

National Drugs Mission Funds Local Support Fund Micro Grants – Criteria and FAQ



Introduction

The numbers of drug-related deaths in Scotland are too high. These deaths are tragic and avoidable, and reducing them is a priority for all of us. To that effect, the Scottish Government launched the National Drugs Mission in 2021 to improve lives. The National Drugs Mission funds include the Improvement Fund, Local Support Fund, Local Support Fund Micro Grants, and Children & Families Fund which are delivered by the Corra Foundation. The total budget for this five-year mission was £65 million.

About the Local Support Fund (LSF) Micro Grants

The LSF Micro Grants were designed to focus on small community-based groups delivering frontline services to support people who use drugs, people in recovery and/or families affected by someone else's drug use.

This vital support is often delivered with very limited funding which means that small groups can be stretched to their limits. This fund is designed to help these groups by providing grants which will offer some financial security for planning and delivering support to improve the wellbeing of both people who use drugs and their families.

Applications **for continuation funding only** will be welcomed in 2025. However, **continuation funding can only be provided until October 2026** so project budgets may need to be adjusted to fit this timescale. The budget for this round of the LSF Micro Grants is limited. It may not be possible to satisfy the demand for funding, and this may result in unsuccessful applications or some awards being agreed for a smaller amount.

The closing date for applications will be 1pm on Wednesday 3rd September 2025. Applications received after this will not be considered.

Partnership Working

Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (ADPs) are responsible for commissioning evidence-based, person-centered and recovery-focused treatment and support services to meet the needs of their populations, so it can be useful to build connections with them.

All applicants to the LSF Micro Fund **will need to provide a letter of support from their local Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP) Chair or Co-Ordinator**. We would encourage you to contact your ADP early and to take a collaborative approach to developing your application, as we will be looking at things like partnership working, sustainability and strategic alignment as part of the assessment process. [You can see who your local ADP is by following this link.](#)

Who can apply:

- The Scottish Government is committed to the sustainability of projects, as such, the LSF Micro Grants programme is **only** open to existing projects that have been funded through previous funding rounds and have a LSF Micro grant **with an end-date of 31 March 2026 or earlier in this funding round**.
- Funded projects must still be active at the point of application, with any associated staff members still in place.
- Applicants can be charities, social enterprises or constituted¹ community/voluntary groups that operate on a not-for-profit basis.
- There must be at least three unrelated people on your management committee/board.
- Corra Foundation encourages applications from organisations supporting Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic communities, and other underrepresented groups, to increase access to support.
- You must have a bank account in the name of the organisation.
- Applicants must already be delivering support in Scotland to people affected by drug use, and/or their families.
- Your work should be helping to deliver or support the Scottish Government's alcohol and drug treatment strategy, 'Rights, Respect and Recovery' which outlines that individuals, families and communities:
 - have the right to health and life - free from the harms of alcohol and drugs,
 - are treated with dignity and respect,
 - are fully supported within communities to find their own type of recovery.

What can be funded:

- Funding of up to £20,000 (for one year) can be requested for the continuation or expansion of the work funding was previously awarded for. **For projects applying for continuation funding with a term of less than one year, the amount available will be proportionately less.**
- Priority will be given to applications for projects that are closest to their grant end-date.
- Applicants are encouraged to only apply for what they need as this will allow the fund to support as many different groups as possible.
- Funding can support costs including day to day running costs, project costs, training, new or existing activities, or small pieces of equipment. Further examples may be found in [Appendix 1](#) of this document.
- Only one application per organisation will be considered.

What cannot be funded:

- **Work that will be delivered beyond 31st October 2026.** Proposals and budgets should be tailored to include only work that will occur prior to that date.
- Projects with an LSF Micro grant that ended before March 2025.
- **Projects that have already received 5 years' funding from the National Drugs Mission.**

¹ A constituted group is one that has been set up with a governing document, such as a constitution (a written form showing the aims and rules your group use) and has appointed a management committee/board of trustees which meets regularly and is responsible for governance and keeping appropriate records. For the purposes of this fund, your governing document should state that in the event of the group closing, that any assets will be donated to a similar voluntary organisation or charity: this is called an 'asset lock'.

- Work that will not deliver direct support to people affected by drug use or their families.
- Major capital appeals including building projects, vehicles and major refurbishment costs.
- Retrospective funding – paying for something that has already been purchased/delivered.
- Contributions to funds which will be used for grant making to other organisations.
- Places/stays in residential rehabilitations for individuals.
- Funding cannot be used as matched funding for a project already supported through Scottish Government funds. Please speak to one of Corra's Grant Advisors if you are unsure.

