

Finding Funding for Your Group

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Hearing Voices Groups can, and often are, run on a shoestring budget. Many groups rely on the dedication and passion of people who are willing to contribute their time to help one another, or helpful organisations able to provide the necessary resources (a room, for example). Whilst running a group with little or no funding is feasible, having some cash for the basics (room hire, publicity, refreshments and facilitators expenses etc) can really help.

We hope that the following information helps you find enough funds to either get a group started or keep your existing one afloat in these challenging financial times. If you have any ideas for funding, please add them to the bottom of this page (as a comment).

Search For Funding Opportunities

There are lots of small grants available for community groups – the challenge is knowing where to look. The following websites can be used to look for information on fundraising opportunities.

Local Voluntary Action

Your local voluntary action organisation may be able to support you in finding suitable funding opportunities. Just google 'Voluntary Action' and your county/city. Often they will have someone you can speak with to support you with finding funding opportunities and will usually have a list of both local and national funding opportunities.

The Democracy Network

Democracy Funding

The UK Democracy Network contributes to the upkeep and promotion of a UK-wide funding and grants directory, an open database of funding organisations and grants supporting a better and healthier democracy in the United Kingdom.

NSUN

Funding for User-Led Groups - NSUN website

The London Hearing Voices Network is hosted at Mind in Camden www.mindincamden.org.uk

Mind in Camden, Barnes House, 9-15 Camden Road, London NW1 9LQ. Mind in Camden is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. Charity number: 292180. Company number: 01911178.

This page lists current funding pots that mental health user-led community groups and organisations may be interested in applying for. New funding NSUN becomes aware of will also be shared in their weekly NSUN member's bulletin, which you can sign up for by [becoming a member for free here](#).

These are external funding opportunities. NSUN sometimes runs grants programmes for members, and any current grants will be advertised on the [Our Grants](#) page.

Local Council

It is worth taking a look at your Local Council website as there are often small community grants advertised there. They usually take a bit of searching for, but they do exist!

Small Grants

The following is a selection of small grant opportunities that may be useful to you. It's meant as an indicator of what's available, rather than a complete list. Do check out the 'search for funding' sites above for a more comprehensive picture.

National Lottery Awards For All

[National Lottery Awards for All England | The National Lottery Community Fund](#)

Awards for All England is a simple small grants scheme making awards of between £300 and £20,000. The Awards for All programme aims to help improve local communities and the lives of people most in need. To do this we want to fund projects that meet one or more of the following outcomes:

- People have better chances in life – with better access to training and development to improve their life skills.
- Stronger communities – with more active citizens working together to tackle their problems.
- Improved rural and urban environments – which communities are better able to access and enjoy.
- Healthier and more active people and communities.

The application form can be filled out online and is also available in Easy Read. You will find out if you are successful within sixteen weeks.

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There are similar programmes for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. See their website for more information.

Co-operative Community Fund Grants

Co-op

Community Fund grants from £500 upwards are awarded to community, voluntary, or self-help groups to run projects that meet the following criteria. To be successful, a group must:

Carry out positive work in the community, and a project must:

- address a community issue
- provide a good long-term benefit to the community
- support co-operative values and principles
- ideally be innovative in its approach

The fund is next open in Spring 2027 – apply early to be in with a better chance.

The London Community Foundation

The London Community Foundation | Available grants

They channel funds to local community organisations making a difference in their community. They connect funding partners to work in communities they could not otherwise reach, helping them meet their own community commitments to London. They champion local community organisations.

Matthew Good Foundation

Grants for Good - Grants for small charities up to £5,000

Grants for Good provides unrestricted funding to small and growing local charities, voluntary groups or social enterprises. They support those making a big impact on people, communities or the environment. Flexible grants of £2,000 – £5,000 are available.

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Donations & Sponsored Events

Some groups rely completely on donations from members of the public, and those kind people who are willing to do something amazing to raise funds for them. This can include sponsored head-shaves, gigs, the 'three peaks challenge' and a 'fun run'/marathon. If you'd like to explore this further, check out the Easy Fundraising website which gives lots of ideas and suggestions [How To Fundraise | 130 Easy Fundraising Ideas](#)

For tips on how to apply for a Fundraising Grant then checkout Groundwork who have a really useful checklist [Tips on applying for a community project grant - Groundwork](#)

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