

WcVA
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Make a bigger difference together

WCVA's funding advisory panels



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**WE'RE LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS FOR OUR ADVISORY PANELS.
THE CLOSING DATE IS 1 DECEMBER 2025.**

Panel members are volunteers; they provide guidance, scrutiny and feedback to our various funding schemes, helping us to make good decisions and stay impartial. Being on a panel wouldn't take much time out of your busy year, but could provide valuable experience in charity grant management, networking and current affairs.



About WCVA (Wales Council for Voluntary Action)

WCVA is the national membership body for voluntary organisations in Wales.

In Wales, people have always come together voluntarily, not for money or because the law tells them to, but because they want to make a difference.

That's why WCVA was formed. Our purpose is to enable voluntary organisations in Wales to make a bigger difference together.

WCVA operates as part of a wider group. The WCVA group is made up of WCVA, Cynnal Cymru (the leading organisation for sustainable development in Wales) and Social Investment Cymru (the leading provider of social investment to social enterprises and the wider third sector in Wales). WCVA is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee.

Overview and background

WCVA is responsible for managing several grant and loan schemes. You can find out more about each fund and its panel by clicking the links below. Each has been set up to address different areas of need and with the following advisory panels:

- [Wales and Africa Small Grants Panel](#)
 - [Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme expert advisory panel](#)
 - [Social Investment Cymru loan panels](#)
 - [Volunteering Wales Grants project board](#)
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Purpose of panel

Each funding scheme that we manage is supported by an advisory panel: it is chaired by a member of WCVA's Board of Trustees and its members are independent of WCVA, selected for their interest, knowledge and experience.

When WCVA manages a funding scheme, we employ members of staff to carry out detailed assessments of applications' eligibility, answers to application questions and value for money. Their findings are then passed on to the panel members, whose role is to scrutinise the assessment information, query it if necessary, and make recommendations to the Chair for a final decision on whether to award the funds. They can also act as a steering group for the funding scheme.

We use standard application forms for each scheme, with scores for each question, but we rely on panel members to bring that objective view and other knowledge that our staff members may not have. For example, you may have current information about a group that has applied for funding; knowledge of new developments locally or regionally; knowledge or lived experience of a particular issue or subject, or questions about why one group has been scored more highly than another.

Panel meetings

All panel meetings can be attended online via Microsoft Teams, with the opportunity to attend in person also possible if desired.

Some panels with a high number of award rounds also conduct award processes by email, or online through our Multipurpose Application Portal, MAP. The number of actual meetings varies from scheme to scheme.

Why we are recruiting new members

WCVA recognises the positive value of diversity, promotes equality and challenges discrimination. We are completely reviewing the membership of all our funding advisory panels and actively seeking fresh insights, outlooks and expertise.

We are committed to being as inclusive as possible and our goal is to be able to hear as many different voices as possible on the advisory panels. Voices that are from diverse backgrounds and that are often under-represented on panels such as this.

With this goal in mind, we welcome applications from individuals from all backgrounds and recognise that currently we are lacking voices from young people, people from different religious backgrounds, trans people, people living with a disability as well as individuals from the lesbian, gay and bisexual+ community.

Equalities monitoring forms that accompany the application form will still be separated from your application immediately on its receipt, however, we have made space in the application form where you may volunteer information that would let the short-listing panel know if you would bring a traditionally under-represented voice to an advisory panel.



What you would be doing to help us make a difference:

We're asking for your input and, most importantly, your time.

AS A PANEL MEMBER, YOU WOULD:

- prepare for meetings by reading and responding to papers sent to you in advance and within a set number of days.
- attend scheduled meetings – in person or online, whichever is most convenient for you - and join in the discussions. Meetings are usually held in office hours and are scheduled well in advance, with papers being sent out at least a week before the meeting.
- join the panel for three years. This term can be renewed twice, if you wish, before you would be expected to stand down. You could resign at any time you liked, of course – this is a voluntary role.

Applications for panel membership are welcome in Welsh or English and any application submitted in Welsh will be treated no less favourably than an application submitted in English.



What could you expect from WCVA and being a panel member?

