

Alcohol and Drugs Fund – Local Support Grants

Criteria Document



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Local Support Grants – Criteria

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Introduction

Alcohol and drugs cause harm to people and communities across Scotland.

In 2026, the Scottish Government announced the 'Alcohol and Drugs Fund' to provide funding to organisations supporting people affected by alcohol and drugs. This funding is intended to build on the good work delivered by projects funded via the National Drugs Mission (2021-26), whilst also offering funding opportunities for projects that are focused on supporting people affected by alcohol.

The Alcohol and Drugs Fund has four strands.

These are the **Partnership and Delivery Grants, Local Support Grants, Local Support Micro Grants, and Children, Young People and Families Grants** which are delivered by Corra Foundation. The total budget for the programme of funding is £36.9 million. Of this, a minimum of £8.2 million will be made available to Local Support Grants.

About the Local Support Grants

Local Support Grants are designed to provide funding to Third Sector organisations and community-based groups delivering frontline services to support people affected by alcohol and drugs.

This fund is designed to help organisations 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/or alcohol, and their families and loved ones.

Funding rounds will be conducted on a rolling basis. Applications for projects delivering work up to April 2029 are welcomed.

Funding rounds are scheduled for July, September, and November 2026 and every two months thereafter.

If your project is already receiving funding through the National Drugs Mission (NDM), you can only apply for an Local Support Grant within **the final six months** of your existing NDM grant.



Corra expects an extremely high number of applications to this fund, and that there will be more applications than budget available. As a result, it may not be possible to satisfy the demand for funding, and this may result in some grants being offered at a reduced level of grant. This will only be done after a conversation with the applicant and there will be opportunity to discuss and potentially reshape the programme of work if the grant offer is less than originally requested.

The Local Support Grants will open for applications in June 2026. It is a rolling grant programme and will remain open as long as sufficient funds are available.

Criteria

Who can apply?

- Local Support Grants are open to organisations with an annual income of up to £750,000.
- Applicants can be charities or social enterprises that are registered with OSCR (Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator) or constituted community/voluntary groups that operate on a not-for-profit basis and have independent governance and an asset lock. Private companies are not eligible to apply.
- There must be at least three unrelated people on your management committee/board.
- You must have a bank account in the name of the organisation.
- Applicants must already be delivering support in Scotland to people affected by alcohol and/or drug use, and/or their families.
- Your work should be helping to deliver or support the Scottish Government and COSLA's [Preventing Harm, Promoting Recovery: Scotland's Alcohol & Drugs Strategic Plan 2026 – 2035 - gov.scot](#)
- Practice and delivery should be grounded in the [Charter of Rights for People Affected by Substance Use \(2024\)](#), and all funded projects will be required to work towards embedding its principles.



Only one application per organisation will be considered in each funding round, unless each application is for work in a different Local Authority area. Priority will be given to applications for projects taking place in local authority areas where work has not already been undertaken.

Corra will contact the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP) Lead Officer with a list of all applications received to this fund for work in their Local Authority area. We will specifically be asking them if they have any concerns around the proposed work. We would encourage you to contact your ADP and to take a collaborative approach to developing your application.

If you are considering applying to the fund, the Scottish Drugs Forum Local Support Team can provide practical support and guidance throughout the application process. This can include support with funding applications, governance, safeguarding and organisational development tailored to the needs of your organisation.

For an initial conversation about how they may be able to help, please contact localsupport@sdf.org.uk

Where projects are delivering alcohol treatment services, these should adhere to the [Clinical guidelines for alcohol treatment - Guidance - GOV.UK](#)

All projects delivering Tier 3 and Tier 4 services will be required to use the Drug and Alcohol Information System (DAISy) if they receive a grant through this fund. Please see additional information on this in the Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation section of this document.

All applications must be able to demonstrate how they deliver front-line, operational and targeted support for people affected by alcohol and drugs, including individuals, their children and families.



Applicants who previously received National Drugs Mission (NDM) funding between 2020 and 2026 are welcome to apply to continue their existing NDM funded project.

Regretfully, given the limited resource, previous NDM projects are not able to apply to expand their service to a larger scale. We recognised that the cost of delivering your existing service might have increased, so you are able to increase your financial request proportionally to meet increased delivery cost.

How much funding is available?

