

**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.

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|---|---|
| 1. Breaking the cycle of debt & dependency | ✓ |
| 2. Reducing Child Poverty | ✓ |
| 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:

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

Project Proposal

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|--|---|
| Organisation Name: | Afghanistan and Central Asian Association (ACAA) |
| Project Name: | Brighter Futures South Ayrshire - Supporting Ethnic Minority Families with Financial Inclusion |
| Organisation Address: | Unit 9, Griffin Centre, Staines Rd, Feltham |
| Charity No: | 1096908 |
| Postcode: | TW14 0HS |
| <p>What are the main activities/purpose of the group:</p> <p>The Afghanistan and Central Asian Association (ACAA) is an award-winning British charity based in London and established in 2001 with a long history of delivering advice, support and integration support for refugees and asylum seekers across the UK. ACAA was founded by Dr Nooralhaq Nasimi, who arrived as a refugee in the back of a refrigerated container with his young family in 1999. The charity has steadily grown and is now the largest Afghan diaspora-led charity in the UK, with 4 offices across the UK - Hounslow, Harrow, Birmingham and Liverpool.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education, training and development opportunities for adults and children – planned programmes such as ESOL for Integration, Supplementary Schools, British citizenship test preparation, business and employment advice and support, and also pastoral and individualised support such as assistance with financial issues, benefits issues, CV and Cover letter writing workshops, practice Job Interviews, support with digital skills, 1:1 pastoral support, skills/training, in particular ESOL skills for work, Volunteering and Work Placements, Job Brokerage. • Business accelerator hub – job fairs, business networking events, conferences, talks and exhibitions • Women's outreach and women and girls-only projects – culturally sensitive and appropriate support for women and girls' empowerment, development, advice and | |

support to increase knowledge of UK systems and support victims of domestic abuse.

- Educational programmes and courses for children, catch-up sessions for young people, family mentoring support programmes, coding classes, Maths and Science classes, language classes, debate clubs, animation classes, creative education for young people
- Legal and advice clinics to Advice Quality Standard and OISC accreditation, using volunteers and pro bono solicitors, focusing mainly on immigration, housing, business and employment issues.
- Mental Health workshops and one-to-one counselling sessions with translation
- Practical assistance with resources, information and advice for new arrivals in the UK under Government resettlement schemes (particularly given our proximity to Heathrow Airport)
- Social and cultural activities and events promoting community cohesion, festivals, exhibitions, film screenings and fashion shows
- Volunteering, mentoring and internships for young people
- Arts, Media, Culture and Fitness programmes (Football, Yoga, Pilates, Zumba, Dance) for disadvantaged and socially excluded women and girls
- Food Bank for local residents, in partnership with Pret, Greggs, Fairshare,

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

ACAA proposes a 6-month Financial Inclusion project that directly supports ethnic minority families, refugees, migrants, and other low-income households in South Ayrshire experiencing fuel poverty, food insecurity, and barriers to mainstream services. The project aims to reduce child poverty, break cycles of financial dependency, and improve life outcomes. Our project will reduce food insecurity and fuel poverty for low-income ethnic minority families in South Ayrshire by providing essential food parcels and fuel vouchers to 50 households.

Target Beneficiaries:

- Lone parent families
- Families with a disabled adult or child
- Larger families (3+ children)
- Families with children under 1 year old
- Minority ethnic families including recent refugees and asylum seekers

Activities:

1. Fuel Support & Crisis Relief:

- **Purchase and distribution of 50 fuel vouchers (£50 each)** to families most in need (identified via referral and financial needs assessment).
- Families will be prioritised based on risk indicators such as disability, refugee status, and low income.

2. Food Parcel Distribution to 150 Families:

- Provision and distribution of nutritionally balanced food parcels to 150 low-income households across South Ayrshire, prioritizing ethnic minority families, lone parents, families with disabled children, and larger households.

- Food parcels will include essential staples such as fresh produce, grains, proteins, and baby/toddler-friendly items to meet the diverse dietary needs of families.
- Distribution will be coordinated through trusted local community centers and partner organizations to ensure easy and dignified access.
- Each family will also receive information leaflets on additional support services available in South Ayrshire, such as energy advice, benefits support, and employability programs.
- Culturally appropriate food options and translated materials will be provided to ensure accessibility and respect for different backgrounds.
- This initiative directly addresses food insecurity, reduces financial stress, and supports families in maintaining a healthy diet during times of economic hardship.

3. Signposting and Empowerment Pathways:

- Individuals will be supported to register for:
 - ESOL classes, job readiness training, volunteering opportunities
 - Childcare options or digital inclusion services (as appropriate)

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

We are applying for £4,070 over the period of 6 months.

Purchase of Food Parcel and Distribution to 150 Families: $150 \times 9 = £1,470$

Purchase of fuel vouchers: $50 \times £50 = £2,500$

Printing and Publicity Costs (for project publicity): 100

TOTAL: £4,070

Are you a constituted group/organisation?

YES

Do you have a bank account?

YES

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

YES

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: Mr. Tamim Isazadah

Date: 31 July 2025

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