

News Drop 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020 Training, Funding and working together online.

Hello Friends,

## #Time To Say Thanks Highland

Thank you for your continued hard work and support through the Covid-19 pandemic. We have been bowled over to hear how member clubs playing a vital role in supporting community response in their local neighbourhoods and continuing to connect with and support young people during this very strange time of isolation.

We know that more than 50% of our member clubs continue to support the young people and families in their communities.

A number of member clubs are involved in packing and delivering essential food parcels and resources to vulnerable people in their community.

Some are putting together activity bags and sending them out to children and young people.

We have been supporting many of our member clubs to understand and use digital youth work methods to ensure they maintain important relationships with the young people who normally attend youth clubs.

And some of the braver youth workers have been uploading videos and short films of them leading activity ideas and learning projects.

We are always amazed by the wide variety of organisations within the Highland Voluntary Youth Network. This month we have been prouder than ever to offer support to numerous local community activists who are making such an enormous and positive difference at such a challenging time.

Clair Nichols  
Chief officer

Here's the latest news, training, funding and info from the wider network - hope you find it useful!

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Youth Highland would like to say **a Big Thank You!** to these funders for continued and new support so we can keep helping our member clubs and VYN organisations support young people during Covid 19 lockdown:



#Foundation Scotland #Corra Scot #TheRobertsonTrust #TNL Community lottery #RRR #NET  
Coronavirus Response #Gannochy Trust #ChildrenInNeed



## **TRAINING OFFER!**

Youth Highland & Youth Scotland are arranging some free online training for member clubs and VYN organisations to offer to your youth workers and volunteers during lockdown.

Now is a good time to build up your professional skills and access some Professional Development and training opportunities! Have a look and sign up to some of these or let us know if you have any other training needs you would like us to look into for you.

### **We have organised the following online training events which will be delivered by Youth Scotland:**

To book places please email asap : [jacquie.steel@youthhighland.org.uk](mailto:jacquie.steel@youthhighland.org.uk)

<b>Child protection awareness</b>	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> May ,10am - 12noon
<b>Internet safety</b>	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> May, 2pm - 4pm
<b>Internet safety Awareness</b>	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May, 10am - 12noon
<b>Child protection and internet safety</b>	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May, 2pm - 4pm

Here are some short descriptions of the training courses:

#### **Child Protection Awareness:**

All youth workers should renew this training every 3 years

This interactive workshop aims to assist youth workers and volunteers with the implementation of a child protection policy and measures to consider when working with young people and adults that keep everyone safe from harm.

Duration: 2 hours

#### **Young People & Social Media/ Internet Safety:**

This session will look at what apps young people are using, the potential issues young people may face online and how to stay safe online. This session will make reference to CEOP (Child Exploitation Online Protection).

Duration 2 hours

**NB: The free Hi5 & Dynamic Youth Training Awards on 5th May is fully booked but more dates will be offered soon. Keep an eye out in NewsDrops and on Youth Scotland Facebook page for details.**

#### **Other training which could be arranged if you want it are:**

**@Google Be Internet Citizens Training and STEM training for leaders - email me if you're interested!**

Here are some short descriptions of the training courses

#### **STEM training for leaders:**

In this virtual workshop participants will have a chance to Increase their knowledge of STEM and how they can promote STEM learning within their own settings, See activities from the STEM toolkit and build their confidence in delivering STEM activities. Learn how to inspire young people to engage in STEM by making it fun and engaging from an early age. Learn how to accredit young people's participation in STEM activities through the Hi-5 Award at SCQF Level 2. This workshop will showcase activities from the toolkit. This programme/event is being supported by Education Scotland's Enhancing Professional Learning in STEM Grants Programme through the Scottish Government STEM Education and Training Strategy.

Duration 2 hrs

## Google Be Internet Citizens – Train the Trainer

Be Internet Citizens was designed in a collaboration between Google and the Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD). The programme supports young people to navigate the internet with more awareness and critical thinking by training their media literacy. Youth Scotland are delivering Train the Trainers to equip youth workers with the skills, knowledge and tools to deliver Google Be Internet Citizens to young people aged 13+. The programme looks at how to spot fake news, discusses echo chambers and filter bubbles, how to deal with trolling and online hatred and everything to help young people be good internet citizens.

