



These insights showcase the vital work of the third sector as well as demonstrating the persistent grasp of poverty and the impact it has on families across Scotland.

“ Families have told us that they need mental and emotional support to help them make lasting change. They need autonomy and independence, they don't want to be relying on support from charities, they would like to work towards being able to support themselves. ”

Moray School Bank

- Families and their communities need practical, emotional, and social support to cope with the impacts of poverty.
- Loss of income due to unemployment caused by the pandemic has led to increased debt, fuel and food poverty.
- Organisations have worked hard during the pandemic to continue to engage with families in need, for instance online support, telephone calls and doorstep visits.
- Many organisations are experiencing an increased demand for their services and are projecting a continuous increasing need for support in the future.
- So far in 2021 £135k has been distributed to small grassroots community groups working to address the impacts of poverty.



In 2020, **38** organisations received multi-year Henry Duncan Grant funding to enable families to cope with the impacts of poverty.

Groups reporting in 2021 so far have told us that over **9000** people have been supported, many to help manage the impact of coronavirus.

Evidence from Henry Duncan Grant funded groups highlights the impact of the pandemic and how hard communities have been hit. Loss of income due to furlough or unemployment has led to increased debt, fuel, and food poverty. Funded organisations also highlight the impact experiencing poverty has on people's mental health and the need for practical, emotional and social support for communities and families.

In August 2020 the Bridge Community Project received a five year Henry Duncan Grant. Over the last year the project has been working with clients who are debt. The majority of their clients have struggled emotionally and some of the more vulnerable clients have found it difficult to access support digitally. The Bridge Community Project has been managing to help them and go beyond their traditional money advice service, offering a listening service as well as referrals to school uniform banks.

Third sector organisations and community groups play an important role in supporting families and individuals to cope with the impacts of poverty, including access to everyday essentials such as food, fuel and digital devices or phone top ups.



“ To ensure inclusion across all financial circumstances we have decided to make our services free at point of delivery. Lockdown has had a tremendously negative effect on many of our families, some of whom were struggling to make ends meet even before the pandemic. We want to do everything we can to help them. ” Ayshire Deaf Club

“ Since the pandemic refugees and asylum seekers have experienced severe poverty, food insecurity, isolation and mental health difficulties. These are the experiences of our community at the best of times but the emergency has deepened many of these health and social issues for families and children. These needs will undoubtedly continue for the forthcoming year and beyond. ”

Bikes For Refugees Scotland

Food insecurity was identified as the most common concern across organisations and the communities Corra works alongside. During 2020, Corra distributed **£164,917** Scottish Government's Supporting Communities Fund across the nine local areas to support food initiatives.

Passion4Fusion are working with Ethnic Minority communities in Edinburgh and the Lothians and received an STV Children's Appeal Community grant to support people to access culturally appropriate food.



Home-Start Clackmannanshire received a £25,000 multi year Henry Duncan Grant in August 2020. It has helped in the first year to support the organisation who has been providing online Cooking on a Budget and Make and Taste courses for parents, with ingredients provided and delivered weekly. A face-to-face cooking course planned in August 2021. Home-Start Clackmannanshire also have paid 'Community Larder' membership fee for families.

In Langlees, the Community Co-ordinator supported the community to join up local food provision, working alongside the local school and food shares. Together this network continues to share ideas on to reduce food poverty in the area.

In Carbrain, the Community Co-ordinator worked closely with the local Community Council Food Project who responded to the food emergency. At the height of lockdown April, May 2020, the project was distributing 500 meals in one week.

“I like to think we are not just providing food, but a link to many other services that are out there at this time to enable people to feel safe in their own homes. It's about maintaining a sense of togetherness, and letting people know they are not alone.”

Carbrain & Hillcrest Community Council

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