



THE
RS MACDONALD
CHARITABLE TRUST

Youth Scotland Safe Spaces Fund

Supporting community-based youth work

Guidance for applicant youth groups 2026



Guidance for applicants

What is the Youth Scotland Safe Spaces Fund?

The Youth Scotland Safe Spaces Fund is a small grant fund supported by [The RS Macdonald Charitable Trust](#). This fund was created in response to the specific challenges which youth groups face around the prevention of—and alleviation of—risk of harm to children and young people. It will make small awards to enable youth groups to deliver better youth work to young people who are at risk or who have experienced ACE's (Adverse Childhood Experiences).

Funds can be used for general youth work activity which creates safe spaces for young people who are at risk, as well as providing the opportunity to run issue-based programmes for young people affected by abuse and other Adverse Childhood Experiences, according to need.

The maximum amount per award is £2,000.

Who can apply?

Youth Scotland member youth groups that:

- Are based in Scotland;
- Can demonstrate that they support young people at risk or who have been affected by Adverse Childhood Experiences;
- Work with young people aged between 5 and 25 years old;
- Want to try new things, enhance existing provision or increase their capacity to deliver a specific project or programme;
- Are applying for up to £2,000. No match funding is required;
- The funds need to be spent and activities delivered by the 1 Sept, with end of grant report by 15 Sept.

Please note, we are looking to fund a range of projects across Scotland, including organisations experienced in this topic and organisations who are newer to working in this area of youth work.

When is the application deadline?

- Wednesday 22 April 2026.

What happens after you apply?

Once we have received your application, we will review it to make sure all the information we need is included. Applications will be considered by a Grants Panel and we aim to let you know whether you have been successful by end April 2026.

Funds need to be spent and your activities completed by 1 September. Your End of Project Report will need to be completed by 15 September 2026.

What will we fund?	What won't we fund?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programmes of activities. • One-off events. • Equipment and programme materials. • Travel costs to an activity. • Additional sessional staff, beyond core staffing. • All the above should support youth work with young people at risk or who have been affected by Adverse Childhood Experiences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth groups which are not currently members of Youth Scotland. • Core staffing costs. • Uniformed youth groups. • Building upgrades. • Activities which take place outside of Scotland. • Projects and activities which incorporate the promotion of political or religious beliefs. • If you are currently in receipt of funding directly from The RS Macdonald Charitable Trust, please contact us before applying.

Completing the Application

The questions asked in the application form will help the Grants Panel gain a picture of your youth group, the proposed activities covered by the application and whether the activity and target group match the criteria for this fund. Please complete all questions carefully. We have indicated which questions need to be completed and will be scored as part of the decision making and which are additional optional questions. So if you are short of time, then focus on the required questions and do these well.

If you have any questions, would like to discuss your idea before applying or have challenges completing the application, then please get in touch. We want to help.

You can contact us either by calling 0131 554 2561 or emailing office@youthscotland.org.uk

Supporting safe spaces in youth work

We know that funding is only one of the factors that contribute towards high-quality youth work opportunities for young people. At Youth Scotland, we offer support and training to youth workers and youth groups to help improve the quality of youth work which young people are experiencing. We would expect that youth groups funded through the Youth Scotland Safe Spaces Youth Work Fund will either take part in our suite of trusted adult training and other related training programmes or be able to demonstrate that they have attended similar training with another provider. This is intended to help build the capacity of your youth group over the longer term. Further details of Youth Scotland's training can be found at

<https://www.youthscotland.org.uk/training/> or please contact us by calling 0131 554 2561 or emailing training@youthscotland.org.uk to discuss how we can support you.

Supporting youth work in these challenging times

We know that we are all living in challenging times. Youth Scotland has supported community-based youth work for over 90 years, and we stand ready to support youth workers in communities across Scotland to meet this issue head on. Our aim is to be at the heart of sustaining youth groups to support young people in meaningful ways.

Please stay in touch with us throughout this period so we can share your stories of endeavour and success in supporting young people and your communities. The questions we have asked in the application form and the feedback you give us will help us communicate to funders and other decision-makers about the challenges you are facing. If things change due to factors beyond your control just let us know and we can discuss how you may be able to use the funds in another way that benefits young people in your youth group and community.

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