The Scottish Government has allocated £36.9m, from 2026-2029 for the Alcohol and Drugs Fund. This will cover the four funding streams, Partnership and Delivery Grants, Local Support Grants, Local Support Micro Grants, and Children, Young People and Families Grants.

The maximum grants for the Local Support Grants applications received in 2026 is £60,000 per year, with the total maximum amount being £150,000 as projects can only be funded until April 2029.

What can be funded?

The Alcohol and Drugs Fund exists to support the implementation of the Scottish Government and COSLA's [Preventing Harm, Promoting Recovery: Scotland's Alcohol and Drugs Strategic Plan](#)

This means that Alcohol and Drugs Fund grants will link to specific outcomes, which are illustrated in the strategy, and categorised into four main themes.

1. **Prevention and Early Intervention**
2. **Harm Reduction**
3. **Treatment and Care**
4. **Wider Support**



Projects which received funding from the National Drugs Mission may apply to the Alcohol and Drugs Fund to continue their existing work.

If your application is for a larger project or one delivered in multiple Local Authority areas, it may be a better fit for the Partnership and Delivery Grants. Please discuss this with one of Corra's Grant Advisors.

All applicants will be asked to describe how their proposal fits within at least one of the four themes. Your idea or service may fit multiple categories, in which case it is important you tell us about how your proposal meets each of the categories.

Examples of things you can apply for

Funding for running costs for the group/organisation. This can include:

- Staffing
- Room hire
- Rent
- Heating and lighting
- Equipment to deliver your project (phones, activity resources)
- Laptops for group members to use for things like Department for Work and Pensions forms, or for hosting online meetings.
- Funding can be used to pay for your current operations, or to improve the service, providing the financial request does not exceed the maximum grant request (£60,000 per year).
- Funding to deliver/provide activities.

What cannot be funded?

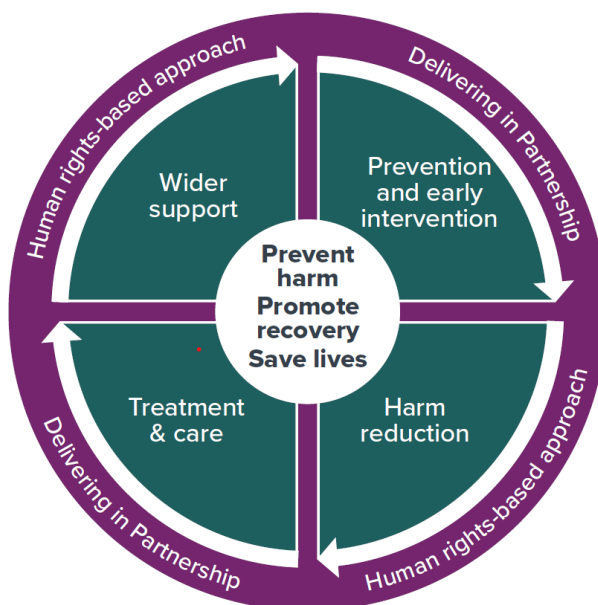
- Work that will be delivered beyond April 2029. Projects may continue beyond that date, but Alcohol and Drugs Fund grants can only support work up to that point.
- Work that will not deliver support directly to people affected by drugs or alcohol, or their families.
- Work that is focused on campaigning, influencing or lobbying.



- Work that is focused on whole population approaches, i.e. public information campaigns, or general health testing/screening that focuses on a whole population rather than targeted work.
- Major capital appeals including building projects, and vehicles, or any project that involves planning permission or significant adaptations to buildings.
- 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, or respite care of any sort.
- If you receive funding via the Local Support Grants, you cannot apply to the Partnership and Delivery Grants or Local Support Micro Grants in the same financial year. However, you may apply to these funds in successive financial years, as part of the aspiration for this funding programme is to support smaller organisations to grow.



Examples for each of the four themes



Prevention and Early Intervention

Outcome: Fewer people develop problem alcohol and drug use.

Prevention and Early Intervention are vital to reducing harms and improving population health.

This section of the Scottish Government's and COSLA's, [Preventing Harm, Promoting Recovery: Scotland's Alcohol and Drug Strategic Plan](#) prioritises the areas listed below. **In assessing applications under this theme, we will consider how well proposals align with one or more of these priorities.**

- Targeting the affordability, attractiveness and availability of alcohol.
- Supporting the healthy development of children and young people.
- Targeted support for at risk communities.
- Early intervention for at risk individuals.