**All delegates must be over 16.**

There is an expectation that after attending this session delegates will onward deliver to young people. Funding is attached to delivery. Duration - 2 x 2hr sessions

**There are even more training possibilities which we can arranged so, have a look and let me know. Here's the link:** <https://www.youthscotland.org.uk/media/1596/training-for-workers-web.pdf>

Other organisations within the network are also offering online training opportunities and learning programmes for youth workers and young people:

**Social Enterprise Academy** are doing weekly online activities for young people:

Our first [#SEACommunityChampions](#) activity for young people is here. Each week we will upload new content, so please share this far and wide – we want to hear from all the amazing community champions out there ✨

Learn more here: <https://bit.ly/2WcO15e>

[#LockdownLearning](#) — with [Scotland's Enterprising Schools](#), [Social Enterprise Scotland](#) and [Young Enterprise Scotland](#).



The banner features a colorful background with overlapping circles in shades of red, pink, purple, and yellow. On the left, there is a white circular logo with a stylized 'S' shape inside, followed by the text 'SOCIAL ENTERPRISE ACADEMY' in bold white capital letters. Below this, a teal rounded rectangle contains the text 'HOME LEARNING' in white. The main content area is white and contains the following text: 'WHAT IS SOCIAL ENTERPRISE?' in teal, followed by 'I understand the purpose of a social enterprise, can identify one that interests me and explore their social aim and trading activity.' To the right of this text is a yellow circular badge with the text '#SEACOMMUNITYCHAMPIONS' around the top edge and a white star with a crescent moon and smaller stars inside. Below the main text is a teal rounded rectangle containing the text 'TASK' in white, followed by 'Identify a social enterprise either local to you or one that interests you, find out more about it and tell us why you think what they do is important.' and 'Choose a creative way to display your learning, click below for ideas to help you.' At the bottom left, there are two social media icons: a Facebook icon with the text 'SocEntAcademy' and a Twitter icon with the text 'SEA\_Edu'. At the bottom right, there is a red rounded rectangle. The number '#1' is located at the bottom left of the banner.

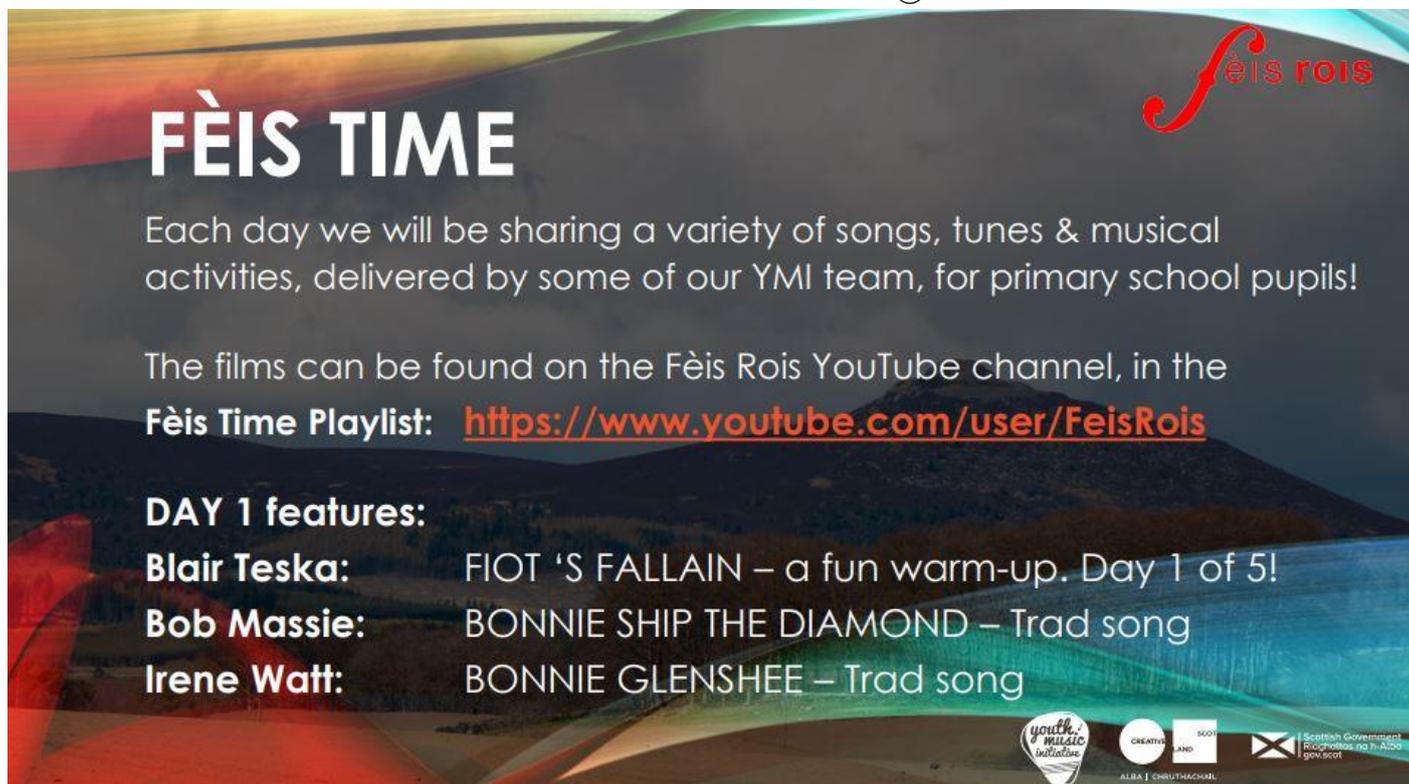
To find out more and see all SEA's training on offer - <https://www.socialenterprise.academy/scot/>