How to Apply

Please email wellbeingteam@corra.scot to arrange a chat with one of the Corra team. Our Grant Advisors will be able to help guide you through the application process and offer advice on whether your idea is a good fit for the fund. These conversations are supportive in nature and are intended to give you the best chance of success with your application. The conversations can take up to an hour.

Following your conversation with one of Corra's Grant Advisors, a link to the online application form will then be sent to you.

We are **not** able to look at draft applications, so it is best to chat to us before you complete the form.

Timescales

The closing date for applications will be 1pm on Wednesday 3rd September 2025. Applications received after this will not be considered.

We aim to notify applicants of the outcome of their application within two months of their application being sent in.

Monitoring and Evaluation

You will be asked to report three months after the start of your grant and at the end of the grant period. We will share information (like progress reports) about your project with your local ADP. Reporting templates will be provided.

Corra will work with each grantee to create an Evaluation Planning Grid (EPG) for their project. This document will form the basis for reports. This might be identical to the EPG for the existing grant. A sample EPG can be found in

Frequently Asked Questions

See [Appendix 2](#) of this document.

Further information

The team is always happy to talk, whether it's about an application, or a grant you already hold. Please get in touch by emailing wellbeingteam@corra.scot.

If you have any questions which are not covered in the FAQ document, please contact us by email. If you'd like more detailed information or support with your application, you can book a one-to-one funding advice session by phone or video chat. Support may also be available through the Scottish Drugs Forum by e-mailing localsupportfund@sdf.org.uk.

Appendix 1

Here are some further examples of what you can apply for:

- Funding for running costs for the group/organisation. Some examples are shown below.
 - Room hire
 - Rent
 - Heating and lighting
 - Improvements or equipment
 - Laptops for group members to use for things like DWP forms, or for hosting online meetings.
- Funding can be used to pay for your current operations, or to expand the service (e.g. to move to a bigger venue if you need more space, or to open the service an additional day). We cannot fund capital costs such as vehicle purchase or building appeals, but small pieces of equipment and minor refurbishment will be considered.
- Funding to deliver/provide activities, such as
 - Paying for food and refreshments for the group
 - Paying people to run group work sessions or covering the costs of purposeful activities (art classes, fishing trips, teen-only drop-ins)
 - Groups specifically for underrepresented groups (for example, evenings/events specifically for Women, LGBT+ people, young people, Black and Minority Ethnic people).
 - Organised group activities where children and families can spend time together.
 - Training and capacity building
- Funding for costs that will help your group to thrive. This could be paying for courses or training sessions on practical topics like food safety or paying for someone to teach the group about mindfulness or safety and harm reduction tactics.
- Promotion/Marketing:
 - To promote or market your group. You could apply for funding to make posters, leaflets or websites to advertise your group. You could also apply for things like mobile data and tech so that people can still access support during periods of self-isolation or further lockdowns as a result of Coronavirus. You could also apply for funding to help with consultation costs if you want to find out what people in your area need or want the support group to look like.

Appendix 2: Frequently Asked Questions

Eligibility Questions:

We are a new organisation with no accounts available. Can we still apply?

These funds are for organisations that are currently delivering services and who already hold a LSF Mico grant. If an eligible organisation is already delivering services but has yet to produce accounts, an application can be made. Instead of accounts, please give us an indication of the financial position of the organisation at the time of applying, and a budget for the current year.

We've previously received funding from a National Drugs Mission fund, can we still apply?

Yes. You may apply to the Micro Fund for continuation of your existing LSF Micro project. The funding requested should cover service delivery from the end of your existing grant to 31st October 2026.

The people we work with are affected by drug and alcohol problems – can we apply?

The National Drugs Mission funds are specifically for work to support people who use drugs, people in recovery and their families. We understand that this may involve supporting a range of issues, but the predominant factor must be someone's drug use.

We deliver lots of different projects in our community, but not all of them are for people who use drugs. Can we apply?

Yes, if your project already holds a grant through the Local Support Fund Micro Grant programme. You can apply for the project you already deliver which is focused on supporting people who use drugs and/or their families.

The charity I work with is not registered with OSCR (Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator), but with the Charity Commission in England and Wales. Can we still apply?