For the Local Support Grants, this means we welcome applications that focus on targeted, selective projects that focus on intervening early for people at risk.

Applications must be for direct delivery of support. This could include:

- Support groups for children and young people who are displaying early signs of alcohol or drug issues. This should follow guidance from Public Health Scotland's Consensus Approach to Preventing Substance Use Harm Among Children https://publichealthscotland.scot/media/34813/phs-delphi-consensus-findings-report_v51_final_update.pdf

and the Scottish Government's standards for supporting young people accessing support or treatment for alcohol and drugs [Supporting documents - Young people accessing support or treatment for alcohol and drugs: standards 2025 - gov.scot](#).

Applications are welcome from organisations who have significant skills and experience in working with children and young people affected by alcohol and drugs.

- Targeted alcohol and drug prevention activities in areas like custody, and hospitals.



Harm Reduction

Outcome: Harm is reduced for people who use alcohol and drugs.

Harm reduction focuses on minimising the negative consequences of alcohol and drugs, including illness, injury and death – while promoting dignity, health and wellbeing.

Harm reduction is a key feature of the Scottish Government and COSLA's 'Preventing Harm, Promoting Recovery' Strategic Plan.

The key priorities for this theme are listed below. **In assessing applications under this theme, we will consider how well proposals align with one or more of these priorities.**

- Building connection and outreach.
- Optimising Scotland's surveillance system and early warning response.
- Enhancing the naloxone programme.
- Reducing harms from injecting.
- Supporting established and emerging ways to reduce drug harms.
- Reducing alcohol related harms.

For the Alcohol and Drugs Fund Local Support Grants, this means we are particularly interested in applications which focus on:

- Projects that offer practical harm reduction advice, resources and interventions, including outreach and community-based projects.
- Projects working to support people whilst they are still using drugs or alcohol with harm reduction advice, welfare advice and support to access treatment and support programmes.
- Proactive outreach engagement projects that help deliver early support and harm reduction information.



- Projects designed to reduce risk associated with new and emerging trends such as synthetic drug use.
- Projects to support people using stimulants.
- Work around the development of Non-Fatal Overdose pathways and responses.
- Drop-ins and hub models that are available out-of-hours.

Treatment and Care

Outcome: People affected by alcohol and drugs receive high quality treatment and care services.

Easy access to high-quality treatment and care is essential to keep people safe and well. The journey to recovery is not always linear, and people may access a range of medical, psychological, social and peer-led community-based services to support them – and their loved ones – as they recover. Services must therefore be flexible, trauma informed, and person centred.

Treatment and Care is a key feature of the Scottish Government and COSLA's 'Preventing Harm, Promoting Recovery' Strategic Plan. The key priorities for this theme are listed below. **In assessing applications under this theme, we will consider how well proposals align with one or more of these priorities.**

- Establishing an overarching system for improved quality of services
- Ensuring equal focus on alcohol and drug treatment
- Responding to changing trends
- Reducing barriers to residential services
- Supporting wider communities of care



For the Alcohol and Drugs Fund Local Support Grants, we particularly welcome applications which focus on:

- Projects that deliver treatment, care, recovery support, for example, mental health support for people affected by drugs and/or alcohol, including children, young people and family members.
- Projects that provide a connected, partnership approach to keeping people safe and well cared for during their recovery journey.
- Advocacy programmes that specifically support people with accessing treatment and care and having their Human Rights upheld. This includes family members.
- Gendered health projects, focusing on unique health and social care needs of women, including during pregnancy.
- Projects which support engagement with treatment and care services, like outreach, peer navigators, companions for appointments etc.
- Projects that build partnerships between clinical services and third sector/community-based services.
- Recovery hubs and communities.
- Whole family approaches that support family recovery and healthy childhoods. For example, projects that support family time activities, and Family Group Decision Making practice.
- Projects that help families be more involved in the treatment and care of their loved one, or that help family members themselves access treatment and care support (mental health, counselling, welfare benefits advice etc).
- Projects that work with people and families to navigate particular periods of transitions, like liberation from prison, and returning home after residential rehabilitation stays.



Wider Support

Outcome: People affected by alcohol and drugs have their wider needs supported by compassionate joined-up services.

Alcohol and drug issues affect the person, and their loved ones and communities. This means that coordinated, connected, person-centred services are important to supporting people in the right way, and at the right time.