## Feis Rois - are doing on online feis!

For example - It's Fèis Time!!! 🎵🎵

Today YMI tutors Bob Massie, Blair Teska and Irene Watt bring to you the first set of fun films in our Fèis Time series.

Each week day we will upload a selection of songs, tunes and music based activities to our YouTube channel (in the Fèis Time playlist). These films are aimed at primary school pupils! 😊

A promotional graphic for 'Fèis Time' featuring a stylized landscape with mountains and a sunset. The text is overlaid on the image. In the top right corner, there is a red logo for 'fèis rois'. At the bottom right, there are several logos including 'youth music initiative', 'CREATIVITY LAND SCOTLAND', and 'Scottish Government Progress no by slow'.

**FÈIS TIME**

Each day we will be sharing a variety of songs, tunes & musical activities, delivered by some of our YMI team, for primary school pupils!

The films can be found on the Fèis Rois YouTube channel, in the Fèis Time Playlist: <https://www.youtube.com/user/FeisRois>

**DAY 1 features:**

**Blair Teska:** FIOT 'S FALLAIN – a fun warm-up. Day 1 of 5!

**Bob Massie:** BONNIE SHIP THE DIAMOND – Trad song

**Irene Watt:** BONNIE GLENSHEE – Trad song

If you would like to find out more - <https://www.facebook.com/feisrois/>

### [Fèis Rois - Home | Facebook](#)

Fèis Rois, Dingwall. 4,182 likes · 615 talking about this · 36 were here. Providing opportunities for people of all ages to participate in traditional music, song and dance!

[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

<https://www.feisrois.org/>

## Wellbeing Fund announced:

<https://www.gov.scot/news/wellbeing-fund-open-for-bids/>

The Wellbeing Fund announced by Communities secretary Aileen Campbell is now open for expressions of interest from all third sector organisations. The fund will support organisations across the third sector that are providing important services for people as a result of coronavirus.

£10m has already been allocated for immediate priorities and £7 million has been committed to provide around 2,000 charities with small grants through Corra, Inspiring Scotland, STV Appeal, SCVO

and Scotland's Third Sector Interfaces. The remaining £33 million is now open to bids from Third Sector Organisations.

Funds have supported the purchase and delivery of food, activities to support people's mental health and wellbeing, co-ordination of local activity and staff and volunteer expenses. It is anticipated that the fund will continue to support those things and much more.

Register your interest [here](#).

### **Time to say Thanks - Volunteers week during lockdown:**

How can the voluntary sector participate during Volunteers Week in 2020?

We know that voluntary organisations in Highland are doing incredible work in supporting their communities through lockdown.

We would urge you to think about how you can promote the work of volunteers this year and the difference they are making in this time of crisis.

Use the hashtags

[#timetosaythankshighland](#) [#volunteersweek2020](#) [#vynhighland](#)



Like many across the volunteering sector, our focus is on supporting volunteers to take on coronavirus-related volunteering roles and helping communities to cope with the many consequences of coronavirus.

This was a difficult decision to make and one that was not made lightly.

#### **Volunteers' Week resources**

We know many people use the Volunteers' Week website for ideas and resources to recognise volunteers, not just 1 – 7 June, but throughout the year.

