

# FUNDING BULLETIN

## 2025 UPDATE

### Our Grants Programmes

We're pleased to announce our suite of grants programmes for 2025 which include two rounds of Energise, one Empower round and one new funding initiative to be announced in June 2025. Our funding is aimed at registered charities across Scotland who are working to support people in vulnerable circumstances, and who have an annual income of under £500k.

PROGRAMME (Income criteria)		OPEN	CLOSE	CHARITIES ADVISED OF OUTCOME BY
<b>Energise</b> (less than £150k)		Monday 2nd December 2024	Wednesday 11th December 2024	Early March 2025
<b>Empower</b> (Between £150k-£500k)		Monday 3rd February 2025	Wednesday 12th February 2025	End May 2025
<b>Energise</b> (less than £150k)		Monday 2nd June 2025	Wednesday 11th June 2025	End August 2025

### New for 2025

When we launched our new strategy in January, we said that we would keep "listening and learning". Now, following feedback from charities highlighting the unprecedented challenges they're facing and the ongoing critical need for funding, we've evolved our Energise grants programme for 2025 to have two funding tiers based on the income of charities:

- charities with an income of below £50k will be eligible for £20k (£10k per year over 2 years)
- charities with an income of £50k-£150k will now be eligible for £40k (£20k per year over 2 years)

Our first round of Energise will open on **Monday 2 December 2024**, to ensure our funding reaches charities as early as possible in 2025.

### Fair Funding

Charities also told us that they welcome our straightforward application process, they value our flexible, unrestricted funding and they appreciate our timely payments, and we're pleased to confirm this approach will continue for all our 2025 programmes.

We encourage all applicants to read through our Eligibility Guidelines for each programme before completing our application form. In addition, a sample application form for each programme is available on our website to ensure charities can prepare in advance of opening dates. Any enquiries can be directed to us through our 'Contact Us' channels.

### Our Final Programme of 2025

Our final grants programme of 2025 will see the launch of an exciting funding initiative supporting charities that promote financial wellbeing in the community. Full details including eligibility criteria and opening/closing dates will be announced in June 2025.

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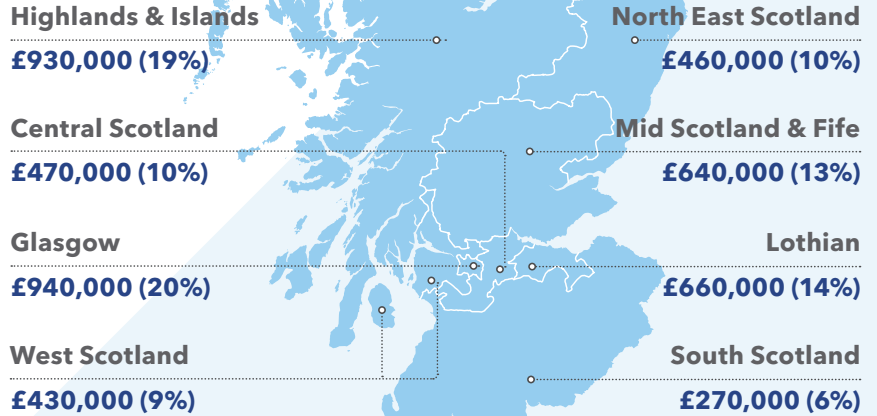
# OUR 2024 GRANTS

During 2024, 101 charities were awarded £4.8m of multi-year, unrestricted funding through our Empower, Energise and Enable grants programmes enabling them to support thousands of people in vulnerable circumstances such as household poverty, family breakdown, poor mental health, and alcohol addiction.

Charities in 57 constituencies across Scotland will benefit such as Ability Shetland in Shetland Islands, Megan's Space in Cunninghame South, Rainbow Rogues in Aberdeenshire East and Sunshine Club in North East Fife.

Almost 30% of charities receiving grant funding in 2024 were first time applicants to the Foundation.

## Regional Breakdown of our 2024 Grants by Registered Region of Charity



So far in 2024, Bank of Scotland Foundation has provided £5,172,037 in Grant funding and Matched Giving funding to charities across Scotland through our new strategy "Building a Brighter Future for Scotland".

## Enable 2024



In December, 24 charities will share £1.4m through our 2024 Enable grants programme which provides charities with both funding and access to Lloyds Banking Group colleague volunteers. The Group's colleagues across Scotland are enthusiastic and passionate about supporting charities and are all set to engage with these charities to volunteer their time and skills.

In the latest Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisation's "Scottish Third Sector Tracker Report", charities were asked about the biggest challenges they currently face with two of the top responses being **rising costs and inflation** and **volunteer shortages**. Through our combination of **funding** and **colleague volunteers**, we're aiming to help charities grow stronger and thrive beyond the lifetime of their grant.

## Matched Giving



Our Matched Giving programme encourages the Group's colleagues in Scotland to volunteer and fundraise for charities they care about. Each colleague can claim up to £500 to match funds they have raised pound for pound and/or the Foundation will donate £10 per hour, to a maximum of £500 per year, to a charity where colleagues volunteer their time (subject to eligibility criteria).

So far this year, over 1,000 colleague claims have been received with more than 250 charities across Scotland benefiting from over £400k in Matched Giving including CHAS, Musselburgh Windsor Community FC, and Beatson Cancer Charity.

## Contact us

Correspondence address:  
**The Mound, Edinburgh EH1 1YZ**

Telephone:  
**07384 902 196**

Email:  
**[enquiries@bankofscotlandfoundation.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@bankofscotlandfoundation.co.uk)**

Website:  
**[www.bankofscotlandfoundation.org](http://www.bankofscotlandfoundation.org)**