This section of the Scottish Government and COSLA's 'Preventing Harm, Promoting Recovery' Strategic Plan prioritises the areas listed below. **In assessing applications under this theme, we will consider how well proposals align with one or more of these priorities.**

- Promoting a joined up and person-centred approach across all services.
- Addressing co-occurring substance and mental health issues.
- Ensuring an accessible and responsive wider health system.
- Supporting access to wider welfare services.
- Promoting a public health approach to justice.

For the Local Support Grants, this means we particularly welcome applications that focus on:

- Person centred, holistic recovery support for people affected by alcohol and drugs, and their loved ones.
- Advocacy services to support individuals, and children, young people and families that delivers a human rights-based approach.
- Community outreach programmes.
- Projects that offer money and welfare benefits advice to people affected by alcohol and drugs.



- Projects that support connections to wider healthcare interventions, i.e. access to bloodborne virus screening or advice, Sexual Health Services, Domestic Violence Services.
- Peer-led programmes that support people in communities, including pathways work that supports people navigate the system of care around health and social care/hospitals/prisons/residential rehabilitation.
- Recovery support in Prisons and Custodial settings, and post-liberation transitions work to help people get settled back in their communities.
- Gendered support groups.
- Practical links to other services, such as mental health or employability services. This may include peer support or navigator support for people affected by alcohol and drugs.
- Projects which support children, young people and families during transition phases (i.e. Transitions through Care, transitions from children's to adult services). We are able to fund work that supports children and young people from pre-birth to 26 years old.



Key Principles

Involvement of people with lived and living experience and Human Rights Based approach

We expect all applications to demonstrate a meaningful commitment to a human rights based approach as set out in the Charter of Rights for People Affected by Substance Use, particularly in relation to the participation, inclusion and empowerment of people with lived and living experience. We are especially interested in projects that are led and governed by people in recovery or with lived/living experience of drug and/or alcohol issues – including family members

Applications will be assessed on how well proposals reflect core human rights principles, including:

Participation and inclusion – People with lived and living experience are meaningfully involved in the design, delivery and evaluation of the project, with opportunities to influence decisions, not just be consulted.

Non-discrimination and equality – The project actively identifies and addresses barriers faced by groups experiencing stigma, exclusion or unequal access to services.

Empowerment – People are supported to understand and exercise their rights, build confidence, and take on leadership or decision-making roles where appropriate.

Accountability – There are clear mechanisms for feedback, learning and redress, and organisations demonstrate how they will respond to and act on the views of participants.



Match Funding

While match funding is not a requirement for this fund, proposals which have secured some funding from public sector organisations (for example from local authorities or ADPs) are welcome to apply to the Local Support Grants. **If you have match funding from a Public Body (i.e. an ADP, Local Authority or HSCP), you will be required to provide a letter of support from the match funder.**

Partnership

In addition to meeting one of the four key themes, applicants to the **Local Support Grants** will be asked to demonstrate how they work collaboratively with partners within the system of care that supports people affected by alcohol and drugs.

This means that we will fund projects that demonstrate close links with ADP Strategic Plans, and that can demonstrate collaborative, partnership approaches to working with other organisations (public sector organisations and third sector partners) in the local area.

Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation

The application form will specifically ask for details of the key outcomes/differences the project will make, and the evaluation processes that will be used to measure these, so it can be helpful to think about outcomes and impact right at the beginning.

Corra will work with each grantee to create a detailed evaluation plan for their project. This document will form the basis for reports. A sample Evaluation Planning Grid can be found in Appendix 2.

If you receive funding with a grant period of more than one year, grant payments will be made annually and future payments will be dependent on satisfactory reporting each year and on the Scottish Government having funds available at that time. There is also an initial 3-month report in the first year of any grant. Reporting templates will be provided. We may also share information (like progress reports) about your project with your local ADP.



Corra will work with each grantee to create an appropriate plan for measuring the work of their project. This plan will form the basis for reports.

All projects delivering Tier Three and Tier Four services will be required to use the Drug and Alcohol Information System (DAISy) if they receive a grant through this fund. DAISy is a national database that holds data about drug and alcohol services, including Prisons data, across Scotland delivering specialist tier three and four interventions.

Tier three interventions include:

- community-based specialised alcohol and drug assessment
- coordinated care-planned treatment
- alcohol and drug specialist liaison.

