

SWI Membership Briefing - Support for Exploring Funding Opportunities

For SWI Federations and Institutes – May 2026 Update

The Scottish Women's Institutes (SWI) play an important role in supporting communities across Scotland through friendship, volunteering, learning, wellbeing activities, heritage skills and reducing social isolation, particularly in rural areas.

Many funders are actively looking to support organisations delivering this type of community impact.

<p><u>Third Sector Interfaces (TSIs)</u></p>	<p>Each of Scotland's 32 local authority areas has a Third Sector Interface (TSI) which supports charities, voluntary organisations and community groups. As a charitable organisation, SWI Federations and Institutes are part of the third sector.</p> <p>TSIs can often help with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identifying suitable funding • reviewing funding applications • governance support • volunteer support • partnership working • training opportunities • community engagement <p>Many TSIs also administer local funding programmes on behalf of the Scottish Government.</p>
<p>Suggested Action</p>	<p>Arrange a meeting with your local TSI representative to discuss how they can support your Federation or Institute.</p> <p>The islands and rural areas often have outreach officers or online support available.</p>
<p>Where is your TSI?</p>	<p>Third Sector Interface Directory</p>
<p><u>Scotland-Wide Funding Opportunities</u></p>	<p>Below are some of the strongest national funding opportunities that align with SWI aims and activities.</p> <p>Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund</p>

	<p>Supports grassroots community activity improving adult mental health and wellbeing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reducing loneliness and isolation • wellbeing activities • volunteer-led groups • rural community connection • friendship and peer support • creative and social activities <p>Please note: Applications are usually managed locally through above TSIs.</p> <p>Information</p> <p>Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund</p>
<p><u>Social Isolation and Loneliness Fund</u></p>	<p>Supports organisations helping people feel more connected and less isolated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • older women's wellbeing • friendship groups • intergenerational activity • rural outreach • community events • digital inclusion <p>Information</p> <p>Social Isolation & Loneliness Fund</p>
<p>The Robertson Trust</p>	<p>One of Scotland's largest charitable funders supporting organisations tackling poverty and strengthening communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • community resilience • cost-of-living support • reducing exclusion • local wellbeing projects • rural community engagement <p>Information</p> <p>The Robertson Trust Grants</p>

<p>Charles Hayward Foundation – Older People Programme</p>	<p>Supports projects improving the quality of life of older people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • activities for older women • reducing isolation • wellbeing activities • social and recreational opportunities <p>Information</p> <p>Charles Hayward Foundation – Older People Grants</p> <p>Application Guidance</p> <p>Charles Hayward Foundation Application Process</p>
<p>Gannochy Trust</p>	<p>Provides grants to organisations improving quality of life across Scotland</p> <p>SWI Match</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • volunteering • community participation • social connection • wellbeing projects • local community support <p>Information</p> <p>Gannochy Trust Grants</p>
<p>Lintel Trust Small Grants Fund</p>	<p>Supports projects helping people remain connected and independent. Needs a connection to housing in some way.</p> <p>SWI Match</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • digital inclusion • older people • reducing social isolation • local support projects <p>Information</p> <p>Lintel Trust Small Grants Fund</p>

<p>General Funding Search Websites</p>	<p>Please note: These websites are regularly updated with new Scottish funding opportunities.</p> <p>Funding Scotland (SCVO)</p> <p>Funding Scotland Search</p> <p>Foundation Scotland</p> <p>Foundation Scotland Funding Opportunities</p>
<p>Supermarket & Community Funding</p>	<p>Many supermarkets and retailers provide community grants and local support schemes.</p> <p>These can often support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local events • equipment • community lunches • wellbeing activities • gardening projects • warm spaces • craft activities <p>Community Funding Links</p> <p>Morrisons Foundation</p> <p>Morrisons Foundation</p> <p>Tesco Stronger Starts</p> <p>Tesco Stronger Starts</p> <p>Co-op Local Community Fund</p> <p>Co-op Communities</p> <p>SPAR Community Support</p> <p>SPAR Community Support</p> <p>Asda Foundation</p> <p>Asda Foundation Grants</p>

Important Notes

Please remember:

- Funders will not usually support membership fees.
- Always read eligibility criteria carefully before applying – each funder is different
- Federations are unincorporated organisations but may still qualify as community groups.
- Institutes can also apply directly for many funds. (classed as Community groups_
- Funders are generally very approachable and happy to answer questions before applying.
- There may be other funders in your area who are not mentioned on this briefing.

Funding programmes change regularly, so it is worth checking websites frequently – they changes dates, criteria, themes etc

Helpful Tips for SWI Funding Applications

When applying for funding, it can help to describe SWI activities using outcomes funders are looking for, such as:

SWI Activity	Funding Language
Institute meetings	Tackling loneliness and isolation
Craft and baking activities	Wellbeing and lifelong learning
Rural gatherings	Community resilience
Volunteer activity	Community participation
Friendship and support	Mental wellbeing
Skills sharing	Informal education
Community events	Social inclusion
Outreach to isolated members	Preventative wellbeing support

Future Support

The SWI Team will continue exploring opportunities for:

- online funding workshops
- funding application guidance
- sharing successful funding examples
- identifying partnership opportunities

We would also be delighted to hear about any successful funding applications from Federations or Institutes.

Thank you

SWI Team