WCVA grant panel positions are voluntary and are therefore unpaid. We understand that not everyone has the same ability to take on unpaid work and so we will do our very best to support any interested individuals to overcome these barriers. For instance, by varying meeting times, allowing written submissions in place of attending meetings and loaning equipment such as laptops to enable digital participation. We are happy to discuss any other reasonable adjustments to make participation as members on these panels accessible.

- **We will provide a full induction process. This could include, if preferred:**
 - attending meetings on a trial basis to start with;
 - ‘buddying’ you with more experienced panel members for support.
 - **We will send out all papers in good time.**
 - **We will make sure that you are informed about news and issues relevant to the panel, giving you the opportunity to expand your knowledge and receive explanations.**
 - **We will reimburse all reasonable out of pocket expenses in line with our policies, such as travel and car parking; overnight accommodation and subsistence while travelling to a meeting, etc.**
 - **If joining meetings and receiving information online would be difficult, we can look into solutions such as equipment loan.**
 - **We will make reasonable adjustments where possible to allow all panel members to participate fully.**
 - **Opportunity to learn and develop your skills and experience in the voluntary sector including governance, grant management, risk analysis and much more.**
 - **Broaden your network by working with a network of other volunteer panel members from diverse backgrounds and experiences.**
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What are we looking for?

If you have any (one or more) of these:

- **An interest in the work of the voluntary sector in Wales and how it is supported by WCVA**
- **Experience of working with or for communities and organisations that might want to apply for funding**
- **A desire to know more about how funding panels work**
- **Experience of being on funding panels**
- **Involvement in the issues that the funding is intended to help, eg, through your paid work or volunteering experience**
- **Lived experience of the issues that the funding is intended to help**
- **Specialist professional knowledge eg, legal, accountancy, banking, environmental, your local community, international relations – particularly between Wales and Africa, etc**

and

- **Have a strong sense of fairness and can be objective**

Then we would be interested in receiving your application.

What happens next?

If you would like to find out more and ask any questions you may have, you can email funding@wcva.cymru, noting which Panel(s) you are interested in. A member of the relevant team will then contact you to arrange a call.

Once you've decided if you'd like to apply, please let us know in email or via a conversation you will then be asked to fill in a short application form which we will send to you by email. It will ask you about:

- Your personal and/or work contact details
- Which panel(s) you would be interested in joining
- Your relevant interests, knowledge and experience

We will also ask you to complete an equal opportunities monitoring form, but this, and any other personal information, will be removed from your application prior to shortlisting.

WCVA is committed to Equal Opportunities and wishes to reassure applicants that this form will not be used at any stage of the recruitment process and will be separated from the application form immediately on its receipt. Any information given on this form will remain confidential and only be used for monitoring purposes to assess the effectiveness of our equal opportunities policy.

All information will be treated as strictly confidential and in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018, as amended re-enacted or consolidated from time to time. You are not obliged to provide this information and failure to do so will not be detrimental to your application

You need to complete this by the deadline of 1 December 2025.

Once your application has been reviewed, a member of the relevant team will be in touch.

Click here to see the role description for each panel:

- **Wales and Africa Small Grants Panel**
- **Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme expert advisory panel**
- **Social Investment Cymru loan panels**
- **Volunteering Wales Grants Panel**

Wales Africa Small Grants Panel – role specification

Please address each of the points in this specification in your application.

AIM OF ROLE

To provide advice in making funding decisions for the Welsh Government's Wales and Africa Small Grants Scheme, which is administered by WCVA .

The Wales and Africa grant scheme is a flagship initiative of Welsh Government's Wales and Africa programme. The scheme enables community groups and organisations in Wales to access funding for small-scale projects that contribute to Wales' delivery of UN Sustainable Development Goals and deliver benefits to Wales and Africa. [Click here to find out more about this fund and the difference it makes.](#)

The panel meets to consider applications twice a year, for no more than half a day. Grant assessments and other papers will be sent out for review one week in advance. Total time commitment of approximately two days per year.