If you are operating in Scotland as a charity, you must be registered with OSCR. For the Local Support Fund Micro Grants, constituted groups may also apply and do not need to be registered with OSCR.

Will you accept an application to the Micro Fund from an organisation that had an income of over £50,000 in the last year because of unusual circumstances?

Yes, if your project already holds a grant through the Local Support Fund Micro Grant programme which ends by 31st March 2026.

General Questions:

What does it mean to be ‘incorporated’?

Organisations which are incorporated have a legal personality which means they are able to enter into contracts, employ staff, incur debts, own property, sue and be sued. Being incorporated also provides a high degree of protection against liability. Typical examples of incorporated organisations are Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations (SCIOs) and registered companies.

What do you mean by ‘lived experience’?

By ‘lived experience’ we mean people who have first-hand knowledge and understanding, gained through personal – rather than professional – experience of drug use. This includes people affected by their own drug use, as well as family members who are affected by a relative’s drug use.

We’re making an application for a project we deliver that fits the criteria – can we include some core running costs?

Yes, you can include a reasonable proportion of core running costs that are necessary for the project – this is known as full cost recovery.

Do we have to start using the funding right away?

Yes. We expect work relating to a grant application to start immediately or at the end of the grant period for the existing grant.

What are the reporting requirements?

We will ask for a final report at the end of the grant period. There is also an initial 3-month report. Reporting templates will be provided.

What is Corra’s assessment process?

After the closing date, Corra staff assess the application. This means we read and analyse your application, checking to see if it fits the criteria, doing due diligence checks on your organisation’s finances and checking things like your policies, approach to service delivery and the ways you keep people safe.

We then take each application to our panels of experts. These people are experts either by lived or professional experience, or both. They use their knowledge and experience to tell us if your proposal is likely to work and make a meaningful difference to the people we want to support. For the Local Support Fund and Micro Fund, this is the final stage in the assessment process.

After that, we can let applicants know about the outcome of their application.

If I am unsuccessful, will I be given feedback?

Yes, you will receive an email outlining the outcome and feedback. Corra staff will also be happy to provide further feedback by telephone.

Appendix 3: Sample Evaluation Planning Grid

The Evaluation Planning Grid (EPG) is a tool to help you think about how you will measure and report back on your work. Following any grant offer we will work with you to complete this grid. This example is intended to demonstrate how the EPG may be completed and to provide guidance on the way content is worded. The outcomes, indicators and targets selected for each project should be **specific to the project** and **appropriate to the scale** of that project. The purpose of this document is to aid in the planning of your monitoring and evaluation. This should make reporting more straightforward. Project-specific outcomes often align with one or more of the Outcome Themes shown on the next page.

Outcomes	Indicators?	Measurement of indicators	Outputs	Targets	Measurement of outputs
(These are your predicted changes . Please use the column below to list the 3 main changes you expect to see in participants' lives as a result of your service.)	(These are your indicators of success . What type of feedback will you look for to indicate these changes are happening? What can your workers observe? Please list 2-3 key indicators for each change.)	(These are your monitoring and evaluation tools . Please list the tools and methods you will use to capture the changes being made, e.g. surveys, informal feedback, staff observations, focus groups etc.)	(These are your services and activities . Please list the activities that you will deliver to make each change happen.)	(These are your target numbers . How many activities will you deliver each year? How often will they take place? How many people will take part in each of them?)	(These are your record keeping methods . How and where will you record all relevant data? E.g. attendance numbers in an attendance log, feedback in worker's notes etc. Please specify.)
Service users are better engaged with support	People receiving support report satisfaction with the support they receive. Staff members observe increased engagement with support. Workers with other organisations report	Service user feedback questionnaire Anecdotal feedback Outcome Star tool (baseline and follow up) Conversations with workers from other organisations. Staff feedback.	1:1 Support sessions Group Support sessions Informal discussions Flyers produced Support plans	150 1:1 support sessions are delivered each year 50 Group support sessions are delivered each year 75 Service users receive support. Support plan created for each service user.	Team diary Log of support sessions Workers' notes Service users' files

Outcome Themes

Reports on the work of the National Drugs Mission funded projects as a whole, are compiled based on the following outcome themes.

1. Fewer people develop problem drug use.
2. Risk is reduced for people who take harmful drugs.
3. People at most risk have access to treatment and recovery.
4. People receive high quality treatment and recovery services.
5. Quality of life is improved by addressing multiple disadvantages.
6. Children, families and communities affected by substance use are supported.