Tier four interventions include the provision of residential specialised alcohol and drug treatment. Care-planned and coordinated treatment ensures consistent care.

DAISy gathers demographic and treatment data about people who engage with drug and alcohol treatment services. Funded projects delivering Tier Three and/or Tier Four services will need to use DAISy to regularly share information including:

- Details of people who use services
- Referral details
- Waiting time assessment
- Assessment of people who use services.

How to Apply

Please visit Corra's website for full details of how to apply to this fund by clicking [on this link](#). This contains an eligibility checker. Once you have completed this, you will be provided with instructions to proceed with your application.

If you have any difficulty, 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.

Following your conversation with one of Corra's Grant Advisors, a link to the online application form will be sent on to you if you meet the criteria for the fund.

We cannot look at draft applications, so it is best to chat to us before you complete the form.

Once we have received your application, we may be in touch if we require additional information on your organisation or the work you have proposed.

Timescales

We will review your application and aim to advise you of the outcome within two months. We may contact you to have a chat about your application prior to any decision being made

Useful Notes

As part of our financial due diligence, we require copies of redacted bank statements as part of the application process (including for applications from Public Bodies). It may be helpful to brief your finance departments in advance, so they are ready to provide this documentation.



Appendix 1: 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 not for startup costs. If the 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.

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

These funds are specifically for work to support people who use alcohol and/or drugs, people in recovery and their families. We understand that this may involve supporting a range of issues, but the predominant factor must be alcohol or drug use.

Do we need to be registered as a charity with OSCR (Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator)?

Yes. For the Local Support Grants you must be registered with OSCR unless you are a small constituted community/voluntary group that operates on a not-for-profit basis and has an independent governance and an asset lock. However, smaller groups will probably be a better fit for the Local Support Micro Grants.

Will you accept an application to the Local Support Grants from an organisation that had an income of over £750,000 in the last year because of unusual circumstances?

If the income is skewed in one year only because of something like a one-off capital project, then yes, you can apply and explain the position when completing the application. This fund is particularly aimed at smaller organisations working locally.



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 and/or alcohol use and recovery. This includes people affected by their own drug and alcohol 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. We would not expect this to make up more than 10% of your overall request.

Do we have to start using the funding right away?

We expect work relating to a grant application to start within a few months, as we want funding to make an immediate impact. We expect each year’s funding allocation to be spent within that year. Delays to projects starting may result in a reduction in the length of your grant.

What are the reporting requirements?

A report will be needed at the end of each year of delivery. There is also an initial 3-month report in the first year of any grant. 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. Panel members are experts by lived experience, and many are experts by professional experience too. 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 Grant and Local Support Micro Grants, 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.

Unsuccessful Local Support Grants applicants are eligible to reapply to the funds if they are able to address the issues that led to the first application being unsuccessful. Applicants should not reapply for funding for at least three months following an unsuccessful application.

Appendix 2: 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 **simplified 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 will align with one or more of the four themes from the Scottish Government and COSLA's, [Preventing Harm, Promoting Recovery: Scotland's Alcohol and Drug Strategic Plan](#).

Outcomes	Indicators	Measurement of Indicators	Outputs	Targets	Measurement of Outputs
People who use services 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.	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 people who use services receive support.	Team diary. Log of support sessions. Workers' notes. Files of people who use services.

About Corra Foundation

Corra Foundation exists to make a difference to the lives of people and communities. It works with others to encourage positive change, opportunity, fairness and growth of aspirations which improve quality of life. Corra wants to see a society in which people create positive change and enjoy fulfilling lives.

In 2020 Corra launched a ten-year strategy. It is long term because making a difference on the big challenges will take time. At its heart is the strong belief that when people find their voice, they unlock the power to make change happen.

Our ways of working

At Corra we have a set of principles that we strive to put into practice across our roles as an employer, independent funder, charity and partner, as well as in our influencing activity.

We will:

- Listen and respond to people, communities and organisations and amplify voices that are less well heard – their wisdom is at the heart of Corra's approach.
- Build relationships, always working alongside others on the basis of shared power, mutual trust and shared learning.
- Pursue diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), trying to challenge structural discrimination and contribute to radical shifts in the funding sector.
- Be an open, trusting and flexible grant maker.
- Ensure we contribute to tackling climate change, through our investments, operations and grant making and encouraging others to take action alongside us.
- Be bold, taking considered risks and supporting others to do the same.

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