

FINANCIAL INCLUSION FUND 2025/2026

The closing date for applications is 31st July 2025 at 5 pm.
Please note, late applications will not be accepted.

Please refer to the associated guidance when completing this application form.

All projects must be completed by 31st March 2026.

Who can apply?

- Groups and organisations who are working directly with residents from low-income households can apply for this grant for capital costs. Applicants will be expected to show how the grant will improve the lives for these families.
- All applicants must be active in our South Ayrshire Council's area and spend any agreed funding such that it benefits residents/communities in South Ayrshire Council areas.
- Third Sector organisations/community groups require to have a constitution and appropriate governance and financial arrangements in place, proportionate to the value of the application.

Which priority does your project fit in?

Project must meet at least one of these, please ✓ the most appropriate.

1. Breaking the cycle of debt & dependency	
2. Reducing Child Poverty	X
3. A reduction in the number of people in crisis through early intervention	
4. Preparing people for employment, training, education & volunteering opportunities	

Which of the following Council Plan priorities most aligns with your proposed project:

Priority 1 – Spaces and Places	
Priority 2 – Live, Work, Learn	X
Priority 3 – Civic and Community Pride	

Project Proposal

Organisation Name:	Ayr Gaiety Partnership
Project Name:	Young Start
Organisation Address:	Gaiety Theatre, Carrick Street, Ayr
Charity No:	SC041464
Postcode:	KA7 1NU
<p>What are the main activities/purpose of the group:</p> <p>National Lottery Young Start funding has been secured for an afterschool project in North Ayr which will commence in September 2025.</p> <p>The project aims would be for theatre facilitators to work with and inspire a group of young students (Primary 6) to not only learn theatre skills but to develop creative and leadership skills by creating, planning and leading drama classes for younger students. The project promotes peer-led education, with students actively participating in both learning and teaching roles, ultimately creating resources for future use by schools and community groups.</p> <p>The project will provide nurturing for body and mind and will provide nutritional food for its participants at each session. This will reduce child poverty and ensure children go home fully nourished, thereby easing the family financial burden.</p> <p>The group will learn new skills, gain confidence that could be used in the future as they face the challenges of teenage life and moving to secondary school. Building skills that could be instrumental for potential future employment.</p>	

Purpose of grant application – please advise how the grant funding would be spent and how it would benefit recipients:

To allow these Project skills to be realised participants need to be nourished and this project will ensure healthy food resources are available at every session to nurture the physical and mental health wellbeing of the young people.

It is important that young people have nutritious food to support learning because their brains and bodies are still developing. Nutritious food assists:

- Brain Development
- Energy and Focus
- Regulating Mood and Behaviour
- Social interactions and emotional regulation.
- Learning Performance
- Creating Long-Term Good Eating Habits
- Building resilience and supports the ability to cope with stress, both academically and socially.

In short, nutritious food fuels the body and the brain, making it a critical part of a child's ability to learn, grow, and succeed.

Total cost of idea/how much are you applying for? Please provide a breakdown:

We are seeking £2,500 for the healthy food resource for our Young Start Project. This project has already secured £33,000 for Year 1 from the National Lottery Young Start Programme.

The project will run as an after-school club throughout the academic year and support summer school activity, so this funding would have material impact in an area of social deprivation and high child poverty rates.

Are you a constituted group/organisation?

YES

Do you have a bank account?

YES

Do you have host organisation in place (if required)?

N/A

If so, please state host organisation.

YES

Do you give consent for us to use/share your details throughout the Financial Inclusion funding process.

I, on behalf of, (organisation name):

- Certify that to the best of my knowledge the information contained in this application is true and accurate and will adhere to the following terms and conditions.
- Understand that making this application does not entitle the organisation to funding as a right.
- Will not commence or commit any expenditure before receiving approval of the funding.
- Understand that this funding award does not cover retrospective work.
- Understand that to make any misleading statement in relation to this application could make the application invalid or may mean the organisation has to repay the funding.
- Understand that this application is subject to appropriate checks and meets appropriate guidance and essential criteria.
- I have read the associated guidance and essential criteria before completing and submitting this application form.
- Understands that if I do not provide satisfactory evidence of spend then the council may request, I repay the grant.
- Failure to return or complete and return any evaluations requested then I may not receive any future funding from South Ayrshire Council. I may be asked to repay the funds if I cannot provide evidence that they were used for the purpose intended.

Name of Person completing application: _____Janice Gilmour_____

Date: _____8/7/25_____

This application only should be uploaded to [Your Area Your Voice Your Choice](#)

Please submit the following information via email to External Funding Officer at:

grants@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

1. Lead contact name, email address and telephone number.
2. Copy of constitution.
3. Copy of last 3 months bank statements
4. last verified/signed accounts