The Volunteers' Week website will still be accessible with all the usual [resources](#) and [ideas](#) for those organisations that are still going ahead with their own activities. However, we will be closing the events listing and volunteering stories pages to new content. There will also be no new resources this year and we will be suspending our Facebook and Instagram activity.

#### **Should you still celebrate Volunteers' Week?**

Each year, every organisation that takes part in Volunteers' Week decides how best to mark the week in their own way. This year is no different – however many of us are

facing challenges we never imagined. As such, some nation leads are continuing to mark the campaign whereas some will be stopping completely, NCVO included.

You are best to decide what to do in your area. If you are going ahead, here are some tips.

1. **Think how your messaging will be received.** We're all facing difficult times right now which changes how people may react to a celebration campaign. 'Time to Say Thanks' is likely to go down better than 'Time to Celebrate' – so stick to using the logos without the 'celebration' tagline and avoid party-related images.
2. **Physical distancing is still important.** Many organisations have events during Volunteers' Week however this would be breaking current social distancing rules and could put people at risk. Where possible, stick to online events and take care when handing items out to volunteers.
3. **Keep telling volunteering stories.** People are stepping up to help in ways we have not seen before in the UK. Telling their stories is great way to recognise and thank them for all the great things they are doing.

### Further information and support

Although some nations have had to cut back or stop activity, we're still here to recognise and support the important contribution of volunteers.

- Volunteer Now has launched a [#HelpEachOther campaign in Northern Ireland](#) to offer guidance and support to Volunteer Involving Organisations and those who want to volunteer
- WCVA's website has information on the [latest guidance and support for volunteer involving organisations in Wales](#)
- Volunteer Scotland's website provides information on [how to volunteer safely and advise to volunteer-involving organisations during the pandemic in Scotland](#)
- NCVO's website provides information about [volunteering and coronavirus](#), how people can help and how to volunteer safely.

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## The Equality and Human Rights Committee has launched an inquiry into the Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on equalities and human rights.

The inquiry remit is:

*To consider what groups and individuals are disproportionately impacted by COVID 19; identify what the Scottish Government and other public bodies, including regulatory and oversight bodies, need to do to ensure that measures taken in relation to the pandemic minimise negative effects on equality and human rights; and examine measures taken by the Scottish Government and other public bodies and the impacts they may have on equality and human rights.*

The Committee is asking for views on any of the following questions:

- How have groups of people been affected by the virus?
- Which groups have been disproportionately affected by the virus and the response to it?
- Have there been specific equality or human rights impacts on groups of people as a response to the virus?
- What do the Scottish Government and public authorities (e.g. local authorities, health boards etc.) need to change or improve:
  - as a matter of urgency?
  - in the medium to long term?

The Committee is aware that many people impacted by the virus and the response to it might not be able to respond to a digital call for views. The Committee understands that many organisations will be supporting people in the community. If you are able to capture people's experience through your vital work, from those who feel they don't have a 'voice', the Committee would very much welcome those views in your response.

Further information on the inquiry can be found on the [Committee's webpage](#) and you can submit your views through [Citizen Space](#).

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**This from The Rural Youth Project:**

<https://www.ruralyouthproject.com/>

The Rural Youth Project have recently released a survey to gauge young people's experience of the current Covid-19 situation and how they have been impacted? The results will be shared with a Scottish Government stakeholder group which is attended by the Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Tourism, Fergus Ewing and the Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment Mairi Gougeon and we would so appreciate if you could share [this](#) survey with your networks.

Link to survey - <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3FJCTWY>

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**Advocacy Highland is still operating, but the team are now all working from home:**

We are currently providing advocacy by phone, video link, or email. Face to face advocacy is not available at the moment unfortunately, but we are still supporting our partners as best we can.

Our main phone line, 01463 233460, is available. Someone on this number can give you details of area workers.

Please note many of our team work part time hours, so if there is no answer please leave a message and they will get back to you as soon as they can.

