

World Café – 6. Funding

Top tips to stop the writing of funding applications being soul destroying

- Celebrate when you do get funding
- Learn from rejection
- Don't read about who got the funding you were turned down for
- If in doubt, just apply (the person who said this was successful in 9 out of 10 applications)

Best sources of support, advice & encouragement

- [SCVO/Funding Scotland](#) (sign up for the newsletter – it's really useful)
- [CCI](#) (Clydesdale Community Initiative) – one organisation had got some funding through them, but doesn't appear to be a usual funding stream
- [Senscot](#)
- Circular Communities Scotland funding webinars
- Voluntary action organisations
- Local Authorities (including Community benefits projects)
- [Local Action Groups](#)
- [The Scottish Library Information Council](#) (SLIC)
- [National Lottery](#) great as you get a funding officer
- [Zero Waste Scotland](#)
- [Third Sector interfaces](#)
- Businesses often have some social funding such as the John Lewis Circular Futures Fund that funded reuse at lending libraries
- Consider non-monetary support too – such as the Cooperative funeral services have donated wood off cuts to organisations
- [The Conservation Volunteers](#)
- Network with other organisations and share information on funding
- Google
- Consider doing joint funding bids with other organisations – can improve chances of success and allow you to apply for funds you may not be eligible for on your own
- Public procurement Scotland
- [Find Business Support](#)
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- NB. Also make sure you plan for what to do when the funding comes to an end
- NB. Apply for more than you think you'll need
- NB. Factor in storage
- NB. There can often be issues with carrying funding over to another financial year, so consider that

Have you tried using AI for writing funding applications?

- A few had
- Suggested it as a good starting point to get a first draft, but then go and check it
- Chris Hellawell mentioned that thirdsector.co.uk are doing an AI in funding webinar on 14th March at 2pm <https://haymarket.wavecast.io/third-sector/beginners-guide-to-ai-in-the-third-sector>
- Useful for designing documents

- Good for market research and finding relevant stats to include in funding applications
- Used ChatGPT/Google & Bing have applications/Canva
- Search “AI that’s useful for ...” to find applications
- AI can save a lot of time
- AI useful to trim down wording when there’s a limit
- Use [Grammarly](#) to assess your language style & take out unnecessary punctuation etc.

How to build positive relationships with funders

- Tune in to their values
- Ask what they’re particularly interested in and what language to use
- Show funders what you did with their money to encourage them to fund you again
- Invite funders to come and visit your organisation (harder to do if you don’t have premises and a lot of your events are at weekends)
- Someone said that some of the best relationships they’ve built have been with funders who’ve originally turned them down for funding. Suggest you should always go back to funders and ask why you were turned down and build a relationship ready for the next round of funding
- Also challenge funders if they do say no. One organisation had been turned down as they were told they didn’t meet the criteria, but when they challenged it it turned out they were eligible

Alternative sources of funding: crowd funding/bucket rattling/fundraising events/requesting donations. Anything else tried?

- Some organisations said they can’t do any of this as they are linked to a council which doesn’t allow it
- Someone had attended a conference where it was mentioned that very few people donate money to community/environmental organisations – they tend to donate to things like animal charities etc.
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