



**Edinburgh
Children's
Hospital Charity**

Grants Programme

Key Messages 2026



Grants Programme Purpose

ECHC believes no child should face hospital alone. Our new commitment aims to:

- Ensure timely, effective support for children and families most in need.
- Eliminate loneliness for children and families in hospital.
- Provide appropriate support for families experiencing mental health challenges.
- Remove financial barriers and hidden costs of hospital care.
- Improve children's health through additional equipment, care, or services.

Thanks to funds raised by our supporters, our Grants Programme offers funding for projects which fall into these themes, which go beyond statutory provision.

We want to hear from NHS Lothian staff who have an idea and need additional funding for a project which will benefit children and families and fits into these themes. Applications are made online at our website: www.echcharity.org

2026 Priorities

We welcome all ideas and creative solutions, but in 2026, we are particularly interested in receiving grant applications that will remove the financial barriers and hidden costs of hospital visits that families face.

Funding Available

The grants we award are reliant on ECHC's fundraising income. This means we don't always have the funds to say yes to every application, as much as we would like to.

Sometimes we can make an award on the provision that we go and fundraise for it as while we don't currently have available funds, we think we can secure them for that specific purpose (for example, this is often the case for larger medical equipment grants). Fundraising can take time and there may be a delay to making grant payments in these circumstances.

Funding Deadlines

Funding Stream	Deadlines	Decision
Small Grants (up to £5,000)	Rolling – always open	Within 4 weeks

Strategic Grants (larger grants £5,000 +)	30 June / 31 October	Mid-August / Mid-December
Capital / Medical Grants (£5000 +)	30 June / 31 October	Mid-August / Mid-December

Capital / Medical grant applicants please note: Please discuss your grant application with the Clinical Service Manager before submitting an application for new medical equipment.

Help Available

Guidance Notes and Terms and Conditions will be on the ECHC website from mid-April. It is important all applicants read these documents before applying.

We welcome chats about potential applications and love to have meetings and calls with NHS teams – this saves time overall and maximises the chances of making a successful application.

We are running Grants Programme Drop-In sessions, where applicants can meet with us, talk through their idea and get help with their application. These will be in the meeting rooms in the Family Support corridor on Wednesday 27 May and 10 June.

Contact Us

For any questions, to arrange a call or drop-in meeting you can contact us at grant.giving@echcharity.org

What We Fund

- Projects benefiting more than one child or family
- Activity delivered within NHS Lothian services
- Work aligned to our five aims and beyond statutory provision
- Pilot projects and fixed term staffing where evidence may support future NHS funding
- Grant applications of any value. Grants are awarded depending on ECHC fundraising activity and income. It is unusual to receive applications requesting over £50,000. However, if this is the amount you need for your project, please contact us to discuss as we are keen to hear ideas and need
- Some projects outside of our criteria if we hold restricted funding for specific purposes. If applicants are aware of relevant restricted funds held by ECHC, they should mention this

We No Longer Fund

- Permanent staffing or core NHS delivery
- Capital works or infrastructure improvements and enhancements
- General administration or back-office costs
- Projects without direct benefit to children or families
- Applications outside NHS Lothian
- Work that does not meet our five aims
- ECHC enhances NHS provision but does not replace statutory funding. If the project is essential to service delivery, consult your management team.

Taking a flexible, creative approach

We are happy to hear from applicants with ideas that may not be fully formed plans or proposals. We welcome opportunities to work with applicants on their proposed solutions and explore the benefits of a grant or input from our Children's Wellbeing Service to the project.