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<a href="#">Sheilis Mackay</a>	Advocacy Manager	Mobile: 07717 704634 (on sick leave until 4/5/20)
<a href="#">Maya Uddin</a>	Deputy Manager and Mental Health Advocate	Mobile: 07917 327714
<a href="#">Linda Renton</a>	Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey Co-ordinator	Mobile: 07717 704636
<a href="#">Dawn Kotschujew</a>	Mental Health Advocate	Mobile: 07917 327716
<a href="#">Allison Cowie</a>	Caithness & Sutherland Co-ordinator	Mobile: 07717 704639
<a href="#">Melanie Bell</a>	Caithness & Sutherland Advocate	Mobile: 07771 225742
<a href="#">Hazel Curran</a>	Caithness & Sutherland Advocate	Mobile: 07919 602617
<a href="#">Judy Foottit</a>	Skye & Lochalsh Co-ordinator	Mobile: 07717 730865
<a href="#">Val Bremner</a>	Lochaber Co-ordinator	Mobile: 07717 704635
<a href="#">Rachel Tonks</a>	Lochaber Advocate	Mobile: 07741 261656

Please note many of our team work part time hours, so if there is no answer please leave a message and they will get back to you as soon as they can.

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Social Security Scotland  
Tearainteachd Shòisealta Alba

# Coronavirus

(COVID - 19)

## Special Edition Newsletter

### Making sure those impacted get our support

#### Changes to eligibility

The Scottish Government has temporarily changed eligibility for a number of benefits. This is to help people who are impacted by coronavirus and can't get an application in on time - due to illness or caring responsibilities - to still get the support that they need.

These changes are outlined below.

#### Best Start Grant

If someone doesn't receive any other benefits, they would normally need to be under 18 to be eligible for Best Start Grant. If they could not apply before they turned 18 because of disruption caused by coronavirus (COVID-19), we'll still consider the application.

#### Pregnancy and Baby Payment

A baby normally needs to be under 6 months old for a parent to be eligible for Pregnancy and Baby Payment. If they could not apply before the baby turned six

months old due to the disruption caused by coronavirus (COVID-19), we'll still consider the application.

If someone took over the care of a child, they would normally have up until the child turns one to apply for Pregnancy and Baby Payment. If they could not apply before the child turned one due to disruption caused by coronavirus (COVID-19), we'll still consider the application.

## Early Learning Payment

A child normally needs to be between 2 years old and 3 years 6 months old for a parent or carer to be eligible for Early Learning Payment. If they could not apply before then due to the disruption caused by coronavirus (COVID-19), we'll still consider the application.

## Funeral Support Payment

If a person could not apply for Funeral Support Payment within six months of the funeral taking place due to the disruption caused by coronavirus (COVID-19), we'll still consider the application.

## Young Carer Grant

A young carer normally needs to be under 19 years old. If they could not apply before they turned 19 because of disruption caused by coronavirus (COVID-19), we'll still consider the application.

## Re-determination and appeals timescales extended

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To support our teams, our deadline for processing re-determinations has also been extended. On top of the current 16 working day deadline, we will now have an additional nine weeks, although we are still required to make all redeterminations as soon as reasonably possible.

More information is available on the [Social Security Scotland website](#).

## Changes to carers benefits

There are some [changes for wider carers support](#) provided through the Scottish Government.

Rules have been relaxed so ensure that a carer who is not able to provide 35 hours of care because they, or the person they are caring for, are ill or self-isolating, their Carer's Allowance will continue to be paid.

More advice on support for carers during the coronavirus outbreak is available on [the Scottish Government website](#)

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## Coronavirus business support

A new Coronavirus business hub is available on [GOV.UK](#). The hub is the first point of call for people seeking government information on support for business.

## Looking out for each other - materials to share

A new campaign has been launched to communicate how people can best help friends, family and neighbours in isolation safely. The campaign directs people to visit [GOV.UK/safehelp](#), and explains that if you are well, you should only leave the house for one of four reasons - one of which is to provide care or to help a vulnerable person. The website suggests actions people can safely take.

Please support the campaign by downloading the [materials](#) from the Public Health England Resource Centre and sharing to get the message across.

## Every Mind Matters campaign update

Public Health England have launched a new phase of their [Every Mind Matters](#) campaign, to encourage more people to take steps to improve their mental wellbeing while at home.

A partner toolkit is available on the [Public Health England website](#).

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## A worldwide Digital Project!



