-government/wellbeing-fund/) - This Scottish Government fund will support organisations across the third sector that are providing important services for people as a result of coronavirus. Activity should be focused on providing vital wellbeing support on issues such as mental health, personal finances, employment, housing, food, physical health and home life.

[Creative Tourism and Hospital Enterprises Hardship Fund](https://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/service/coronavirus/creative-or-tourism-and-hospitality-enterprises-hardship-fund) – This fund is designed for organisations that are ineligible for other COVID-19 grant support or are not yet in receipt of the funds they need to survive.

[National Lottery Heritage Emergency Fund](https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/funding/heritage-emergency-fund) – This fund provides grants between £3,000 and £50,000 to support organisations who are a current or previous recipient of grant funding directly from Heritage Lottery Fund.

[Open Fund: Sustaining Creative Development](https://www.creativescotland.com/funding/funding-programmes/open-fund-sustaining-creative-development) – This fund aims to assist creative organisations to explore ways of working that will help them adapt and respond to the current changing circumstances.

[National Lottery Community Fund](https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all-scotland) – NLCF grant programmes remain open as usual but will prioritise applications that are COVID-19 related. Small grants available from £300 to £10,000 as well as larger grants.

[Tesco Bags of Help COVID-19 Communities Fund](https://tescobagsofhelp.org.uk/grant-schemes/tesco-cv-fund/) – This fund can offer grants of £500 to organisations who are supporting vulnerable groups. It will prioritise organisations whose need for services has been disrupted, who require to put in place new services, and those facing increased demand.

[Social Investment Scotland](https://www.socialinvestmentscotland.com/) – Loans are available to support social enterprises, charities and community groups across Scotland, whether that’s to become sustainable, to grow or take a step change. This includes flexible loan repayments and tailored solutions to best suit organisations.