WE WELCOME APPLICATIONS THAT CAN SHOW:

- Professional or voluntary expertise in one or more of the following areas,
 - ideally in an international context: Health – Protecting the mental and physical health and well-being Lifelong Learning – Supporting communities to gain skills and knowledge
 - Climate Change and Environment – Knowledge or experience of initiatives that help fight climate change in Africa and raise awareness in Wales
 - Sustainable Livelihoods – Knowledge or experience of grassroots economic and social development initiatives
1. An understanding of partnership working to produce mutual benefit in both Wales and Africa.
 2. A reasonable level of computer literacy: the role will require using our online application portal and communicating via email and video conferencing
 3. Commitment to Equal Opportunities and Environmental sustainability
 4. An awareness of and commitment to WCVA as a bilingual organisation.
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Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme Expert Advisory panel - role specification

Please address each of the points in this specification in your application.

AIM OF ROLE

To provide expert advice in making funding decisions under the Landfill Tax Disposals Communities Scheme. The LDTCS is a Welsh Government funding programme managed by WCVA. The scheme supports local community and environmental projects in areas affected by the disposal of waste to landfill. [Click here to find out more about this fund and the difference it makes.](#)

The panel meets to consider applications once a year, for no more than half a day. Grant assessments and other papers will be sent out for review one week in advance. Total time commitment of approximately two days per year.

WE WELCOME APPLICATIONS THAT CAN DEMONSTRATE ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. Professional or voluntary expertise in one or more of the following areas:

- Biodiversity
- Waste Minimisation and the Diversion of Waste from Landfill
- Wider Environmental Enhancements
- Community Engagement

2. An understanding of community led environmental activity

3. Practical knowledge of the various regulatory bodies to be consulted with when carrying out environmental activities, for example, Natural Resources Wales for species licensing and waste transfer

4. An understanding and knowledge of the current and political climate in which these projects will operate.

WE WELCOME APPLICATIONS THAT CAN SHOW:

1. A reasonable level of computer literacy: the role will require using our online application portal and communicating via email and video conferencing
2. Commitment to Equal Opportunities and Environmental sustainability
3. An awareness of and commitment to WCVA as a bilingual organisation.

Social Investment Cymru Loan panels - role specification

Please address each of the points in this specification in your application.

AIM OF ROLE

Providing expert advice to Social Investment Cymru's loan making activity, the panel makes recommendations as to approve or decline loan applications using funds across WCVA's range of lending products. .

Scrutiny of proposals will include governance, financial sustainability and social impact, balancing financial risk to WCVA as the lender against the benefits that the applicants will be able to generate within the communities they serve. [Click here to find out more about these loans and the difference they make.](#)

The panel meets to consider applications according to demand, or where required via email outside of set panel dates. Funding assessments and other papers will be sent out for review 5 working days in advance. Total time commitment of approximately two days per year.

WE WELCOME APPLICATIONS THAT CAN DEMONSTRATE ONE OF MORE OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. Professional expertise such as legal, banking, accountancy, surveying or governance
 2. Management within a voluntary sector organisation including social enterprise
 3. An understanding of or empathy with the voluntary sector in Wales
 4. Practical knowledge of approaches to organisational capacity building and resilience
 5. An understanding and knowledge of the current and political climate in which organisations will operate
 6. An appreciation of business and financial planning
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WE WELCOME APPLICATIONS THAT CAN SHOW:

1. A reasonable level of computer literacy: the role will require using our online application portal and communicating via email and video conferencing
 2. Commitment to Equal Opportunities and Environmental sustainability
 3. An awareness of and commitment to WCVA as a bilingual organisation.
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Volunteering Wales Grants Panel – role specification

Please address each of the points in this specification in your application.

AIM OF ROLE

To ensure the timely distribution of grants and delivery of outcomes under the Welsh Government funded Volunteering Wales Main and Strategic Grants.

The panel meets to consider applications once a year, for no more than half a day. Grant assessments and other papers will be sent out for review one week in advance. Total time commitment of approximately two days per year.

WE WELCOME APPLICATIONS THAT CAN SHOW:

1. Working, volunteering or lived experience in one or more of the following areas:
 - Volunteering in Wales and barriers to volunteering
 - Practical knowledge and experience of volunteering
 - Understanding of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act
 2. An understanding of or empathy with the voluntary sector in Wales and/or knowledge of practical approaches to organisational capacity building and resilience
 3. A reasonable level of computer literacy: the role will require using our online application portal and communicating via email and video conferencing
 4. Commitment to Equal Opportunities and Environmental sustainability
 5. An awareness of and commitment to WCVA as a bilingual organisation.
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