**Thinkathon: an online challenge for young #thinkers!**

'[Our Digital Future - C'est ICI](#)' is moving into its next phase and is now going fully digital! We are very excited to present you the Thinkathon Online Challenge, which offers a new opportunity for youth from Canada and Europe to get involved in making our digital future more inclusive. The online challenge is open to all; for those who have not been able to participate in the on-site Thinkathons, but also to those who were part of the teams and would like to further develop their ideas. During this online challenge, participants will develop a project to help build a modern and digitally inclusive society based on one of these six topics: Citizenship 4.0; Social Relations; Smart and Fast Expanding Cities; Security; Education; Entertainment & Culture. The winners will be invited to a dedicated info session with policymakers in either Ottawa, Canada (for European participants) or Brussels, Belgium (for Canadian participants). Register before April 30, 2020. More info and registrations: <http://bit.ly/2uhYyCg>

**The deadline for the above session is 11.59pm on 30th April 2020** (sorry, I noticed it too late!)

Unfortunately, once the deadline has passed they cannot accept any more submissions - especially since they have already previously amended this deadline to allow more participants to join.

**However, if anyone is interested in this project, but has missed this deadline, they are welcome to join another similar online event we will be hosting in June. This Thinkathon will be shorter and focused on Smart & Fast Expanding Cities instead of a chosen topic. It was originally going to be an onsite thinkathon in Madrid and Vancouver but is now online with applications open for anyone to join. More information can be found [here](#).**

Check out this link to stay informed about all future events from [ThinkYoung](#) that offer similar opportunities for young people across Europe!

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## Funding in the time of covid 19

### The National Lottery Community Fund - Awards for All

Awards for All has relaxed the application criteria for organisations that need help to respond to Covid-19 and will consider an application even if the applicant has already had a National Lottery

Awards for All grant for something else (or have had a grant in the last 12 months). Applications will also be dealt with more quickly than normal. The fund is open to voluntary and community groups and grants of between £300 and £10,000 are available.

[Click here for more](#)

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### **Third Sector Resilience Fund**

This fund will provide grants between £5,000 - £100,000 to support charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises that already deliver vital services in communities that find themselves in financial difficulties directly as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. In order to apply, organisations [must complete a short eligibility checker](#) to assess their suitability for the fund. Based on the answers provided, interested applicants will be directed to the correct application form depending on their needs or signposted to other sources of relevant funding/support.

[Click here for more](#)

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### **Community Response, Recovery & Resilience Fund (RRR Fund)**

The RRR Fund will support local charities and grassroots organisations across Scotland to help them respond to the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic and recover from its impact and is delivered by the National Emergencies Trust in partnership with Foundation Scotland. Funding is available between £1,000 and £5,000 and the aim is to turn around funding applications swiftly, and to keep the application process straightforward.

[Click here for more](#)

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### **Clothworkers' Emergency Capital Programme**

The Clothworkers' Emergency Capital Programme (CECP) will award small capital grants of up to £5,000 for essential capital items to adapt or increase services in response to the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. Priority will be given to organisations supporting vulnerable and 'at risk' groups.

[Click here for more info](#)

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### **The National Lottery Community Fund - Awards for All**

Awards for All has relaxed the application criteria for organisations that need help to respond to Covid-19 and will consider an application even if the applicant has already had a National Lottery Awards for All grant for something else (or have had a grant in the last 12 months). Applications will also be dealt with more quickly than normal. The fund is open to voluntary and community groups and grants of between £300 and £10,000 are available.

[Click here for more](#)

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### **Tesco Bags of Help Covid-19 Communities Fund**

Tesco Bags of Help is responding to the current Coronavirus (Covid-19) crisis by setting up a new short-term fund to support local communities. If your application is successful the fund will provide a single payment award of £500 to organisations who are supporting vulnerable groups. The programme is set up to support organisational need in this time of crisis rather than fund specific projects.

[Click here for more info](#) (Note, for some areas in Scotland the application process is now closed)

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### **The Wood Foundation's Your Community Fund**

This is a time-limited adaptation of The Wood Foundation's Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) programme designed to empower youth advocacy and youth-led grant making during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Through this fund the aim is to award up to 50 grants of £4000. This is being offered to schools who were unable to complete their YPI programme of activity due to school closures.

[Click here for more info](#)

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**Why not become a member of The CLD Standards Council - here's the info:**  
<http://cldstandardscouncil.org.uk/registration/>



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As ever, if you would like to share something with the wider network - email it to me. If you would like help, advice or even a friendly chat about anything - just get in touch. We'll do our best to help!

ps - please remember to email me your interest asap about the free Youth Scotland online training so I can get it booked, thank you! 😊

Warm regards,

**Jacquie Steel**

Network Support Officer, Youth Highland

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If you want to be removed from my contact list, just let me know.**