

**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 its 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	Y
2. Reducing Child Poverty	Y
3. A reduction in the number of people in crisis through early intervention	
4. Preparing people for employment, training, education & volunteering opportunities	Y

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

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

Project Proposal

Organisation Name: Ayr United Football Academy	
Project Name: Extra Time	
Organisation Address: Somerset Park, Tryfield Place, Ayr	
Charity No: SCO37325	
Postcode: KA8 9NB	
<p>What are the main activities/purpose of the group:</p> <p>At AUFA, football is at the heart of everything we do — not just as a sport, but as a powerful force for positive change. Our work aligns closely with the Scottish Football Association's Power of Football initiative, which recognises football's unique ability to bring people and communities together, break down barriers, and improve lives.</p> <p>We use football as a mechanism to increase awareness of, and access to, vital services and support across our community. Through our programmes, we help tackle social isolation, support mental and physical well-being, and create opportunities for personal growth. This impact is clearly reflected in initiatives like our Extra Time programme, which provides after-school support in four primary schools in Ayr North.</p> <p>Additionally, our Football for Life programme — supported by the National Lottery Community Fund — offers walking football, football memories sessions, walking groups, and other activities tailored to the over-50s. These initiatives promote active lifestyles, social engagement, and community connection. We also continue to support talented young players on their football journey, offering a structured development pathway. Many have gone on to represent Ayr United, while others continue to grow and thrive through the skills and values learned here. In everything we do, we aim to harness the power of football to inspire, support, and create lasting change in our community.</p>	

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

Your funding would allow the charity to enhance the support provided through our Extra Time After Schools initiative, which directly benefits children and families living in Ayr North—the most deprived area in South Ayrshire.

This funding will be used to provide tailored, practical support for families engaged in the programme, helping to break the cycle of poverty and dependency. Many of the families we support are already engaging with services such as the Information and Advice Hub, demonstrating a commitment to improving their circumstances. Our initiative builds on this progress by offering additional, targeted support that meets immediate and longer-term needs.

Your funding would allow us to assist families with:

- Emergency food provision
- School clothing and essential items for children
- Heating and utility support
- Transport costs (bus and rail cards) to access training, job interviews, volunteering, or educational opportunities.

These interventions remove key barriers to participation, education, and employment. For adults, we also offer access to Level 1 coaching qualifications through the Scottish FA pathway, delivered by our trained academy staff. This provides a meaningful first step into sport-based employment or further training, supported by continued mentoring from the Academy.

Our trained staff work in close collaboration with parents, schools, and school welfare officers to assess each family's situation and ensure that the support provided is personalised and effective. The holistic nature of our approach means we are not only supporting the child's development through after-school activity but also empowering the wider family to move toward greater financial stability, independence, and wellbeing.

By tackling immediate needs and providing structured routes into training and employment, this funding will make a tangible difference in reducing child poverty and promoting lasting change in Ayr North. This work clearly is a long-term commitment from multi agencies in the community and Ayr United Football Academy with its strong presence, brand and the power of football to bring communities together, is well placed to deliver on.

The project will hit all outcomes in terms of spaces and places, live work and learn and civic and community pride.

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

Your funding would support the provision of essential family items and the opportunity for those who wish to progress on volunteering opportunities, and this would be broken down as follows:

Food provision: £2000
Heating: £500
School uniforms&
Essential clothing: £500
SFA coaching: £660 (4@£165)
qualifications

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.

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

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: Stuart Watson

Date: 27.7.25

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.**